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**For Immediate Release:
May 17, 2022**

**Reverse The Trend and Marshallese
Educational Initiative join Amnesia Atómica
NYC, Times Square**



Reverse The Trend and the Marshallese Educational Initiative join Amnesia Atómica

Times: Thursday, May 19, 2022 and Friday, May 20, 2022,
12:00pm to 8:00pm EST

Contacts: Christian N. Ciobanu (NAPF/RTT), cciobanu@napf.org

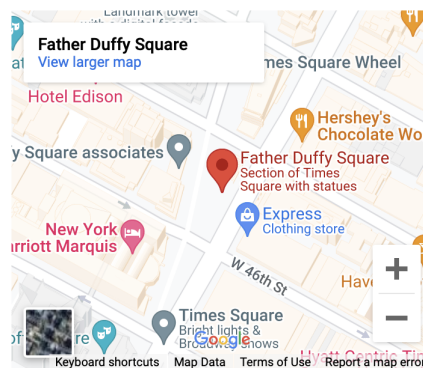
Danielle Samler (LCNP/RTT), danielle.samler@gmail.com

Dr. April Brown (MEI), albrown@mei.ngo

Benetick Kabua Maddison (MEI), benetick@mei.ngo

Timeline

All events take place in Times Square, specifically
Father Duffy Square, between 46th and 47th Street



New York, NY— May 17, 2022 —This May, Reverse The Trend and Marshallese Educational Initiative will showcase a series of paintings by Marshallese youth that reflect the twin existential threats of nuclear testing and climate change as part of the Amnesia Atómica Exhibit at NYC's Times Square on May 19 and 20. The paintings expose the trauma experienced by youth living in diaspora in the United States who are learning about the ongoing biological, ecological, and cultural consequences of US nuclear testing on their homelands - a history not taught in US schools. Joining other youth from affected communities and using art as activism, Marshallese youth are reversing the trend and engaging leaders and their communities to act on these twin threats.

The Amnesia Atómica exposition is centered around artist Pedro Reyes's *ZERO NUKES*, a 30-foot-tall inflatable sculpture that will function as a beacon to bring experts, political leaders, and engaged citizens together to address the nuclear threat. It was commissioned by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, which focuses on three main areas—nuclear risk, climate change, and disruptive technologies—and equips the public, policymakers, and scientists with the information needed to reduce man-made threats to our existence. The sculpture will serve as a central platform for a series of public programs and events designed to spotlight the voices of activists, artists, scientists, and community organizations in the anti-nuclear field, and drive conversations around non-proliferation and disarmament. *Amnesia Atómica* is

We will also be sharing our documentary, [“A Journey Home.”](#) The journey home is based on a community poem written by six Marshallese students — ranging from high school to undergraduate — living in Springdale, Arkansas. It is a reflection on the many meanings of home: as Arkansas, as the Marshall Islands, and as Earth that needs to be protected and cultivated for the next generation.

Commenting on the power of art in highlighting the twin existential threats facing our humanity, Benetick Kabua Maddison, Assistant Director of the MEI and exhibitor, explains “these art pieces were created by Marshallese youth who are working with MEI to learn about our nation’s history and the ongoing consequences of our shared nuclear legacy with the United States. I hope these beautiful pieces will encourage people to learn more about our nuclear and climate stories and help us achieve a nuclear-free and livable planet for all.”

Recognizing the significance of participating in Amnesia Atomica, Christian N. Ciobanu and Danielle Samler, two coordinators of Reverse The Trend mention, “we are grateful to have the opportunity to support and showcase our collaborative work with the Marshallese Educational Initiative. RTT seeks to amplify the voices of youth from frontline communities and being able to do it through art is very powerful. Art is a vehicle, where the youth can creatively convey their views on critical issues related to international peace and security.”

We hope to continue our work with connecting and amplifying the voices of young people from affected communities, especially from the Pacific where the U.S., U.K, and France tested their nuclear weapons. The voices of young Pacific Islanders matter. It is high time that we listen to them as we grapple with the legacy of nuclear weapons.

Please join us on May 19 and May 20 at Duffy Square to view the amazing art pieces by Marshallese youth and learn about our two organizations.

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