

hapa . me

15 years of the hapa project

exhibition by kip fulbeck



EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

janm  JAPANESE AMERICAN
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“I could not help but become choked up. This community has committed themselves to paving the way for understanding and belonging — not only for ourselves, but also for our children. It was a moment of celebration and joy to be recognized. And is ultimately what this exhibit is about — to finally be seen.”

— Farzana Nayani, author of *Raising Multiracial Children*

chinese / african american



What am I? Shouldn't you be asking my name first?



Hey! I'm Christine.
Nice to meet you, too.



The world's best-known photo series exploring multiracial identity, Kip Fulbeck's *The Hapa Project*, first premiered in 2006.

Featuring hundreds of identically composed portraits (all shot from the collarbone up without clothing, jewelry, or expression), the series paired each photo with the individual's handwritten response to the question, "What are you?" This simple yet timeless exhibition and accompanying book changed multiracial history.

Fifteen years later, Fulbeck revisited 130 of the original participants and photographed them again for a new exhibition and book — ***hapa.me*** — inviting them to handwrite new personal statements. Paired and shown with the original images, these "then and now" portraits offer a profound and touching showcase of not only the participants' physical changes over time, but also their differences in perspective and outlook on our rapidly changing world.

Exhibition at a Glance

- 46 framed diptych photos
- 8 bamboo & steel artist books (30 prints each)
- 3 informational wall texts
- 3 hanging fabric scrims with photos & calligraphy
- 7 templates for original koi wall paintings

The number of Americans calling themselves multiracial surged by 276% in the 2020 Census — far outpacing the growth of any other racial-ethnic category. Multiracial people now account for nearly 10% of the U.S. population.

“The project resists the rigid codification and categorization in the history of photography. What you’re left with on each page is a face, a few words and a surprising amount of wisdom.”

— Bonnie Tsui, *Los Angeles Times*



46 framed images (28"x22") — 125 linear feet



I am part Chinese and part Danish. I don't want
tell people I'm Danish though because they think I'm
a poet.

As I've grown older, I have tried to
embrace and be proud of both my cultures,
but I've found most people only care that
I'm smart (...and filled with cream cheese).

"When I attended the opening, I was struck by how happy, safe, and at home I felt surrounded by hundreds of other mixed-race folks ... As the day went on, it became not only an opening of an art exhibit but also a festival of spontaneous storytelling as well. Seemingly everyone wanted to tell their story and to hear everyone else's."

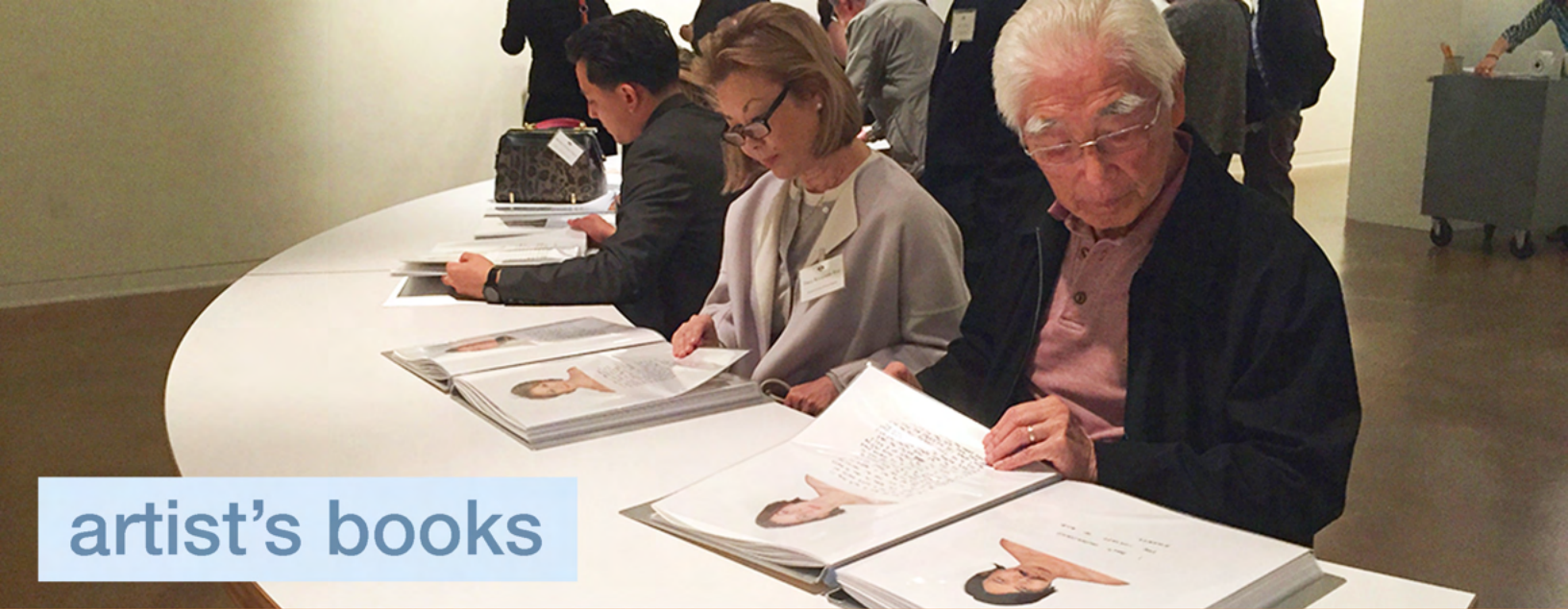
— Stuart Gaffney, *San Francisco Bay Times*



