

Short Artist Statement

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14 March 2010

(220 words)

Through non-linear video and multi-media, my work seeks to expose the destructive nature colonialism and tourism has upon the land, culture, and people of Hawaii and similar tourist-centric locales. Hawaii's hyperreal presentation to tourists is a cheapened version that is dramatically different from the Hawaii that exists today.

I have found oral history to be a major resource and inspiration in the development of my work. In particular, the voices and stories from the people of Hawaii inspire my creative process and projects. As I experiment with both narrative and non-narrative storytelling, oral history has become a central element in many of my videos. I utilize oral history as a tool for the preservation and documentation of new histories.

A particular strength in my work is the ability to present complex ideas with minimal imagery. By experimenting with non-linear narratives and representing the personal as personalized and political, I am able to redefine the boundaries of documentary filmmaking. It is often remarked that my work engages its audience in a slightly humorous manner hitting them with larger social and political questions that are difficult to ignore. The appropriation and exploitation of land, people, and culture, is incredibly central to my work and I will continue to examine the deep seeded effects colonialism has upon sovereign nations and native cultures.