

Artist: Nāwāhineokala‘i Lanzilotti

Titles:

1. Kino / بدن
2. Kilo, part 1 & 2

Artwork Description

Poignant and arresting, Lanzilotti’s multifaceted composition amplifies and resonates with the intricacies and magnificence of the Mihrab Hallway, creating a sacred place for her work and the art of #8x8_shangrila artist, Portner, which opens the video and shares the space.

Artist Statement

The mihrab hallway offers an abundance of riches - riches that have been reassembled and reoriented - and endless intricacies and inscriptions that reveal themselves with the changing light. This space, with its daunting history and significance, immediately presented me with questions for the work ahead of me. As a kanaka maoli performer who oscillates between mediums and cultures, how do I orient myself? As a collaborator who relies on the resonance of my artistic partners where and what is my personal center?

As I continued turning over these questions, I couldn’t uncouple the undeniable command of the mihrab with the weathered impression of the petroglyphs on the museum grounds. Who is meant to access meaning? What powers do inscription and voice, intention and action, hold?

Instrumental in processing these questions was the value of making space for myself, as well as showing up to make space for others, by returning to observation, to kilo - the rising and setting of the sun and of the moon, the plants around us, needs of ourself and our community. This practice, cultivated in me through hula, has naturally entered the heart of my creative practice as well. In seeking out connection, lōkahi, by showing up and watching, I came by a new question: what does it mean to rediscover the sacredness of life?

“**Kilo**” grew from this question. Orienting to the sacredness of life united my process, the Shangri La petroglyphs, and the towering Ilkhanate mihrab. This piece came from ka lani - the transformation of sky, the clouds, the wind & rain in Mānoa, and the stars over the course of a particularly dynamic sunset. “**Kilo, part 1**” unfolds gradually, layering whistles that mimic the overtones of the cello. Eventually the cello also mimics the oli, echoing words abstracted from meaning. “**Kilo, part 2**” honors the Persian roots of the mihrab with a coda inspired by the final, ecstatic jhala of Hindustani music performance. This piece, in its simplicity and exuberance is a celebration and dedicated

to everyone who continues to mālama this place and our community, particularly my ‘ohana, hālau, Foundations of Aloha cohort, and the Shangri-La grounds-people.

“**Kino / کینو**” originated from an excerpt of a letter from Persian poet Farough Farrokhzad - a female poet who was criticized for being too personal and intimate in her poetry. A true artist, she strove to live her art, being honest and authentic and vulnerable. This piece was inspired not only by her words but her life and sentiment, to be in and of the body. In this piece, her words are mainly reduced to visceral vocalizations that break away from self-consciousness and sanity. It is dedicated to the inspiring installation in the space by 8x8 artist Maya Portner, “Dance of the Tree of Life (After Matisse).”

Lastly, I feature designer Manaola whose “Kamehameha Pai‘ea” print I wear in this performance. This print is born from mo‘olelo of our pae ‘āina and passed down through the designer’s ‘ohana. The design, both pattern and storyteller, offers us the local reflection of the mihrab’s inscriptions.

nawalanzilotti.com

Oli (chant) with translation [Kilo, part 1]:

Nānā e
Nānā i ka makani
Nānā aia i ka lani
Nānā i nā hoa aloha ki‘eki‘e, mai ke kuahiwi mai

Hō‘ā ke alaula o ka lani
Hoehoene ka makani
Ho‘omaika‘i mai i ka wai ola o Ko‘olau e

Mālie nā lau i ka makani
Mālie au noho ilalo o ka lani
Mālie i ka maluhia mai e

E hōmai
E hōmai
E hōmai e

*Look there
Feel the wind
There in the sky
Look around at the clouds high above, floating across the mountains.*

*See the blazing red of sunset
Relax in the gentle hug of the wind
Feel the blessing of the rains of the Ko‘olau*

*Hear the leaves singing in the wind
As I sit in peace here beneath the open sky
I am renewed with the blessings of the world around me.*

*I call in the voices of my kūpuna
I receive their guiding call
I share my voice back into the world.*