I am a spunky girl who's on the beach.
I am a puzzle piece who's on the beach.
I am a girl who's on the beach.
I am a girl who's on the beach.
I am a girl who's on the beach.
I am a girl who's on the beach.
I am a girl who's on the beach.
I am a girl who's on the beach.
I am a girl who's on the beach.
I am a girl who's on the beach.

Mom wanted an artist.

She got 3 doctors instead.

A photograph showing three people, two men and one woman, looking at several open artist books laid out on a white, curved table. The books feature portraits and text. The man on the right is older with white hair and glasses, wearing a dark jacket over a pink shirt. The woman in the middle has short blonde hair and glasses, wearing a light-colored blazer. The man on the left is younger, wearing a dark jacket. In the background, other people are visible, and a small black bag sits on the table.

artist's books

The exhibition includes 8 handmade bamboo & steel artist books, each featuring portraits of new participants and original calligraphy.



“This exhibit is about racial complexity. It shows mixed people grappling with the complexities of their ancestry, with how others see them, with how they see themselves ... *The Hapa Project*, now fifteen years on, has been a place where people explore their own mixedness while recognizing, appreciating, sometimes challenging, but always engaging the mixedness in each other. It is one of Kip Fulbeck’s great gifts to society.”

— Paul Spickard, author of *Almost All Aliens: Immigration, Race, and Colonialism in American History and Identity*

exhibition catalog

Celebrating the millions of individuals identifying as part Asian or Pacific Islander, Kip Fulbeck's long-awaited follow-up to *Part Asian*, *100% Hapa* pairs portraits and statements from the original series with their updated counterparts.

Also containing over 100 new portraits, this elegant photography book features essays by Hapa luminaries Velina Hasu Houston, Richard Keao'opuaokalani NeSmith, Cindy Nakashima, and Paul Spickard.

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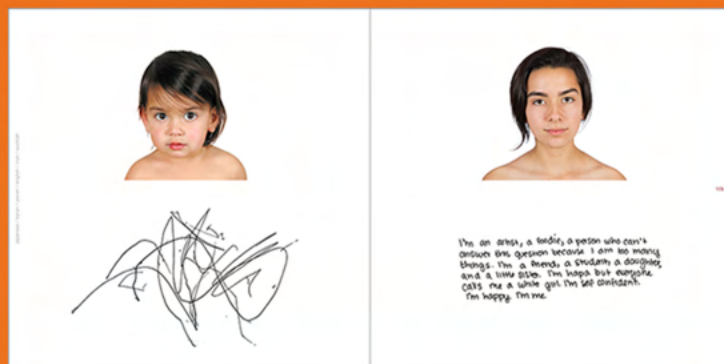


