

MANIFESTO

[FOR CONCRETE POETRY]

A Poem By Wayne Kaumualii Westlake (1947-1984)



SCHOLAR SAID,
"WE'VE GONE TOO FAR TO
BACK ON THE REINS."

OR AS THE CHAIRMAN SAID,
"PROGRESS IN THE WRONG DIRECTION
IS NOT PROGRESS AT ALL."

AND FINALLY THERE IS THAT



LOGLINE

In 1979, the late Native Hawaiian poet Wayne Kaumualii Westlake (1947-1984) published his sardonic, avant-garde poem "MANIFESTO [for Concrete Poetry]" which was revived 33 years later in 2022 during the Hawai'i Triennial by co-curator Drew Kahu'āina Broderick. In 2024, independent film directors Richard Hamasaki, Jody Stillwater, and Sebastian Galasso visually and sonically evoke Westlake's brilliant irreverence that endures well into our 21st century and beyond.

RUN TIME

6:20

FILMED

O'ahu, Hawai'i & Northern California

FORMAT

Aspect Ratio 16:9

DCP available on request with English subtitles.

CONTACT

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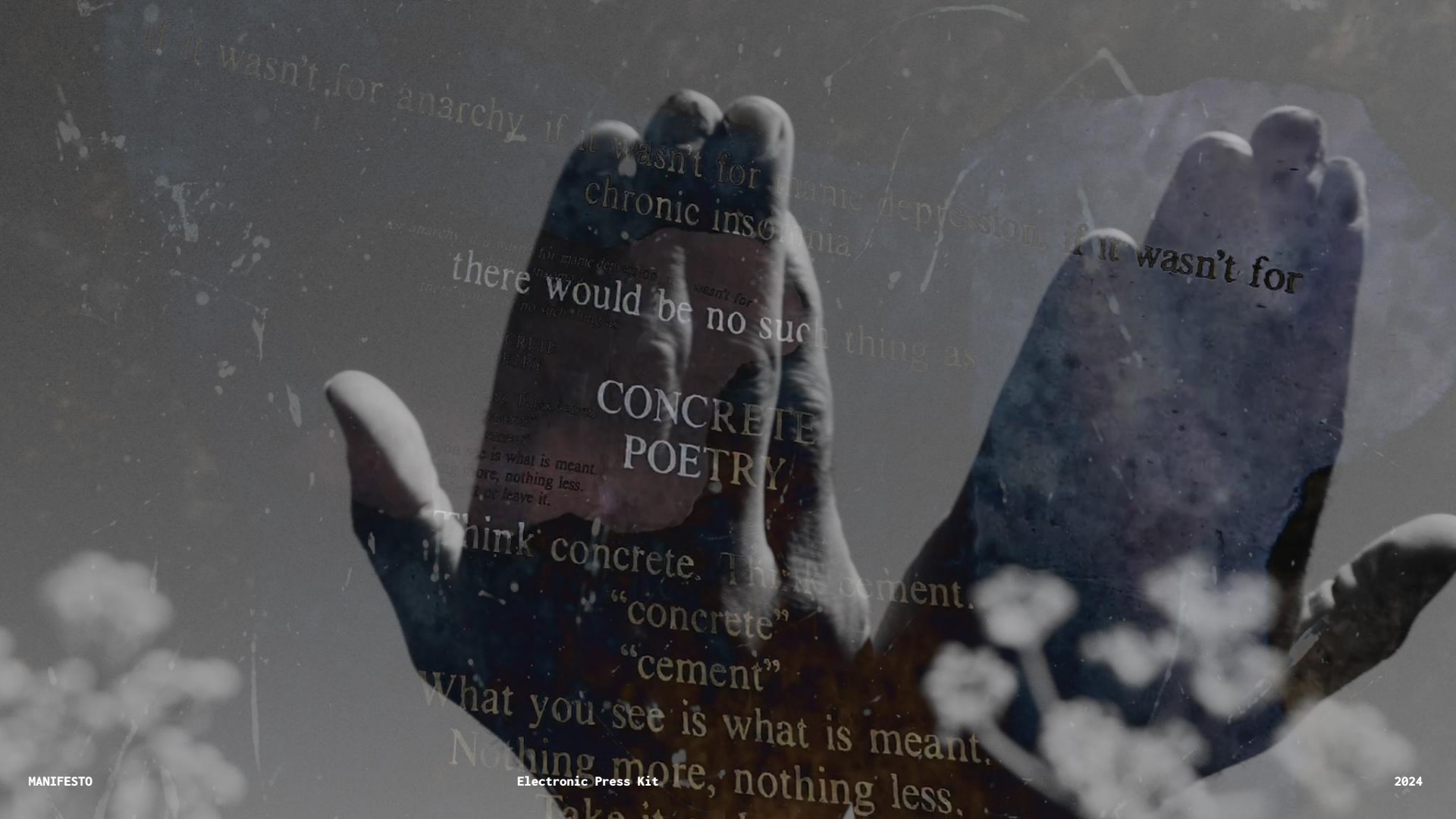


STATEMENT

MANIFESTO [for Concrete Poetry] featuring the late Wayne Kaumualii Westlake's 3-page poem was first published in *Seaweeds and Constructions* No. 6, 1979 (Honolulu: 'Elepaio Press). In 2024, independent filmmakers and producers Richard Hamasaki, Jody Stillwater, and Sebastian Galasso released an underground film inspired by Westlake's poem and his sense of agency regarding his Native Hawaiian indigeneity, Dadaism, Surrealism, and the international Concrete Poetry movement of the 1950s and beyond – along with Westlake's cunningly clever and playful resistance to the status quo.

