Artist: Dr. Jamaica Heolimeleikalani Osorio

Title:
A Call to Prayer

Artwork Description
With this powerful work, Kanaka Maoli wahine mākua/artist/activist/scholar/storyteller Dr. Jamaica Heolimeleikalani Osorio invokes the sacred connections that exist between people, place, and culture.

Artist Statement
"Call to Prayer" is a poem that attempts to capture and portray the experience of standing in the malu of the sacred. Whether that malu is cast by monument, an altar, or a mountain, the poem depicts the kuleana of recognizing our pilina to that which is kapu. The poem travels through the knowledges of faith, courage, devotion, fear, and aloha through the perspective of a Kanaka Maoli wahine who lives in the malu of our kupuna while continuing to endure the ongoing wake of settler colonialism, displacement, and alienation.

The poem intentionally stands in the malu of the Mihrab, An iconic example of sacred Ilkhanid-period luster tilework. And in her magnificent shadow we come face to face with her certain plunder and violent misdirection. We cannot look away, not from her outstanding beauty, and certainly not from the generations of trauma that has allowed us to be in her un-consenting company. The Mihrab powerfully calls us back to our own sacred places, and in that moment, we are invited into a mutual recognition, an unexpected intimacy between peoples, 'āina, moʻolelo."

###
