“It is my sincerest hope that this body of material will serve as an effective metaphor for all types of racial stereotyping…”

Exhibition Artist Statement by Roger Shimomura

I can practically measure my life according to what I was collecting at the time. My earliest collecting memory was saving soda pop bottle caps whenever I bought one or whenever I saw one on the ground outside of the neighborhood grocery store. Because the bottles came in different flavors and colors I had to have all of them. I used to dig the cork discs out of the inside of the caps, then place the caps over my shirt, and push the cork back under the lid thus creating badges that I could wear. I recall with pride having more caps and a wider variety than any of my friends. After that, I collected popsicle sticks, radio premiums, and the ubiquitous bubble gum cards.

In junior high school, I collected comic books of Dick Tracy, Nancy & Sluggo, Captain Marvel, and Walt Disney. I seldom read the stories, but looked at the artwork absorbing the flat prismatic color style that has become the signature look of my artwork today.

In high school, I collected movie star photographs and began to buy 1950s rock n’ roll records. About the same time, I became a big fan of the Seattle Rainiers baseball team of the now defunct Pacific Coast League, obtaining autographs, one by one, of the entire team coached by Fred Hutchinson in their championship year in 1955. I collected anything that came in a popcorn box or premiums that were given away at special games.

In college, I began to accumulate long playing jazz albums, ultimately acquiring nearly every album made by John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Roland Kirk, Thelonius Monk, and many others. The move to Syracuse in upstate New York for graduate school in 1967 opened a new door for me as I was suddenly among graduate art students, all of whom collected things, which fueled their art making processes. Competition was keen for popular objects such as advertising display items, movie star collectibles, and anything related to popular culture. Our modest living spaces resembled small, cramped, family-owned five and dime stores.

In 1969, when I arrived in Lawrence, Kansas, I began attending estate auctions, which yielded tin windup toys and old Walt Disney memorabilia, as well as Fiestaware, chalkware figurines, salt and pepper shakers, art deco radios, salesman samples, pottery, carnivalware and contemporary painting and sculpture. In the 1990s, I discovered eBay and began to seriously collect everything that had to do with the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. This collection ranged from mimeographed newsletters and high school yearbooks to handmade furniture made out of scrap lumber. I also began to collect horrific stereotypical graphic depictions of Japanese during World War II in every form available such as map hunting licenses, postcards, advertisements, books, greeting cards, pinbacks, song

(Continued on p. 4)

The Wing Luke Asian Museum is very grateful to Roger Shimomura for generously donating his lifetime stereotypes memorabilia collection as part of the Museum’s Collections (25% are currently on display as part of Yellow Terror; the rest are housed in the Wing Luke Asian Museum’s Collections). The collections are Roger Shimomura’s extensive and unique personal collection of items from everyday American life that depict stereotypical images of Asians, perhaps the largest such collection in the nation: over 300 pairs of salt and pepper shakers, over 80 Halloween masks, assorted toys and everyday household items. A catalogue for this exhibition is available through our Museum Marketplace.

Cultural Transcendence

On display December 18, 2009-June 19, 2010 | George Tsutakawa Art Gallery at Wing Luke Asian Museum

Opening reception: Thursday, December 17, 2009

5:30pm-6:30pm Members’ exclusive preview | 6:30pm-7:30pm Open to the public

In Cultural Transcendence, five Asian Pacific Islander American artists exhibit works that focus on a step forward from traditional to new media: materials expanding beyond their inherent meanings. Their conceptual themes peer into history but do not dwell on a negative past—inequality, discrimination, and alienation; instead they search the present and envision a better tomorrow. Cultural Transcendence explores the importance of technology in our modern experience and technology’s influence on contemporary installation art.
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“Thank you for creating this great educational opportunity here at the Wing Luke for all to share, learn & reflect.”

–H. & H., visitors to the “Yellow Terror” exhibit

Who would have known salt and pepper shakers could remind us why museums exist? If you’ve experienced the new exhibit Yellow Terror: The Collections and Paintings of Roger Shimomura, you might think of these and other everyday household items in a new light. We are grateful to Roger Shimomura for sharing his work, to a wonderful Educators Advisory Committee for a year of meetings, giving direction to the exhibit and preparing related curriculum and educational materials, and for the leadership of the exhibit sponsors and donors as well as volunteers and staff whose belief and work during a difficult time made this exhibition live. You exemplify carrying forth the passion of our namesake Wing Luke, a hero who battled racial and class discrimination, fighting tirelessly for civil rights and cultural understanding.