Hamasaki, Stillwater, and Galasso's film amplifies Westlake's body of concrete poetry; integrates unique underwater footage of his purposefully sardonic, and at times irreverent poetry juxtaposed with irony and paradox; embraces choreography and movement – interlacing artificial intelligence sequences which are meticulously interwoven into their work. Not insignificantly, *MANIFESTO [for Concrete Poetry]* has been released on the 100th anniversary of Surrealism (1924-2024).

Our short film's sonically unique soundtrack features poets Hamasaki, Jocelyn Kapumealani Ng, and Anjoli Roy with voicing in Cantonese, Mandarin, and Taiwanese by Pei-Ling Kao and JunYi Chow. Forty years after his untimely and tragic death at the age of 36, on February 16, 1984, we collaboratively and humbly continue to honor Westlake's memory and legacy.



if it wasn't for anarchy, if it wasn't for manic depression, if it wasn't for
chronic insomnia

there would be no such thing as

CONCRETE POETRY

Think concrete. Think cement.

"concrete"
"cement"

What you see is what is meant.

Nothing more, nothing less.

If it wasn't for anarchy, if it wasn't for manic depression, if it wasn't for chronic insomnia there would be no such thing as

for anarchy, if it wasn't for manic depression, if it wasn't for chronic insomnia

CONCRETE POETRY

CONCRETE
POETRY

Think concrete. Think cement.

What you see is what is meant.
Nothing more, nothing less.
Take it or leave it.

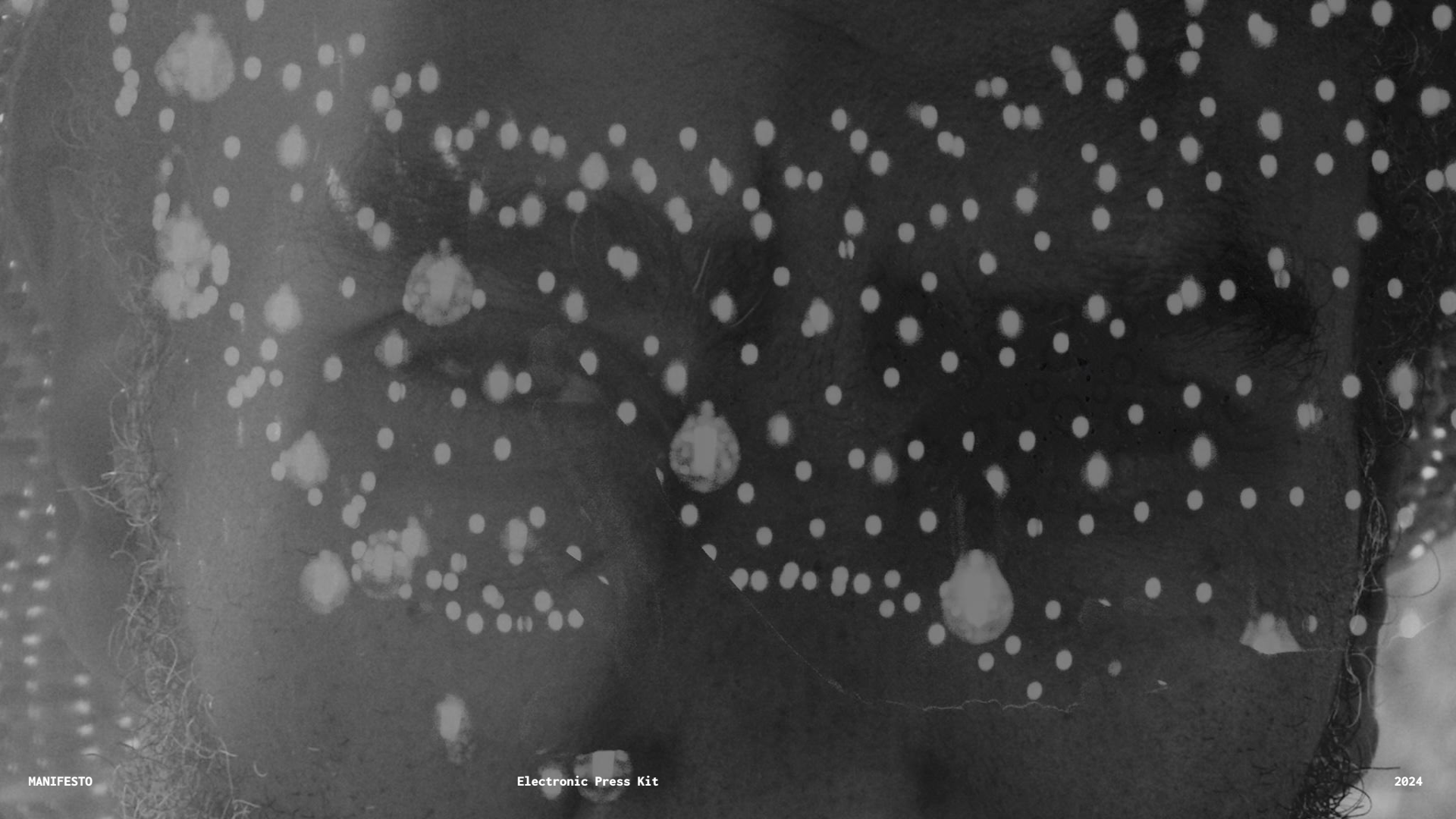
"concrete"
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What you see is what is meant.
Nothing

