



© Paul Kitagaki Jr. 2018

Gambatte!

Legacy of an Enduring Spirit: Triumphant Over Adversity

Japanese American WWII Incarceration Reflections,

Then and Now

Paul Kitagaki Jr.

Apr 13 – Jun 2, 2018

Reception: April 21st, 6:00pm to 8:30pm

Artist talk: April 21st, 5pm to 6pm



405 Vernon St, Ste. 100, Roseville, CA 95678 (916) 783-4117

Gallery Hours:

Tuesdays & Thursday: 11am – 5pm

Wednesday, Friday, & Saturday: 11am -3pm

This exhibit was developed by and made possible thanks to the support of:

This project was funded, in part, by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

CONTRA COSTA
JACL

Tanforan
Memorial



Sponsored By:



I have been on a journey the last 13 years searching for the identities of the Japanese-Americans as they were forcibly removed from their homes during WWII documented by War Relocation Authority (WRA) photographers, Dorothea Lange, Clem Albers, Ansel Adams and others. To date I have photographed over fifty subjects and have identified several more subjects to photograph and record their oral history. Many of the 120,000 Issei (first generation Japanese-American) and Nisei (second generation Japanese-American) never shared their stories of incarceration with their own families. As some of the subjects now in their 70's to 90's recounted their experience, they were overcome with tears and emotion as long forgotten memories returned. For many shame, bitterness and the spirit of Gaman "enduring the seemingly unbearable with patience and dignity" and the concept of Shikata ga nai "it can't be helped or nothing can be done about it" kept them silent. For many this was the first time for them to publicly speak about their experience. This is an American story told by Americans. Ethnic Japanese Americans were rounded up by Americans, forcibly incarcerated into American prison camps guarded by armed Americans, After the WWII ended they returned to their American communities, and in 1988 Americans formally apologized for the violation of their American rights as citizens. As President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 that granted reparations to the Japanese American who were incarcerated and apologized for the nation had said three things led the to internment, racism and prejudice, wartime hysteria, and the failure of the political leaders to uphold the constitution. February 19, 2018 is the 76th anniversary President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 which led to the imprisonment of nearly 120,000 ethnic Japanese Americans during World War II. I use a Linhof Technika 4x5 format field camera, similar to equipment used by photographers in the 1940s, and black and white film, mirroring the historical photographs while revealing the strength, legacy and perseverance of my subjects.