RECONNECTING
A VISION OF UNITY BY KENGO KITO

*Complimentary

Main Exhibition
JAPAN HOUSE
Los Angeles
Level 2 Gallery
June 16 – September 6, 2021

Satellite Installation
Westfield Century City
The Terrace, Level 2
June 16 – July 4, 2021
Kenko Kito is one of Japan’s most innovative contemporary artists, best known for repurposing everyday objects into dynamic installations. His works in modern materials echo ideas rooted in traditional Japanese art, philosophy, and culture. Using hula hoops as a medium allows Kito to explore the close relationship between the circle, line, and space within his work. When a hula hoop is formed, “sen ga en ni naru” (a line becomes a circle). When a hoop is reopened, “en ga sen ni naru” (the circle becomes a line). The plastic hoops contain and frame space, and as they interact and build a large form out of lines and circles, they essentially fill the gallery with empty space.

In traditional Zen Buddhist art and philosophy, the circle, line, and space are established concepts used to contemplate our place in reality. In Zen Buddhism, a circle is a form that is both perfectly whole and empty, inviting questions regarding the fullness, void, and nature of reality. A straight line however can symbolize directness, and a spiritual path forward. The Japanese word kō — often translated into English as “emptiness” — is used in Zen Buddhism to describe a dynamic and constantly evolving state — not so much empty as filled with untapped potential.

In RECONNECTING, Kito’s repurposed plastic hula hoops serve as a sort of milieu, a Japanese poetic and visual device in which a modern image substitutes for a classical motif. We hope the exhibition’s playfulness and messages of connection will lift the spirits of all our visitors.

A total of 2021 hula hoops will be displayed at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles to mark the year of the exhibition.

Exhibition-Related Programs:
Learn and register for programs that will deepen the exhibition experience on JapanHouseLA.com.

Special thanks
Miwako Tatsumi, PhD
Co-director, PanAsianCon
t
(Pan-Asian Japanese Art Discussion Group)

Associate Director, Reversible Destiny Foundation

“At one point when I was looking at the hoops, I realized that they are not only circles but also lines.”

-Kengo Kito

JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles is an innovative, worldwide project with three hubs, London, Los Angeles, and São Paulo, conceived by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. It seeks to nurture a deeper understanding of Japan in the international community. JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles offers a place of new discovery that transcends physical and conceptual boundaries, creating experiences that reflect the best of Japan through its spaces and diverse programs.