

Solomon Enos, hānau ‘ia. 1976

Papa He’e Nalu I ka Wā Akua - Surfing in the Time of the Gods, 2022

Pena hūka‘a ‘ea ‘ele‘ele me ka pena ‘aila ‘ele‘ele ma ka papa bristol

Hō‘ili‘ilina o Kua‘aina Associates

I ka wā ‘umikūmāono, nā wā he ‘umikūmāono o ke Kumulipo, ko mākou ko‘ihonua, he ‘ewalu me ka hapa Wā o nā akua, a he ‘ehiku me ka hapa Wā o nā kānaka ma hope. He ko‘ihonua mai ka pō a i ke ao, a ma ka hopena, ‘ōlelo ‘ia ma ke Kumulipo e ho‘omaka hou, e ho‘i i ka pō. ‘O ka Pō ia, a ‘o ia ho‘i ka wā o nā akua, i loko o kēia wā pi‘oloke. ‘O kekahi kuleana o ko mākou akua ke kūhō‘ailona ‘ana ‘o lākou ke ku‘ina i waena o ko kākou kino kanaka a me ke kumulipo o ke ao kūlohelohe, a loa‘a maila kekahi ‘ano pono a kaulike ho‘i i hiki iā kākou e ola a noho lōkahi me nā kaiaola he nui like ‘ole, nā mea ho‘i o loko o kākou e la‘a me nā ‘ōnaehana hanu, ‘ai, no‘ono‘o a pēlā wale aku. Ua hiki ke loa‘a ke kaulike iā kākou ma muli ho‘i o ia mana‘o pono, a he la‘ana wale nō ka papa he‘enalu o kēia kaulike kūli‘u. ‘Ike ‘ia ke ‘ano o ke ola, ka ‘oia‘i‘o ho‘i o ke ao kūlohelohe, i nā nalu; ‘o ke ao, ke kani, ka wela, ka ne‘ena, a pēlā wale aku, ‘imi ‘ia ke kaulike e nā mea a pau. He ki‘i kēia haku no‘eau no kēia mana‘o, a ‘o ka hua‘ōlelo ho‘i no ke ki‘i a haku no‘eau ho‘i, ‘o ki‘i ia. Kū ko mākou mau ki‘i a puni nā heiau i kino no nā akua, a no laila ho‘i au e hāpai aku ai i kēia kino kapu, he kūhō‘ailona no nā lau, nā mano, nā kini akua, eia nō ma ke ki‘i ma ke ‘ano he kino kanaka me nā hi‘onapā‘ili o ko mākou mea ‘ōiwi; ‘o ka ‘i‘o ‘ulu, ‘o ka ma‘awe wauke, ‘o ke ko loko i‘a, a me ka hi‘ona ‘āina, ka hi‘ona lani, ka hi‘ona mahina. A kaulike ho‘i nā mea a pau i ka pō me ke ao, ka Pō me ke Ao.

Ho‘olauna:

