

SHANGRI LA

SHANGRI LA TO HOST ONE OF THE GULF COUNTRIES' LEADING ARTISTS

HONOLULU, HAWAII, January 4, 2017 – Renowned multimedia artist, Mohammed Kazem, will be Shangri La's Artist in Residence from January 9-22, 2017. Based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Kazem will develop original artwork to be staged at Shangri La as part of the the inaugural Honolulu Biennial 2017.

“We are proud to host such a visionary artist from the Arab world,” said Dr. Konrad Ng, Executive Director of Shangri La. “Kazem’s exciting work explores social change in the Persian Gulf through playful uses of sight, sound and movement.”

On January 20, 2017, Kazem will preview his work during the museum’s “Night Shift” program - an evening event that is part of Shangri La’s ongoing experimental #OpenShangriLa series. Tickets for “Night Shift” are limited and details on how to purchase tickets will be announced to subscribers of Shangri La’s electronic mailing list. The public can subscribe to the mailing list by visiting www.shangri lahawaii.org.

Mohammed Kazem is one of the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) countries’ leading conceptual artists. His art captures the range of complicated forces shaping the region – globalization, development and more – and the social disorientations associated with rapid change. Kazem’s work has been exhibited around the world, and pieces of his art are in the collections of prestigious institutions such as the British Museum (London, England), the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi (Abu Dhabi, UAE), the Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art (Doha, Qatar), and the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (Beijing, China), among others. Trained as a painter and musician, Kazem studied at the Emirates Fine Art Society (Sharhaj, UAE) and the Al Rayat Music Institute (Dubai, UAE). In 2012, he earned a MFA from the University of the Arts (Philadelphia, USA).

ABOUT SHANGRI LA

As a museum of Islamic art, culture and design, 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.

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