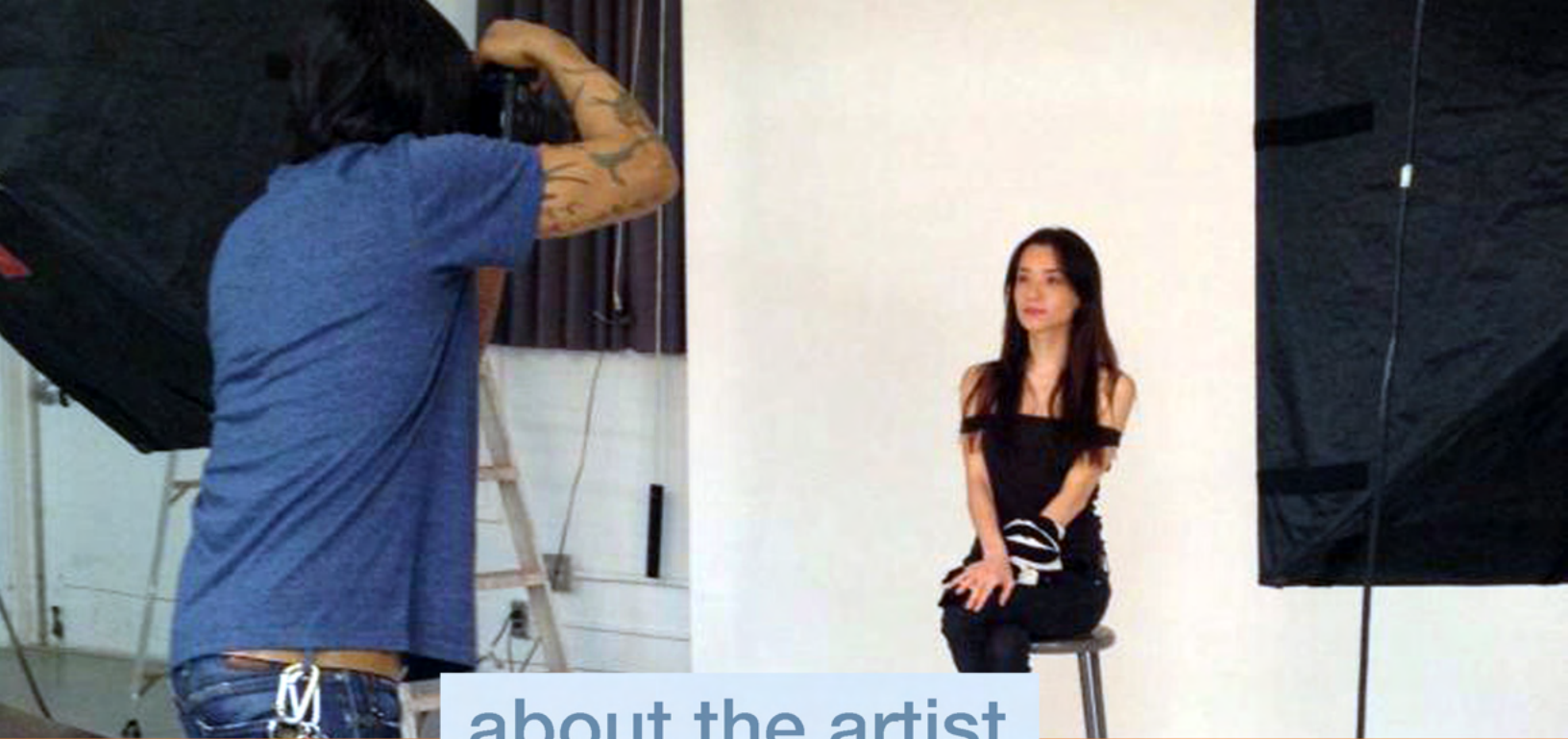
portraits by kip fulbeck

essays by velina hasu houston, cindy nakashima, keao nesmith, & paul spickard

10 x 10 inches, color, 212 pp

Discounted books available for resale.





about the artist



Kip Fulbeck has exhibited in over 20 countries and throughout the U.S., and has been featured on CNN, PBS, *The New York Times*, *The TODAY Show*, Voice of America, MTV, and various NPR programs. He teaches as a Distinguished Professor of Art at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he is the recipient of the Faculty Diversity Award and Distinguished Teaching Award. An active surfer and ocean lifeguard, he is also a national champion masters swimmer.





public programs



A number of highly successful public programs are available to complement the exhibition. Please contact chanami@janm.org for more information.



*I am in a continuous process of becoming.
I am a world traveler.
I am a dancer.
I am always! curious.
I am hapa!*





*I am not only Indonesian
I am not exactly female
I am not simply female
But I am all of these combined
a representation of my, society
unique and proud*

*I'm a breast cancer survivor.
I live each day as if there is no tomorrow.
Cancer created who I am today, strong and proud.
I don't look like I was and I don't feel the same as
before cancer. I'm better. I feel beautiful inside and
I like my new look. I'm liberated.
No more hiding under hair color. It's out there!*

“There’s a reason why *The Hapa Project* has lasted so long, both in terms of visual interest and relevance ... Fifteen years ago we wanted to be seen, we wanted to be heard, but we didn’t want to be objectified or exoticized ... Kip knew this, he felt this, and he wanted it too. With an artist’s intuition and eye, and a brilliant and learned brain, he constructed something special for us to love. And we’ve loved it. It’s changed our lives and it’s changed the world.”

