

LAURA KINA

「家系図を求めて — 先住民としての沖縄人と環太平洋地域での交流」  
“Ancestral Cartography: Transpacific Interchanges and Okinawan Indigeneity”

Abstract:

Laura Kina will bring her artwork into conversation with fellow Okinawan diaspora artist Denise Uyehara to explore how Okinawan indigenous identity is influenced by the transpacific interchanges between the Native Hawaiian sovereignty movement and Native American indigeneity. Kina will discuss selected works from her “Sugar” and “Uchinanchu” series of paintings and her illustrated children’s book *Okinawan Princess: Da Legend of Hajichi Tattoos* (Bess Press, 2019) written by Hawai‘i Creole author Lee A. Tonouchi. Through her interview with Uyehara, Kina will examine the relationship of crossing borders between Okinawan and indigenous identities and communities while at the same time recognizing their roles as Asian settler colonizers in the Americas. Kina’s paper will focus on Uyehara’s 2017 collaboration with Native American artist James Luna. Luna, who was of Luiseño, Ipai, and Mexican descent, died shortly after their interdisciplinary performance piece “Ancestral Cartographic Rituals” debuted at Stanford University in Fall 2017. Both artists took DNA tests to see how the findings confirmed, authenticated, or contradicted “traditional creation stories.” According to their artist statement for this work in progress, they set out to investigate “‘cultural authenticity,’ as it related to Pacific Rim, evolution, migration and the here and now.”

Representative works:

Tonouchi, Lee and Laura Kina, Masashi Sakihara, *Okinawan Princess: Da Legend of Hajichi Tattoos* (Bess Press, forthcoming March 2019)

Laura Kina and Jan Christian Bernabe, *Queering Contemporary Asian American Art* (University of Washington Press, 2017)

Kina, Laura. “The Black Pacific through Okinawan Eyes: Photographer Mao Ishikawa’s “Hot Days in Camp Hansen!!” and “Life in Philly.” In *Rethinking Postwar Okinawa: Beyond American Occupation*, edited by Pedro Iacobelli and Hiroko Matsudo, 149–168. Lanham: MD, Lexington Books, 2017.