



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.