— Cindy Nakashima, author of *The Sum of Our Parts: Mixed Heritage Asian Americans*



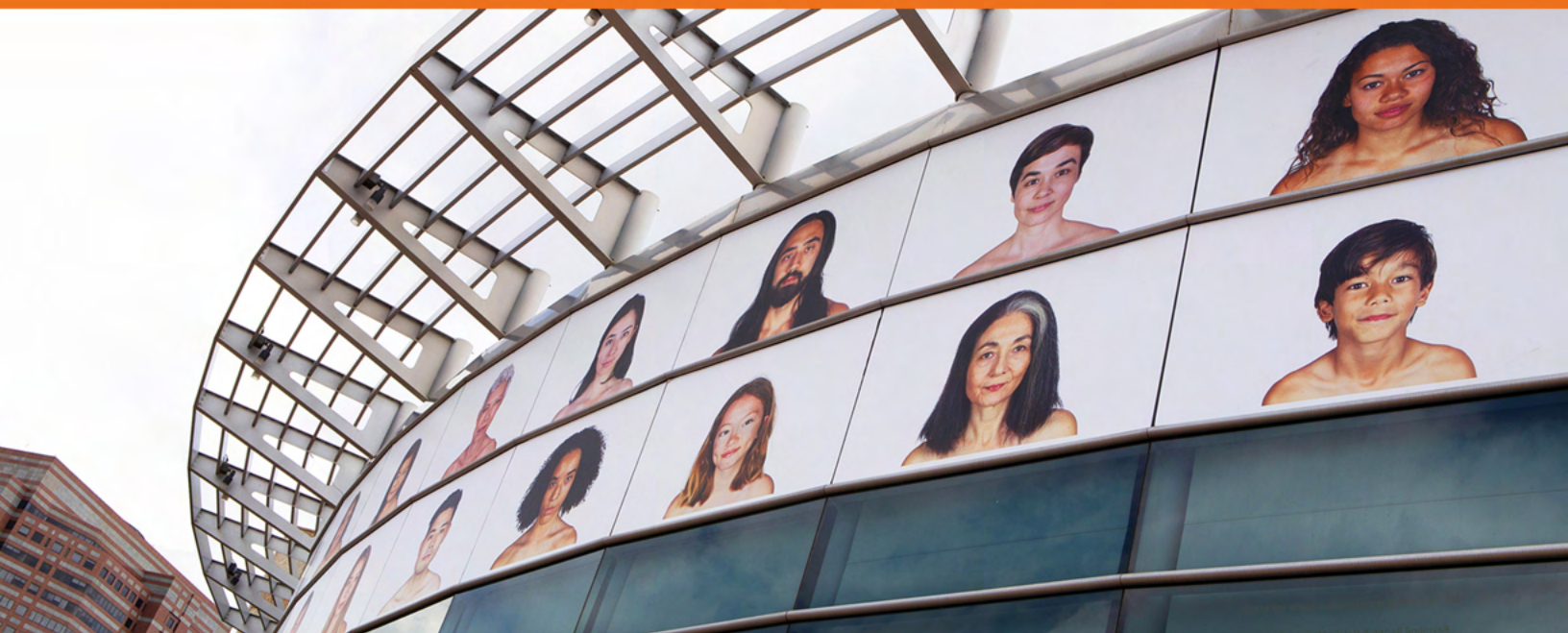
*Black Japanese, Japanese Black, either, or
both, all at the same time. Sweet Potato Pie,
Katsudon, turnip greens, nori -- food for the
soul, food for the heart, food for thought ... for
you, not me ... being Hapa (or double) is who I
what I am -- how about you? ~~Get~~ Tonk
chitlins anybody?*

*For me being mixed is ...
It just is... It is who I am... Being
mixed is my normal, neither hard,
nor easy... Just is... Son of a black
man and a Japanese mother... Son of
a Japanese mother and a black father.
I am... Nothing more, nothing less,
just am*



booking information

Please contact Clement Hanami / chanami@janm.org / 213.830.5624



The mission of the Japanese American National Museum is to promote understanding and appreciation of America's ethnic and cultural diversity by sharing the Japanese American experience.



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