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FROM: Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (The Wing)
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Wing Luke Museum Opens New Exhibition on War – May 12, 2017

“When we began working on this show 18 months ago, we had no idea how painfully relevant it would turn out to be.”
- SuJ’n Chon, guest curator

Seattle, WA: Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (The Wing) is excited to present a new exhibition that interrogates the narrative of war through a peculiar lens. Art transforms reality to reveal the unexpected and give us the opportunity to imagine a different outcome.

Guest curator SuJ’n Chon has created an exhibition featuring work from contemporary Asian Pacific American artists who pull back the rhetoric of war to expose its absurdity. The exhibition’s title, *Teardrops that Wound*, is drawn from Phong Nguyen’s novel *Pages from the Textbook of Alternate History*: “...with one fatal drop of this teardrop-shaped steel structure, I remember thinking, man will finally have wounded God.”

The link between the mundane and the devastating in the title echoes throughout the exhibition’s pieces. A multimedia installation from Sarah and Phong Nguyen imagines a world where the Little Boy bomb didn’t detonate. Inspired by “Einstein Saves Hiroshima,” a story in her husband’s *Pages*, Sarah Nguyen’s sculpture “Break into Blossom” lays half sunken into the earth, covered in moss and fallen cherry blossoms. Yukiyo Kawano transforms “Little Boy” into a delicate shell sewn with fragile materials, while Thomas Dang’s “Bombs Away” and “Tactical Decision Games” reexamine the tools of war by an artist who is a non-commissioned officer in the US Marines and recently returned from deployment. Patrick Nagatani’s “Nuclear Enchantment” photographic series investigates the atomic legacy of the West, wryly layering atomic activity over enchanting landscapes and innocent human life or in some cases, vice-versa -- the juxtaposition jarring even the most cynical of viewers. Noa Batle’s “Domestic Soldiers,” funded in part by a successful Kickstarter campaign in 2014, displays toy servicemen armed with vacuum cleaners and flowerpots rather than guns and grenades.

The featured artists in *Teardrops that Wound* span early to late in their careers. Batle is currently an undergraduate studying art at UCLA while Nagatani is an emeritus professor at the University of New Mexico where he retired in 2007. The exhibition also spans time, responding to events and consequences from the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki through to the current day. *Teardrops that Wound* will be on display May 12, 2017 through May 20, 2018.

SPECIAL PREVIEW:

Thursday, May 11th, 6-8pm – Special exhibition preview for Members and invited guests only. Speaking program at 6:30pm with guest curator SuJ’n Chon, gallery committee member Sue Kunimatsu, artist Yukiyo Kawano, and Dan Gilman, President of Veterans for Peace.

The **Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience**’s mission is to connect everyone to the rich history, dynamic cultures and art of Asian Pacific Americans through vivid storytelling and inspiring experiences. As a Smithsonian Affiliate, National Park Service Affiliated Area, and the only pan-Asian Pacific American museum in the nation, The Wing is in a uniquely positioned to tell the stories of Asian Pacific Americans in their own voices through thought-provoking exhibitions, tours and public programs.
www.wingluke.org