

News Release

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INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED HIP-HOP ARTIST AMIRAH SACKETT TO BEGIN RESIDENCY AT SHANGRI LA

HONOLULU, HAWAI'I - Internationally recognized Muslim American hip-hop dancer, choreographer and teacher, **Amirah Sackett** will be Shangri La's latest artist in residence from Nov. 26 to Dec. 2, 2017. Throughout her residency, Sackett will team up with local hip-hop collective, Super Groupers and hip-hop artist and scholar, Keith Cross for performances as well as participate in high school and university workshops on beat-making, lyric-writing and hip-hop dance choreography.

Since 2005, Shangri La has hosted artists in residence whose work is related to, and advances the study and understanding of Islamic arts and cultures.

On Nov. 29 from 12:30 – 1:50 p.m., the public is invited to a workshop taught by Sackett at the University of Hawaii at Manoa on exploring the dance components of hip-hop culture, including dance styles: top rock, breaking, popping, and tutting. The workshop is free and space is available on a first come, first served basis.

Sackett will also perform alongside the Super Groupers and Keith Cross at The ARTS at Mark's Garage on Nov. 30 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Together this dynamic group of artists will create a memorable performance that speaks to the global impact of hip-hop. Tickets are now available and can be purchased at www.eventbrite.com

Based in Chicago, Sackett has performed and had her choreography featured locally, nationally, and internationally. She believes hip-hop culture, as a whole, gives voice to those often unheard and is a way to uplift, inspire, and bring change to those communities that need it the most. In 2011, Sackett formed the all-female, American Muslim trio called 'We're Muslim, Don't Panic,' which explores and embodies her female Muslim-American identity by pairing traditional Muslim attire with hip-hop choreography.

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ABOUT SHANGRI LA

As a museum of Islamic art, design and culture, Shangri La creates bold and innovative exhibitions, guided tours, public programs and digital initiatives that inspire people, ideas and actions to be citizens of the world. Shangri La supports several artist and scholar residencies each

year. Previous residencies include visual artist Shahzia Sikander and jazz composer Amir ElSaffar. Built in 1937 as the Honolulu home of American heiress and philanthropist Doris Duke (1912-1993), Shangri La was inspired by Duke's extensive travels throughout North Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia and reflects architectural traditions from India, Iran, Morocco and Syria. The permanent collection features over 2,500 objects from Spain, Morocco, Egypt, Syria, Iran, Central Asia, India and parts of Southeast Asia. Shangri La is a program of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation through the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art. For more information, please visit www.shangrilahawaii.org.