

California College of the Arts faculty Kota Ezawa presents new work at the 2019 Whitney Biennial

Ezawa is one of two Bay Area-based artists included in this year's biennial



Kota Ezawa, *National Anthem (Tampa Bay Buccaneers)*, 2019. Watercolor on paper, 10.5 x 19 inches, edition variée of three. Courtesy of the artist and Haines Gallery.

San Francisco, CA—May 17, 2019—California College of the Arts (CCA) is delighted to have Kota Ezawa, associate professor of film, included in the 2019 Whitney Biennial, which opens today. Ezawa debuts his new work, *National Anthem*, a significant watercolor animation that was a year and a half in the making and specifically selected by the biennial curators Jane Panetta and Rujeko Hockley. He has taught at CCA since 2004 and is one of two Bay Area-based artists included in this year's biennial.

“We are incredibly proud to have Kota representing CCA and the Bay Area in the Whitney Biennial,” says Dean of Fine Arts Allison Smith. “He is an exceptional artist and an outstanding educator whose work deftly blends the worlds of fine art and film.”

“Art school is a vibrant meeting place for artists of all generations,” says Ezawa. “I am incredibly grateful to be part of the CCA’s community of working artists and thankful to the leadership who provided the time and support I needed to complete this major project.”

For *National Anthem*, Ezawa uses televised imagery of recent controversial NFL protests. The extent and complexity in his use of watercolor signals an aesthetic shift from the distilled flat-color forms of his previous work. He is known for his meticulous, frame-by-frame re-creation of found film, video, and photographic images of iconic or current events. His recontextualization of imagery into animations, drawings, slide projections, paper cut-outs, light

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boxes, and collage—painstakingly rendered—offers viewers a space of meditation on visual culture.

Ezawa's work is on permanent view in the International Terminal of the San Francisco International Airport, and his tile mosaic mural *Once Upon a Time in the West* is located on Telegraph Avenue in Oakland. Haines Gallery in San Francisco, which represents Ezawa, will host a solo exhibition of his work, opening Nov. 7 and on view through Dec. 21.

About Kota Ezawa

Kota Ezawa's (German Japanese American, b. 1969) work explores the appropriation and mediation of current events and images. He translates found film, video, and photographic images into drawings and animations that reduce complex imagery to its most essential, two-dimensional elements in order to debate their validity as mediators of actual historical events and personal experiences.

Ezawa's work has been showcased in solo exhibitions at Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, Connecticut (2005); Artpace, San Antonio (2006); Madison Square Park, New York (2011); Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco (2013); Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, Virginia (2015); Mead Art Museum, Amherst, Massachusetts (2017); and SITE Santa Fe, New Mexico (2017); as well as in group exhibitions at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, France (2005); Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh (2005); Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2006); Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2008); Queensland Art Gallery, South Brisbane, Australia (2010); San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California (2010, 2016); Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C. (2011); the Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, D.C. (2013); Kunsthalle Bremen, Germany (2016); and Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco (2017); and he is a participating artist in the 2019 Whitney Biennial.

Ezawa received a SECA Art Award in 2006 and a Eureka Fellowship in 2010. His work has been acquired by institutions such as the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York; Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, California; Museum of Modern Art, New York; and Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. He is represented by Haines Gallery, San Francisco.

About California College of the Arts

Founded in 1907, California College of the Arts (CCA) educates students to shape culture and society through the practice and critical study of art, architecture, design, and writing. Benefitting from its San Francisco Bay Area location, the college prepares students for lifelong creative work by cultivating innovation, community engagement, and social and environmental responsibility.

CCA offers a rich curriculum of 22 undergraduate and 11 graduate programs in art, design, architecture, and writing taught by a faculty of expert practitioners. Attracting promising students from across the nation and around the world, CCA is [one of the 10 most diverse colleges in the U.S.](#)

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Graduates are highly sought-after by companies such as Pixar/Disney, Apple, Intel, Facebook, Gensler, Google, IDEO, Autodesk, Mattel, and Nike, and many have launched their own successful businesses. Alumni and faculty are often recognized with the highest honors in their fields, including Academy Awards, AIGA Medals, Fulbright Scholarships, Guggenheim Fellowships, MacArthur Fellowships, National Medal of Arts, and the Rome Prize, among others.

CCA is creating a new, expanded college campus at its current site in San Francisco, spearheaded by the architectural firm Studio Gang. The new campus design will be a model of [sustainable construction and practice](#); will unite the college's programs in art, crafts, design, architecture, and writing in one location to create new adjacencies and interactions; and will provide [more student housing](#) than ever before.

For more information, visit cca.edu.

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