

DECLARATION OF GAYE CHAN

I, GAYE CHAN, do declare and would competently testify as follows:

1. I am Chair of the Department of Art and Art History (“Department”) at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I have served in this capacity since 2006. I also serve as a Professor in the Department. I have served as a Professor since 1991.

2. The Department, established over 75 years ago, remains one of the largest departments within the University. The Department oversees approximately 300 undergraduates pursuing degree programs in studio art and art history. In addition, students from other departments annually occupy over 3,000 seats in the Department’s art classes to fulfill their university requirements and to learn global artistic traditions. Each year, the Department draws in approximately 50,000 students and members of the general public to participate in its exhibitions, programming, and outreach opportunities.

3. The Department consists of twenty-one full-time faculty members; twenty-six adjunct instructional staff, affiliate faculty, and visiting professors; and countless visiting artists, designers, and scholars.

4. As Chair of the Department, I oversee and contribute to organizing our formal visiting artist, designer, and scholar program, known as Intersections. Intersections brings in national and international members of the art community

each semester to provide both students and the general public with lectures, classroom visits, studio critiques, community presentations, and workshops or exhibitions. The length of these visits varies from 2-3 days, to an entire semester, depending on funding and availability. Intersections is a self-funded program that relies on internal fundraising and donations to attract visiting artists and scholars.

5. The Department's visiting artists, designers and scholars are often aligned with exhibitions that focus on curatorial themes, including specific traditions and geographic regions known for a particular approach to art. While planning for the spring 2018 semester, a donor reached out to express an interest in funding Persian/Iranian art initiatives, including visiting artists, scholars and exhibits. The University's student body and the public are mostly exposed to Hawai'i and American artists, so this funding presents an opportunity to broaden the State's exposure to artists from diverse and varied backgrounds.

6. In scouting artists to recruit for Intersections, the Department compiled a list of candidates with a background in Persian, Iranian, and Middle Eastern art. Of the candidates, one is a Syrian national living in Germany, and two are Iranian nationals living in Dubai. All three are award-winning conceptual artists who have held exhibitions around the globe. They are considered "rising stars" in the art world.

7. In Hawai‘i, exposure to contemporary art is limited. On O‘ahu, only the Honolulu Museum of Art features contemporary art in its programming, and there is little opportunity for students to work with burgeoning artists in the field. As a result, the State relies heavily on the University’s Intersections program to attract contemporary artists to contribute to the overall cultural scene of Hawai‘i.

8. Pending availability, the Department is considering offering an invitation to these artists through its Intersections program.

9. The Department is aware that President Trump issued an executive order on September 24, 2017, which bars the entry of Syrian nationals into the United States, and severely restricts the entry of Iranian nationals by narrowing the scope of permissible visas.

10. The latest travel ban will impede the Department’s efforts to recruit the Syrian national to come to the University this spring as part of its visiting arts and scholars program, and will complicate the Department’s efforts to invite the two Iranian nationals. Because of the President’s proclamation, no visas will be available for any Syrian nationals to come to Hawai‘i. As to the two Iranian artists, the proclamation allows for only a limited set of non-immigrant visas to nationals of Iran, and it is unclear if the Iranian artists that the Department hopes to invite would be able to come to the United States on those visas. If either the Syrian or Iranian nationals cannot enter the United States, the Department will

have to consider foregoing its plans to host an exhibition of Persian and Iranian artwork.

11. The new travel ban also impedes the Department's ability to host nationals of the affected countries as visiting scholars or artists in the future. Future screening of visitors based on nationality and country of origin will be required. In effect, the travel ban will prohibit an entire body of art by limiting the movement of those who produce it. This impedes with the Department's role as a comprehensive and diverse center for undergraduate and graduate study.

I swear under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawai'i, October 4, 2017



GAYE CHAN