

Presented By JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles

RECONNECTING

A VISION OF UNITY BY KENGO KITO

*Complimentary



Main Exhibition

**JAPAN HOUSE
Los Angeles**

Level 2 Gallery

June 16 – September 6, 2021

Media Sponsor

Los Angeles
MAGAZINE

Satellite Installation

**Westfield
Century City**

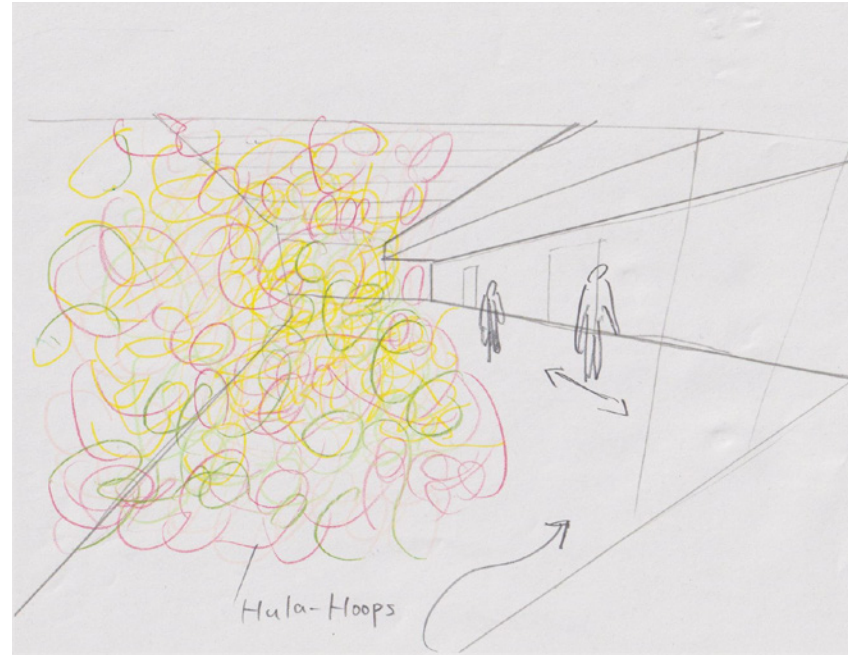
The Terrace, Level 2

June 16 – July 4, 2021

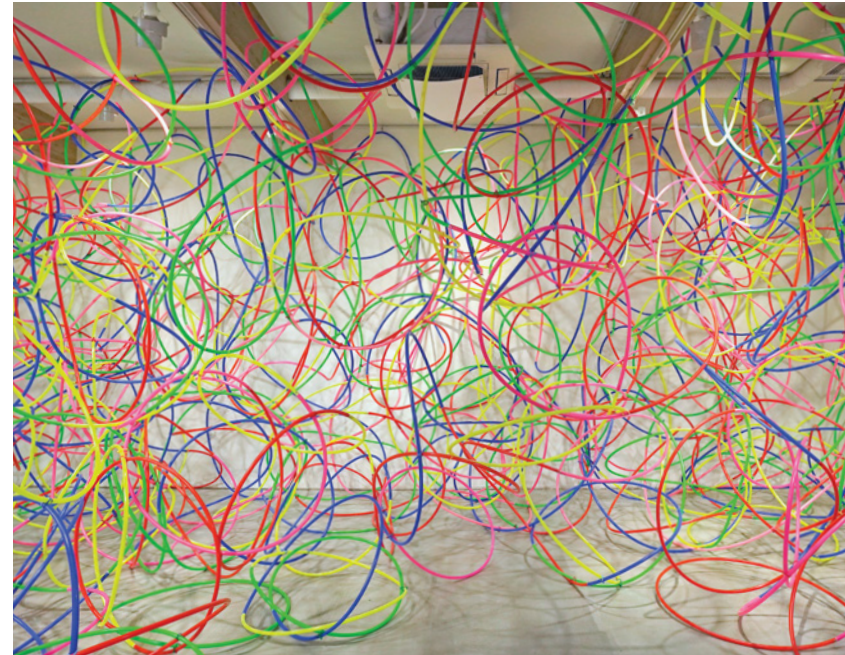
Presented By JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles

RECONNECTING

A VISION OF UNITY BY KENGO KITO



Kengo Kito's site-specific drawing for JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles



Detail of Kengo Kito's installation at The Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo

This past year, the world has faced unprecedented times. People everywhere have missed daily human interaction, engaging with our loved ones, and kindling deeper relationships within our communities.

In this site-specific installation at JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles, Japanese artist Kengo Kito (b.1977) explores this idea of connection and reconnection, by opening up hoops and linking them back together to fill space. The colorful structure serves as a metaphor for the interconnectedness of all humanity — a theme that resonates deeply today. As Japan hosts the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the installation will also align with one of its core concepts: Unity in Diversity.

Kengo 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), and 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 *kū* – 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 *mitate*, 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 Tezuka, PhD
Co-director, PoNJA-GenKon
(Post-1945 Japanese Art Discussion Group)
Associate Director, Reversible Destiny Foundation



Enjoy the exhibition?
Share your feedback!

"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 is an innovative, worldwide project with three hubs, London, Los Angeles, and Sao 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.



JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles
6801 Hollywood Blvd. Los Angeles, CA
Japan House Gallery at Level 2

JapanHouseLA.com
[#JapanHouseLA](https://twitter.com/JapanHouseLA)