Anchors Aweigh!

Cynthia Low
Honolulu Museum of Art
Background and our museum...

- Started in collections at The Contemporary Museum (TCM) in Honolulu.
- The site was the former home of Honolulu Academy of Arts founder Anna Rice Cooke.
- The museum grounds was previously an annex of the Honolulu Academy of Arts used as a display space for their Japanese print collection.
- The estate was acquired by the Persis Corporation who then helped convert it into a 5,000 square foot museum gallery space.
- The Contemporary Museum opened in 1986 with a peak operating budget of $3.2 million.
- In 2011, the Contemporary Museum merged with the Honolulu Academy of Arts and both museums became the Honolulu Museum of Art.
In the beginning...

- Early shipping experience was only via ocean freight.
- TCM often took packaged exhibitions that were shipped to the west coast for ocean transport out of Los Angeles.
- Loans were consolidated at a fine art facility and loaded onto exclusive use ocean containers.
- Ocean transport allowed for the shipment of oversized works and large shipments to be shipped for reasonable cost.
Art to-from Hawaii: Types of shipping

- Depending on media, works could be shipped in refrigerated or dry containers.
- Refrigerated containers would be preset prior to loading at a specified temperature and remain constant during entire transport.
- All our shipments were exclusive containers which prevented the addition of any other freight or shipments to be combined with ours.
- Loose freight was dependent on container space and more difficult to confirm transport time or arrival schedule.
Logistics

• Ground transport of exhibition works are consolidated on west coast at a fine art facility.

• We arrange for delivery of empty container for loading and return to port.

• Loading must also factor in time required for bracing of crates and soft-packed items.

• Port will have specific cutoff times to accept containers. May require shipment to be loaded and delivered to port a day before sail date.
Transit time

- West coast shipments
  - Los Angeles to Honolulu: 5-6 days, release following day
  - Oakland to Honolulu: 4 days, release following day
- Inter-Island
  - Honolulu - neighbor islands: 1 day
- Container drayage from port to Museum means container is never opened once it is locked & sealed until received at destination.
- Offload time dependent on load method.
Pros vs Cons

• Pros
  • Cost is reasonable and allows for large volumes to be shipped with one fee.
  • Control of loading and securing of crates in the container.
  • Ability to ship oversized works with reasonable cost.
  • With proper loading and bracing, works can be soft packed.

• Cons
  • Length of transit time on the ocean makes some lenders nervous.
  • No security supervision once container is delivered to port.
  • Refrigerated containers allow for temperature control but not rH.
    • Purpose of refrigeration meant more for shipment of produce than art
40' containers

Crates braced in with 2x4 wood.

Metal grating on floor indicates a refrigerated container.

Dry containers have wood floors.
Detail of bracing
Wood bracing attached to crates to prevent movement
Crated and soft-packed pieces.
Tube secured to bracing
Ocean vs Air

• Determining method of transport
  • Selection based on several factors:
    • Value
    • Media
    • Fragility
    • Purpose of transport
    • Volume and size

• One is not better than the other. The key is to determine the one best suited to the work being shipped.