



Ruben Aira Jr. Fine Art  
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## **PRESSRELEASE**

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***Vans Triple Crown Artist Ruben Aira Jr.  
Collaborates in Benefit Auction in Support of Ukraine at Local Coffee House***



**HONOLULU, HI** (March 18, 2022) – Artist Ruben Aira Jr., known internationally as the “Father of Surfboard Carving,” will be collaborating with acclaimed painter Leni Acosta Knight to present an art exhibition and silent auction to help aid the effort in Ukraine.

Both Aira and Acosta Knight will offer a limited number of original paintings, sculptures, and editioned prints exclusively for the event, organized by *Hawaii Stands With Ukraine*, a group of Hawaiian residents dedicated in solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

Ticketholders will have the unique opportunity to bid on original artwork, reserve front-row seats to live music, enjoy hors d’oeuvres prepared by celebrity chef Adam Tabura (featured on Food

Network's Cutthroat Kitchen and The Great Food Truck Race), sample gourmet truffles from Lacosta Chocolates' chocolatier Rockwell Knight, and receive a gift card from Island Brew Coffeehouse.

All net proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the following non-profit organizations: **Razom for Ukraine**, **World Central Kitchen**, and **Nova Ukraine**, carefully chosen for their strategic efforts to provide both short-term critical care and long-term humanitarian aid to those displaced or affected by the war.

"This is an extremely powerful message to show that Hawaii hears the voices of the people of Ukraine and that we, who live here, feel their pain," says Elena Roud, co-founder of ***Hawaii Stands with Ukraine***. "We are truly grateful for the outpour of compassion for so many people who are now displaced and whose lives are shattered."

The benefit will be held at local favorite, Island Brew Coffeehouse, in the Kaka'ako arts district on April 1. Island Brew is pleased to be able to host this benefit as part of an ongoing community outreach to directly help those in need. Owner Rafael Baez proudly notes, "This is the first gesture of local artists coming together to support [these] worthwhile organizations." In addition, 30% of the net sale of each artwork sold will be donated to any one of the above charities of the buyer's choosing.

### **Event Details**

**Date:** April 1, 2022 | 12 – 8pm  
Hors d'oeuvres | 5 – 6:30pm

**Location:** Island Brew Coffeehouse, Kaka'ako  
(Ward Avenue location)  
1108 Auahi St.  
Honolulu, HI 96814

**Tickets:** \$200 per person  
*Includes: reserved seating, hors d'oeuvres, gourmet truffles, and gift card from Island Brew Coffeehouse*

To purchase tickets, visit: [www.islandbrewcoffeehouse.com/](http://www.islandbrewcoffeehouse.com/) or visit the Ward Avenue location.

### **About Ruben Aira Jr.**

Ruben Aira Jr. (b. Havana, Cuba) is a fine artist and sculptor based in Honolulu, HI. He is best known for his recycled surfboard art and world-class trophies for Vans Triple Crown and Hawaiian Pro World Surf League Championships. He has had major gallery representation for his sculptural relief carvings and paintings with Bill Wyland Galleries in Lahaina and Wy's Gallery in Halewila, among others. He has produced a Masterclass Series on surfboard carving in collaboration with HlonART, with a goal of benefiting local community causes and charities.

### **About Leni Acosta Knight**

Leni Acosta Knight (b. Philippines) is a Honolulu-based symbolist painter who is dedicated to helping worthwhile projects through her art, always donating a portion of her sales to organizations

supporting such causes. Her work has been featured across Hawaii, in international contemporary art exhibitions presented by M.A.D.S. Milano in Milan, Italy, and at the International Art Trade Fair in Paris, France. She is represented by Van Gogh Art Gallery in Madrid, Spain.

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