We appreciate all of you for investing in the Museum’s new home that continues to serve as a portal to new opportunities. Because of all who came forward to create the Governor Gary Locke Library & Community Heritage Center, our collections program was able to accept a historic and nationally significant donation, Roger’s lifetime collection of stereotypical ephemera, a portion on view as part of Yellow Terror. Your investment made this possible, and much more is to come.

Have you stopped by the Museum lately? You might notice increased activity since we launched the Museum Experience package, allowing all customers to choose one of five guided tours of the historic hotel offered daily. Kudos to the creative Museum staff for figuring out how to offer these tours without increasing staffing expenses. Prior to the August launch, only 10% of our visitors joined the historic tour and many were not aware it existed. Since August ever-increasing numbers of visitors are now experiencing the historic spaces where our community pioneers lived and made their new lives a century ago.

As the holiday season approaches, I hope we can be a resource for your holiday gatherings, family activities and shopping needs. Warm wishes for the holidays!

–Beth Takekawa, Executive Director

Thank you and Welcome

Please welcome Dorothy Ng, our new Tour Registrar. Dorothy worked previously as Administrative Assistant at L&N Investment LLC and has served in various capacities at Youth in Focus, mostly recently as photography instructor. Earlier in her career she was a summer intern at the museum and has continued to volunteer at museum events through the years.

We are pleased to introduce our new Visitor Services Leads, Joseph Guanlao, Luie Marcotte, and Jessica Rubenacker. Joseph graduated from the University of Washington with a BA in English. He is the founder of Makipag, a Filipino American arts organization, and is currently helping out with the 2010 U.S. Census. Luie has both hosting and front desk experience from the Spaghetti Factory, McCormick & Schmick’s, and Pro Fitness. She attends North Seattle Community College. Jessica worked previously as Patron Services Supervisor for the University of Illinois’ Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Most recently, she was an intern in the Museum’s Collections Department and also an intern at the Henry Art Gallery while working to complete her Masters in Museology from the University of Washington.

Congratulations to Amber Strangstalien who has been promoted to Marketplace Assistant Manager after her dedicated service as a sales associate since before the opening of the Marketplace.

Best wishes to former Visitor Services Lead/Interpretive Lead Sean Espero who has moved outside the area to attend law school and to Sales Associate Walton Huynh who is pursuing his degree at the University of Washington.

Thank you to Ammara Hun, departing Education Coordinator and TeensWAY program coordinator, who has been a staff member for six years. Ammara will continue to be active at the museum, serving as an Interpretive Lead Substitute and participating on Community Advisory Committees.
Preserve life stories at the Museum’s Oral History Lab

We all have stories to share and stories to hear. The Oral History Lab in the Governor Gary Locke Library and Community Heritage Center at the Wing Luke Asian Museum is available to the public to record the life stories of friends, family and community members. At the Oral History Lab, we have instructions, equipment and tools for oral history gathering—but we need you to provide the stories.

What is an oral history?
Oral histories record historic information from individuals with first-hand knowledge of events, families, communities and time periods. Their perspectives and viewpoints provide life to newspaper headlines, photographic records, geographic maps and factual statistics. Oral histories can be structured to record one individual’s life in-depth, often stretching over many sessions. Oral histories also can be structured for shorter sessions, recording specific moments or general overviews.

Why record an oral history?
Oral histories capture valuable stories that have never been recorded. These are the stories of everyday people and communities often overlooked in our history books. Time spent sharing an oral history is memorable.

The Oral History Lab is free to use by appointment. Please call (206) 623-5124 ext. 121 for more information.

Celebrate your holidays at Wing Luke!
Exciting activities include a holiday open house, members and shoppers appreciation days, and more. Visit www.wingluke.org/holidays for more details.

Plan Your Holiday Event at Wing Luke Asian Museum
Celebrate the holidays and your special occasions at the Wing Luke Asian Museum! We offer several different spaces for your memorable event—meeting rooms, a theatre, and of course, our elegant Community Hall and Welcome Hall. Located in the heart of Chinatown- International District, our beautifully restored 1910 building is the perfect backdrop for your gathering. For reservation and more information, please visit www.wingluke.org/space.htm or contact (206) 623-5124 ext. 108 or jhom@wingluke.org.

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Japanese Musical Instruments: Koto and Fue Performance and Discussion
Thursday, October 22, 7:00pm-8:30pm

With acclaimed Japanese musicians: Miki Maruta (koto/zither) and Kaoru Watanabe (fue/traverse bamboo flutes). Miki Maruta is an accomplished koto player in Tokyo who studied under Tadao Sawai (master of the Japanese koto), Kazue Sawai and Takako Kikuita. Kaoru Watanabe is a former player and artistic director of the iconic Japanese taiko ensemble Kodo. The evening will also include a discussion on the cultural/historical background and modern usage of their instruments. Suggested donation: $5-$10.