He Hawai‘i ‘o Solomon Robert Nui Enos a he hana no‘eau, kanaka kaha ki‘i a he kanaka wānana ho‘i ‘o ia. Ua hānau a hānai ‘ia ‘o ia ma ke awāwa ‘o Mākaha (O‘ahu, Hawai‘i), he kama ‘o Solomon na ka ‘ohana kaulana ‘o Enos. E hana a haku ana ‘o Solomon i nā pāheona no na makahiki he kanakolu a mākaukau ‘o ia i ke kāleo pāheona ma nā ‘ano like ‘ole e like ho‘i me nā pena ki‘i ‘aila, nā kaha ki‘i puke, nā ki‘i paia a me nā lau pā‘ani. Kapa ‘o ia iā ia iho he “Possibilist”, a hō‘ike kā Solomon mau pāheona i kona ‘i‘ini e ‘ike i ke ao i kona ‘ano po‘okela ma o ka pāheona o kēia wā a me ka pāheona ku‘una e hiō ana i ka Hakupuni ‘Epekema a me ka Moemoeā. ‘O kekahi mau mana‘o lauana e ‘ike ‘ia ma kāna mau hana, pili i ka ‘ike ho‘omaopopo kūlike, ke mo‘okū‘auhau a me ka pīko‘u, ko kākou pilina me ka honua, a ‘o kēia mau mea a pau ho‘i ma o kona kuana‘ike ma ke ‘ano ke kanaka ‘ōiwi o Hawai‘i. Ua hō‘ike ‘o Solomon ma Biennial X (Hale Hō‘ike‘ike Pāheona o Honolulu), ka Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art ‘eono (Queensland Art Gallery), nā hō‘ike pāheona CONTACT, a pēlā wale aku. Mālama ‘ia kāna mau hana ma nā hō‘ili‘ilina pilikino a pēlā pū ma nā hō‘ili‘ilina ākea o ka Smithsonian Aisan Pacific American Center a me ka Hale Hō‘ike‘ike Pāheona o ka Moku‘āina Hawai‘i. Nui nā pāhana ki‘i paia kaiāulu āna i alaka‘i aku ai a ua eo iā ia ka ho‘āmāna pāheona no nā hōkele, nā ke‘ena ‘oihana, nā hale aupuni a me nā kula ma Hawai‘i. ‘O kekahi o kāna mau mea hou kekahi mau ki‘i paia a me nā ho‘onoho ‘oia‘i‘o ho‘okā‘oi no Google a me Disney.

Solomon Enos, b. 1976

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Black acrylic paint and black oil paint on bristol board

Collection of Kua`aina Associates

In the 16 Wā, the 16 epochs of the Kumulipo, our creation story, the time of the akua (gods) is eight and a half Wā, followed by the 7 and a half Wā of humankind. A creation story from darkness to light, and at the end of the story, the Kumulipo says to start again, back into darkness. Pō is this darkness, and it is a time of the gods again, in this modern age of turmoil and power. One of the roles of our akua are to represent the space between our physical forms and the mystery that is the rest of natural world, and they provide a sense of pono, profound equilibrium, where by we are able to thrive in harmony with the myriad ecological systems that are as much of who we are as the layered respiratory, digestive, nervous systems et al. that make us.

It is this sense of pono that has allowed us to find balance in so many senses of the word, and papa he'e nalu is but one example of this profound equilibrium. And as all of life as we know it, the nature of reality itself, manifests as waves; light, sound, heat, migrations, etc., the seeking of equilibrium is inherent in all things. This artwork is effectively a diagram and a vessel for this concept, as the word for image or art-form is ki'i, which also means to "get". Our ki'i are erected over our sacred sites as vessels for the akua, and so too do I humbly offer this sacred satellite, representing the multitudes of our akua that number in the tens of thousands, here as human forms and telescopic/microscopic textures of our native matter; ulu flesh, wauke fiber, fish intestines, and landscapes, sky-scapes, moonscapes. And all in balance of dark and light, Pō and Ao.

Solomon Robert Nui Enos is a Native Hawaiian artist, illustrator, and visionary. Born and raised in Mākaha Valley (O'ahu, Hawai'i), Solomon hails from the well-known Enos 'ohana. Solomon has been making art for more than 30 years and he is adept at artistic expression in a wide variety of media including oil paintings, book illustrations, murals and game design. A self-described "Possibilist," Solomon's art expresses an informed aspirational vision of the world at its best via contemporary and traditional art that leans towards Sci-Fi and Fantasy. His work touches on themes like collective-consciousness, ancestry and identity, our relationship with our planet, and all through the

lens of his experience as a person indigenous to Hawai'i. Solomon has exhibited in Biennial X (Honolulu Museum of Art), 6th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (Queensland Art Gallery), CONTACT art exhibitions, and others. His work is held in private collections and in the public collections of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center and Hawai'i State Art Museum. He has led numerous community mural projects and has received art commissions for hotels, corporate offices, public buildings and schools in Hawai'i. His latest works include murals and augmented-reality installations for Google and Disney.