



RIVERSIDE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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EXPLORE WWII's JAPANESE AMERICAN RESETTLEMENT THROUGH THE LENS *UCLA PROFESSOR & AUTHOR TO DISCUSS PHOTOS OF JAPANESE AMERICANS FOLLOWING THEIR RELEASE FROM WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY CAMPS*

RIVERSIDE, CA – In conjunction with Riverside Metropolitan Museum's (RMM) current exhibition, "Reading the Walls: The Struggle of the Haradas, a Japanese American Family", UCLA Professor Lane Ryo Hirabayashi, PhD will present on his new book "Japanese American Resettlement Through the Lens: Hikaru Iwasaki and the WRA's Photographic Section, 1943-1945" on Saturday, May 9, from 2 – 4 pm at the RMM.

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.

Museum entrance and events are free and open to the public. For more information, call: (951) 826-5273 or visit www.riversideca.gov/museum.

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Calendar Editors Please Note:

What: “Japanese American Resettlement through the Lens” Presentation and Booksigning

Where: Riverside Metropolitan Museum

When: Saturday, May 9, 2009

Cost: Free and Open to the Public. Books available for sale.

Public Information: Riverside Metropolitan Museum, 3580 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, CA 92501, (951) 826-5273, www.riversideca.gov/museum/rmm/hh.htm,
Museum open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9 am – 5 pm, Thursday 9 am – 9 pm, Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, Sunday 11 pm – 5 pm.