This performance is a part of the Tateuchi Story Theatre Performing Arts Series sponsored by the Atsuhiko & Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation. This event is also supported by Trust for Mutual Understanding, Asian Cultural Council and Japan Foundation through the Performing Arts JAPAN program as part of the Khoomei-Taiko Ensemble 2009 program. Special thanks to Town Hall Seattle.

Family Day at the Wing Series Sponsored by
Saturday, November 21, 1pm-3pm
Local artist Mizu Sugimura will demonstrate how to create origami-like crafts inspired by the rice harvest festival in Japan held around November 23. Participants will make rice balls out of craft paper meant to evoke the idea of an Asian American cornucopia.

Saturday, December 19, 1pm-3pm
Join YouthCAN, one of Wing Luke Asian Museum’s youth groups, as they lead an art workshop of their choice.

Save the Dates: More Family Day at the Wing!
January 16 / February 20 / March 20, 2010
Join us every third Saturday of the month for artist-led and family-friendly activities from 1pm-3pm. More info at www.wingluke.org.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Members: $2 per film; Non-members: $3 (KFP), $5 (O: SP), $7 for both films.

Panel Discussion: Art and Identity
Friday, November 13, 6:30pm-8pm
Artist and historian Susan Kunimatsu moderates a discussion on the intersection of art and identity by Asian Pacific American artists. Panelists include Karin Higa, adjunct senior curator of art of Japanese American National Museum; Ken Matsudaira, curator of M. Rosetta Hunter Art Gallery at Seattle Central Community College; Cora Edmonds, director of ArtXchange; and Tracey Fugami, curator of Parallel Lines exhibit at the Wing Luke Asian Museum. For tickets, call (206) 623-5124.


Community service is a core value for Gloria Lung Wakayama's family. Her parents, Bertha and Herb Tsuchiya, have a long history of community leadership and service, so following in their footsteps was natural for her and her siblings, Kerry, Lori, Les and Teri. Growing up, Gloria remembers volunteering at bazaars hosted by the Jade Guild (a women's service organization her mother helped found), participating in the Seattle Chinese Community Girls Drill Team, and serving at community organizations’ dinners.

Her own family’s story inspired her to become involved with the Museum more than twenty-four years ago. Her great-grandfather, who immigrated in 1890, was one of the first Chinese immigrants in this state. Her maternal grandfather was a Kong Yick investor, part of the group of Chinese pioneers who pooled their money to build the East and West Kong Yick Buildings, the former being the Museum’s new home.

Gloria treasures the Museum’s knack for preserving and telling the stories of ordinary people. “Our museum talks about everybody’s experience instead of just leaders and groundbreakers. One of my favorite exhibits was If Tired Hands Could Talk... a very moving story that portrayed a lot of ordinary folk... in the garment industry. This was their personal story. It was a combination of the heartfelt story so core to the Museum, plus innovative technology, which brought the story to life,” Gloria explains.

In 2003, after years of generously supporting the Museum through membership and annual contributions and service as a board member, Gloria and her husband Dean made their largest gift ever to the Museum’s capital campaign: a $100,000 pledge in honor of her parents. Her leadership encouraged fellow board members to give the largest gifts they had ever given in their lives, and inspired her father and siblings to make an additional family pledge.

Today, she continues to serve as a trustee and immediate past co-president of the Museum’s Board of Trustees and is an attorney and partner at Harris, Mericle & Wakayama. She is also active in a variety of organizations, including Chong Wa, the Seattle Philanthropic Advisors Network and several others.

Gloria, Dean, and their two children, Lindsay and Brady, continue her family’s tradition of community service, as do her siblings – whose volunteer activities range from missionary outreach in Thailand and Laos through a medical and dental clinic to involvement as committee members for Asian Counseling and Referral Service’s annual Walk for Rice to mentorship of youth leaders through the Chinese Baptist Church in Seattle.

Recently, Gloria and Dean joined the Museum’s legacy society by including the organization in their estate plans. Gloria’s enthusiasm and commitment to the Museum and to continuing its work made this a natural place for them to leave a legacy. “I want to ensure this good work continues so that this legacy and our shared experiences will be around for future generations,” says Gloria.

Support the Wing Luke!

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Congratulations to the Lung Tsuchiya Family for receiving this year’s Association of Fundraising Professionals’ “Outstanding Philanthropic Family” award! Your leadership, dedication and community service truly exemplifies multi-generational involvement in philanthropy and a strong commitment to our community. Thank you for everything you do. We’re proud of you!
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