

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Terasaki Exhibitions Calls For Community Participation in Inaugural Contemporary Art Exhibition  
*TRANSCENDIENTS: Immigrant Stories of Place***

HONOLULU, HI (January 21, 2019) – March 8-17, Terasaki Exhibitions will unveil their inaugural exhibit titled *TRANSCENDIENTS: Immigrant Stories of Place* at Thomas Square Park in Honolulu, HI. The public week-long pop-up exhibit will showcase the unique immigrant communities and immigration history specific to the greater Honolulu area through technology-based storytelling, contemporary portraiture, and immersive experiences. The exhibit is highly dependent on community participation thus, Terasaki Exhibitions is requesting the submission of immigrant stories and portraits via their website which will be used in the production of the installation.

As a visitor travels through the 150'L x 16'W x 14'H installation facing the Honolulu Museum of Art on Beretania Street, they will be immersed in various immigrant experiences. One portion of the installation will feature community-submitted portraits of immigrants printed on overhead "light forms" as well as projected on ceiling-high walls of vapor. Driving home the point that we are a nation of immigrants, an interactive structure will encourage community participation with staff live-photographing portraits then projecting visitor portraits onto vapor and/or screens in real-time. In a third portion, stories of immigrants will be given voice through an immersive soundscape. Terasaki Exhibitions will also host a Celebration of Immigrant Communities on Sunday March 10 complete with keiki-friendly interactive activities, food trucks, partner recognition, etc.

"I am a descendant of immigrants. My parents were interned in the Japanese Relocation Camps during World War II. It is acutely painful for me to see echoes of history in current times. American policy makers are mistreating refugees and economic migrants that endure great challenges to flee violence, poverty, injustice, and brutality in their home countries," says Taiji Terasaki, Founder and Executive Director of Terasaki Exhibitions. "We need to do more to embrace diversity and pluralistic democracy. I want to invite our community to celebrate and poetically hold space for the many immigrants that make up who we are as a nation," he added.

**EVENT DETAILS:**

TRANSCENDIENTS: Immigrant Stories of Place by Terasaki Exhibitions

Date: March 8 - 17

Time: 11am - 8pm daily

Location: Thomas Square Park (925 S Beretania St, Honolulu, HI 96814)

Admission: Free to the public

\*Celebration of Immigrant Communities: Sunday March 10, 4 - 8pm

*TRANSCENDIENTS: Immigrant Stories of Place* aims to celebrate immigrants in our communities & to share the faces and stories of the immigrants in our lives — our neighbors, our friends, our family. Following the Honolulu exhibit, Terasaki Exhibitions plans on taking the project nationwide. Adding stories and portraits from immigrants across the country to those collected in Honolulu, the project will conclude with a culminating exhibit in a key mainland city in Fall 2020.

To share your story for *TRANSCENDIENTS: Immigrant Stories of Place*, please visit [TRANSCENDIENTS.COM](http://TRANSCENDIENTS.COM).

\* *Deadline for submissions is Friday, February 15.*

For more information or to connect with Terasaki Exhibitions, please visit [terasakiexhibitions.org](http://terasakiexhibitions.org).

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#### **About Terasaki Exhibitions**

*Terasaki Exhibitions (TEx)* aims to create and promote traveling art exhibits that explore critical cultural and environmental issues such as immigration, climate change and the resilience of nature, and the preservation and importance of native cultures. Each exhibit will be an opportunity to engage a wide range of audiences, challenging them all to adopt a new perspective and inspire them to make positive impact in our world.

#### **About Taiji Terasaki**

Taiji Terasaki is a Japanese-American contemporary artist based in Honolulu, Hawaii. Terasaki's work engages us in the concerns for cultural and environmental conservation, preservation, and restoration. These subjects are prevalent in his past exhibits: "Rebirth: Planting Again the Agroforestry Mindset", and the mist container installation "Edible Landscapes for the Trillium". His performance, installation, and photographic work in "Feeding the Immortals" and his current traveling exhibition, "TRANSCENDIENTS: Immigrant Stories of Place", encourages us to connect to our cultural heritage.