



Care, Community, and Colonialism in the Art Museum

Lecturer Bart Pushaw

The course takes place on 12.-15.06.2023

12.06 at 11.00-15.30

13.06 at 13.00-17.30

14.06 at 11.00-15.30

15.06 at 11.00-15.30

Room A302

+ a visit to the Kumu Art Museum

This summer course departs from the understanding that museums are never neutral and explores how curators navigate their personal and ethical commitments in their work. Through lectures, debates, and excursions to current exhibitions and museum collections, we will consider the roles and responsibilities of curating museum collections with increasing critical sensitivity to legacies of institutional harm in museums. Although colonial pasts are the foundation of most museum collections, the responsibility to mediate this truth to the public meets a complicated response in different geographies. Some reject the premise of colonial complicity outright, whereas others do not want to dwell in the enduring trauma and pain of the past. Others find representation and visibility as tokenistic and insufficient. In order to think through these urgent questions, the course will include excursions to the new exhibition “Art in the Age of the Anthropocene” at Kumu by one of its co-curators, and conclude with personal insight into the contentious 2021 exhibit “Rendering Race” at the same museum.