hapa.me
15 years of the hapa project

exhibition by kip fulbeck

EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

janm JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM
“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*
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
“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
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
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.

hapame
15 years of the hapa project

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