

"Japanese American Resettlement Through the Lens" Presentation & Booksigning

Saturday, May 9, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Riverside Metropolitan Museum

Lane Ryo Hirabayashi, Ph.D., George and Sakaye Aratani Professor of the Japanese American Internment, Redress and Community Asian American Studies, UCLA, will present on his new book *Japanese American Resettlement Through the Lens: Hikaru Iwasaki and the WRA's Photographic Section, 1943-1945*

Books Available for Purchase in Museum Gift Shop.
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The national reaction to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor resulted in governmental actions to eliminate perceived threats to national security by residents of Japanese descent. Initially, this resulted in alien identification certificates, curfews, and searches for and confiscation of items identified as contraband, such as radios, cameras, and weapons.

On February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt furthered the government's authority against residents of Japanese descent when he signed Executive Order 9066 into law. The order required the evacuation of all persons of Japanese descent – whether American citizens or not – from the west coast of the United States. The order also called for their incarceration into ten internment camps. To assist in their relocation, the President on March 18, 1942, created a civilian agency known as the War Relocation Authority.

In "Japanese American Resettlement Through the Lens", Lane Ryo Hirabayashi gathers a unique collection of photographs by War Relocation Authority (WRA) photographer Hikaru Carl Iwasaki, the only WRA photographer from the period still living. Focusing on resettlement - and in particular Iwasaki's photos of Japanese Americans following their release from WRA camps from 1943 to 1945 - Hirabayashi explores the WRA's use of photography to encourage "loyal" Japanese Americans to return to society quickly and convince Euro-Americans that this was safe and advantageous. Hirabayashi also assesses the relative success of the WRA Project, as well as the multiple uses of the photographs over time, first by the WRA and then by students, scholars, and community members in the present day.

Photo Credits: Title: Booth at the Pan-Pacific Industrial Exposition, Los Angeles, California, sponsored by Friends of the American Way; Council for Civic Unity; Fair Play Committee, W.R.A. and other organizations interested in returnees and in combating racism. Left to right: Mrs. Sylvia Leventhal, of B'nai B'rith Women, L.A. Miss Mary Kitano, newspaper woman with City News Service, L.A. She is formerly from Marzancara; Col. H.A. Finch, U.S. Army, retired, active officer of Friends of the American Way; Pasadena. Miss Eva Lee, American of Chinese descent, of International Institute, L.A. Miss Mary Suzuki of W.R.A. Area Office, L.A. She is formerly of Marzancara; - Photographer: Iwasaki, Hikaru - Los Angeles, California. 9/645

Contributing Institution: The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Book Cover Photograph: Mitzi Fujino and Shig Sakamoto at YWCA dance, June 14, 1945, Photograph by Hikaru Iwasaki, National Archives photo no. 210-G-1931.

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