

National Art Education Association National Convention 2021  
Michael Takemoto

The National Art Education Association (NAEA) is a professional membership organization for visual arts education professionals. I've been a member of the NAEA for over 20 years and this was the first annual convention that I attended because it was on Zoom. In previous years, the event was scheduled in person on the mainland during our Spring semester, and I've been unable to attend due to my teaching responsibilities at UH Maui. So this was a great experience to connect with other educators and teaching artists in the field and to attend workshops and lectures which have expanded my pedagogical practices.

A couple of events in particular stand out, the first was *Japanese Landscape Painting: Expressing a Relationship with Nature and Place With Brush and Ink*. I've adapted and incorporated what I learned in this workshop in my Spring 2021's ART 113 Introduction to Drawing course. Since I teach this course every semester, it will continue to be an important part of my lesson plans as it emphasizes non-Western visual art techniques and aesthetics. This lesson will expose and encourage students to explore new and different ways of expressing themselves through imagery.

The second event that was significant was a panel discussion and presentation on *Equity, Diversification, and Inclusion* (see attached). What made this so meaningful was that it presented an overall view of how as educators, we have the responsibility to bring these practices into our classrooms, especially during this time of COVID and the social / cultural / political issues that are having such negative impacts on our lives and society. I've conducted informal discussions with all my classes on this topic and have been able to share these thoughts and information with UH Maui's Department Chairs and Program Coordinators, as well as the UH Systemwide Foundations Board.

Mahalo to UH Maui's Professional Development Committee for their support. Please let me know if you have any questions or need more information.

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