Richard Hamasaki is a poet and independent filmmaker & producer. He has been active in Hawai'i's literary and arts community for nearly 50 years, collaborating with poets, musicians, visual artists, photographers, filmmakers, teachers and scholars locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. In 2019, he executive produced a 20-minute award-winning narrative film *Down on the Sidewalk in Waikiki* directed by filmmaker Justyn Ah Chong. Richard's poetry-based films *I AM A PLASTIC* and *For He Who Wears the Sea Like a Malo* were screened during the Hawai'i International Film Festival in 2021 and 2022, respectively. In 2024, he co-produced a short narrative *HULI* directed by Daniel Croix which premiered this February during the Honolulu African American Film Festival. In March and April 2024, *HULI* will be screened at Make Believe Seattle and at Dreamspeakers Film Festival in Alberta, Canada. Most recently, Richard co-directed – with two Bay Area filmmakers, Jody Stillwater and Sebastian Galasso – an experimental film *MANIFESTO [for Concrete Poetry]* featuring the late Wayne Kaumualii Westlake's 3-page poem first published in 1979 in *Seaweeds and Constructions* issue No. 6 (Honolulu: 'Elepaio Press). *MANIFESTO* was exhibited as a vinyl wall display at the Hawai'i State Art Museum (now CAPITOL MODERN) during the Hawai'i Triennial 2022 co-curated by Drew Kahu'āina Broderick. Our film *MANIFESTO [for Concrete Poetry]* honors the late poet Wayne Kaumualii Westlake who died 40 years ago on February 16, 1984. Richard continues to write and publish poetry, direct and produce independent films, mentor as well as work collaboratively with others, and will continue to help perpetuate his friend Westlake's enduring legacy. Richard identifies as a sansei.



Jody Stillwater, a filmmaker and artist in the San Francisco Bay Area, is renowned for his expertise in dynamic movement, semiotic language, time cycles, rhythm, and archetype synthesis. With over 30 films directed, his work often intricately explores the diverse Bay Area ecology and the theme of growth following disruption. An Emmy-nominated filmmaker and co-founder of Yanasa Creative Group, Jody has showcased his work at prestigious venues including the MoMA in NYC, Hammer Museum, de Young Museum, YBCA, Mutek, Gray Area, Honolulu Museum of Art, Transfer Gallery, and ISEA. He has been commissioned by notable companies such as Google, Meta/Facebook, Knotel, and Bentley Mills. Additionally, Jody has been a featured guest on NBC's Asian Pacific America with Robert Handa, and been on the jury for the San Francisco Dance Film Festival and the Creative Youth Awards. With a cultural background that is Chinese/Norwegian/Cherokee-American, he identifies as mixed.





Sebastian Galasso is an actor, performance artist, and film producer, born in Detroit and currently based in the San Francisco Bay Area. While his cultural background of Black-Italian American, and Indigenous American are generally not the focus of his creative projects, his interest rely on the commonalities shared by all people.

CREDITS

Co-Directors: Richard Hamasaki, Jody Stillwater, and Sebastian Galasso

Writer: Wayne Kaumualii Westlake (1947-1984)

Spoken Word: Richard Hamasaki, Jocelyn Kapumealani Ng, Anjoli Roy with recitation in Cantonese, Mandarin and Taiwanese by Pei-Ling Kao and JunYi Chow

Editor: Jody Stillwater

Cinematography: Jody Stillwater and Richard Hamasaki

Choreography and Movement: Sebastian Galasso

Artificial Intelligence Sequences: Jody Stillwater

Soundtrack: Richard Hamasaki, Jody Stillwater and Kai Hamasaki (outro music “Manifesto”)

Sound Mastering: Harley Burkhart

Additional Underwater Concrete Poetry Footage: Mele Hamasaki and Daniel Croix

EPK: Mele Hamasaki

Producers: ‘Elepaio Press, Wansalawata Productions and Yanasa Creative Group/Yanasa Films 2024



