

Honolulu Museum of Art

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MUSEUM RETURNS 24 ITEMS TO ‘IOLANI PALACE

Dinnerware and glassware that were auctioned after 1893 will be transferred to the Palace on Nov. 12

High-res images available on request.

HONOLULU, HAWAI‘I (Oct. 20, 2015)—On Aug. 5, the Honolulu Museum of Art’s Collections Committee unanimously voted to give 24 pieces of dinnerware and glassware to ‘Iolani Palace.

That same day, Honolulu Museum of Art director Stephan Jost called Kippen de Alba Chu, executive director of ‘Iolani Palace, to tell him the good news. The museum will transfer the works to the Palace on Nov. 12.

"‘Iolani Palace is extremely grateful to the Honolulu Museum of Art for this very generous and important gift of original Palace pieces," says de Alba Chu. "We look forward to placing them on public display in the Palace's State Dining Room and the China Closet. In addition, we hope that this action by the Honolulu Museum of Art will encourage others to donate their original Palace artifacts as well so that they may be enjoyed and admired by everyone."

The eclectic mix of dinnerware and glassware, originally commissioned by King Kalākaua from 1888 to 1891 for use at ‘Iolani Palace, includes Pillivuyt porcelain dishes made in France and wheel engraved Bohemian crystal glassware. There are also two small pieces of silver; a Royal Guard belt buckle and a fork.

Following the 1893 coup d’état in Hawai‘i, items from the Palace and the National Collection, which were housed at ‘Iolani Palace and Ali‘iolani Hale, were put to auction, entering into private and public collections around the world. The museum’s ‘Iolani Palace pieces came as gifts from private collectors over the course of eight decades. Some items were donated as early as 1927 when the museum was first established, and others as recently as 2006.

Honolulu Museum of Art
900 S Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96814
808-532-8700

www.honolulumuseum.org

Honolulu Museum of Art
Spalding House
2411 Makiki Heights Drive

Honolulu Museum of Art
First Hawaiian Center
999 Bishop Street

Honolulu Museum of Art
School
1111 Victoria Street

Honolulu Museum of Art
Doris Duke Theatre
Entrance on Kinau Street

“Many of these gifts were given to the Honolulu Museum of Art before the Palace was restored and opened to the public in the 1970s,” says Stephan Jost, director of the Honolulu Museum of Art. “Without the option of returning the dinnerware and glassware to the Palace, yet wanting them to be cared for and protected, these collectors turned to us. With the Friends of ‘Iolani Palace now making the preservation of the palace’s cultural legacy its mission, it makes sense that these objects should be returned home now. We know that the Palace will hold them in the public trust for generations to come.”

“Transferring the items back to ‘Iolani Palace is perfectly befitting, given their origins in the Palace collection,” says Healoha Johnston, assistant curator of the arts of Hawai‘i at the Honolulu Museum of Art. “We are so fortunate to have a great working relationship with the Palace team. Returning these pieces only strengthens the potential for future collaboration and increased dialogue between our institutions.”

It’s not the first gift the Honolulu Museum of Art has made to ‘Iolani Palace. In 2010, someone anonymously left an antique armchair on the steps of the Honolulu Museum of Art School. When it was identified as originally coming from ‘Iolani Palace’s Blue Room, the museum immediately handed it over to the Palace, where it was refurbished and now on view.

About Iolani Palace

Iolani Palace is the only official residence of royalty in the United States. King Kalākaua was the first reigning monarch to travel around the world and built Iolani Palace in 1882 to enhance the prestige of Hawai‘i overseas and to mark Hawai‘i’s status as a modern nation. For more information, please call ‘Iolani Palace at 522-0822 or visit www.iolanipalace.org.

About the Honolulu Museum of Art

One of the world’s premier art museums, the Honolulu Museum of Art presents international caliber special exhibitions and features a collection that includes Hokusai, van Gogh, Gauguin, Monet, Picasso and Warhol, as well as traditional Asian and Hawaiian art. Located in two of Honolulu’s most beautiful buildings, visitors enjoy two cafés, gardens, and films and concerts at the theater.

In 2011, The Contemporary Museum gifted its assets and collection to the Honolulu Academy of Arts and in 2012, the combined museum changed its name to the Honolulu Museum of Art.

Locations:

Honolulu Museum of Art: 900 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu Museum of Art Spalding House: 2411 Makiki Heights Drive
Honolulu Museum of Art School: 1111 Victoria Street
Honolulu Museum of Art at First Hawaiian Center: 999 Bishop Street
Honolulu Museum of Art Doris Duke Theatre: 901 Kinau Street (at rear of museum)

Website: www.honolulumuseum.org
Phone: 808-532-8700

Hours:

Honolulu Museum of Art: Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sun. 1-5 p.m.; closed Monday.
The Honolulu Museum of Art Café: lunch only, Tues.-Sat., 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Honolulu Museum of Art Spalding House: Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun. noon-4 p.m.
Spalding House Café: lunch only, Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Admission (permits entry to both museums on the same day):
\$10 general admission; children 17 and under are free.

Admission is free to: shop, cafés, Robert Allerton Art Library, and the art school

Free days: First Wednesday of every month

Bank of Hawaii Family Sunday: The museum is free to the public on the third Sunday of the month, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., courtesy Bank of Hawaii.