

# Honolulu Museum of Art

**Media contacts:**

Lesa Griffith  
(808) 532-8712; Fax: (808) 532-8787  
E-mail: lgriffith@honolulumuseum.org

Scott Whelden  
(808) 532-8719  
E-mail: swhelden@honolulumuseum.org

## HAWAI‘I LIVING LEGEND HARRY TSUCHIDANA’S FIRST RETROSPECTIVE OPENS JULY 14

*Work spanning 50 years goes on view at Honolulu Museum of Art  
at First Hawaiian Center; free catalog available*

**WHAT:** Harry Tsuchidana: A Retrospective

**WHEN:** July 14–October 28, 2016

**WHERE:** Honolulu Museum of Art at First Hawaiian Center, 999 Bishop St., Honolulu

**COST:** Free

**INFO:** 532-8700, honolulumuseum.org (publishable)

*High-res images available on request.*

**HONOLULU, HAWAI‘I (June 24, 2016)**—Well known as one of the generation of Japanese-American artists who emerged in Hawai‘i in the 1950s, Harry Tsuchidana is an island master artist and a living treasure. The Honolulu Museum of Art proudly presents his first museum survey of his lifework in *Harry Tsuchidana: A Retrospective*, opening July 14 at Honolulu Museum of Art First Hawaiian Center.

Born in Waipahu, O‘ahu in 1932, Tsuchidana was the son of a truck farmer. As a child, asthma often kept him indoors and he traced comics to pass the time—an activity that made him realize he could create his own worlds on paper.

As a teen, Tsuchidana took classes at the Honolulu Academy of Arts school. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1952 to 1955, he attended the Corcoran School of Art (1955-56), then moved to New York City where he enrolled at the Brooklyn Museum School of Art and the Pratt Contemporary Graphics Art Center (1957-59). While in New York, Tsuchidana, who moonlighted as a night watchman at the Museum of Modern Art, was in contact with fellow Hawai‘i artists Isami Doi, Satoru Abe, Tadashi Sato, and Tetsuo Ochikubo. (He met his wife, Violet, at a party at Abe’s apartment.) Tsuchidana’s career was jumpstarted when he received a John Hay Whitney Fellowship in 1959, and since then he has pursued his art with focus and resolution.

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

[www.honolulumuseum.org](http://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

This retrospective includes the large abstract painting that helped Tsuchidana win that fellowship. He believes that artists don't need to adhere to one style—and the wide range of works on view reflect his eclectic inspiration and influence over the years. Also in the show are examples of his early printmaking, and drawings in ink, charcoal, casein, and watercolor from the 1950s and 1960s, which have never previously been exhibited. The exhibition's centerpiece is a gallery devoted to his *Stage* series of minimal abstractions that explore his system for dividing the pictorial space into linear, geometric compositions.

Accompanying the exhibition is a color catalog that will be available for free at First Hawaiian Center.

Now 84, Tsuchidana continues to work in his studio daily. Honolulu Museum of Art curator of contemporary art and curator of this retrospective James Jensen says, "Working on this exhibition with Harry over the last several months has been an adventure, similar in some ways to an archaeological dig, as stacks of paintings and folders, binders and bins of works on paper were gone through, wonderful discoveries literally brought to light, hard decisions made about which works to include and which to set aside for other times."

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Honolulu Museum of Art at First Hawaiian Center, a space dedicated to the work of Hawai'i-based artists. The milestone is testament to First Hawaiian Bank's long commitment to support the islands' contemporary artists.

### **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. The museum is dedicated to bringing together great art and people to create a more harmonious, adaptable, and enjoyable society in Hawai'i.

### **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](http://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.

Honolulu Museum of Art Spalding House: Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun. noon-4 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.