



JAPANESE AMERICAN  
NATIONAL MUSEUM

# CONTESTED HISTORIES

*Art and Artifacts from the Allen Hendershott Eaton Collection*

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Pop-up Display and Workshop  
Program Description

### **About the Japanese American National Museum**

Established in 1985, the Japanese American National Museum promotes understanding and appreciation of America's ethnic and cultural diversity by sharing the Japanese American experience. Located in the historic Little Tokyo district of Downtown Los Angeles, JANM is a hybrid institution that straddles traditional museum categories and strives to provide a voice for Japanese Americans as well as a forum that enables all people to explore their own heritage and culture. Since opening to the public, JANM has presented over 70 exhibitions onsite and traveled six of its exhibitions to over 30 locations, including the Smithsonian Institution, the Ellis Island Museum, and leading cultural institutions in Japan and South America. For more information, visit [janm.org](http://janm.org)

### **About the Allen Hendershott Eaton Collection**

Allen Hendershott Eaton's historic 1952 book, *Beauty Behind Barbed Wire: The Arts of the Japanese in Our War Relocation Camps*, explored art and craft objects created by persons of Japanese ancestry while wrongfully incarcerated in the World War II American concentration camps. In the course of conducting research for the book, Eaton amassed a significant collection of such artifacts.

After many years of lying forgotten in storage, the collection's eventual owners would put the objects up for auction in April 2015. An outcry arose from the Japanese American community leaders and activists, who rallied successfully to stop this insensitive sale of these important artifacts of Japanese American history. Ultimately, the collection was transferred to the Japanese American National Museum for safekeeping. 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. Additional support was provided by George and Brad Takei, the Earle K. & Katherine F. (Muto) Moore Foundation, and Richard Sakai.

## ***Details for Contested Histories Pop-up Display and Workshop***

The pop-up display includes physical and/or digital representation of every item in the collection — such as photographs, sculptures, artworks, and other items handmade by Japanese Americans while incarcerated in American concentration camps. *Contested Histories* is **intended to gather as much information about each individual object so that the museum's efforts to preserve and catalog the collection can be complete as possible.** People are encouraged to share with JANM information they know or remember about the objects including who and/or what is depicted in the many photographs or objects.

## ***Exhibition Contents/ Physical Dimensions***

- 289 reproductions of photos and artwork in binders.
- 120 artifacts in 11 display suitcases.
  - For longer installations and where wall space is available, 12 wall-hanging reproductions are available (optional).

### **Space requirements:**

- A room or space of at least 400 square feet. For overnight installations, a lockable space.
- Eight 8' foot tables for display suitcases to sit on.
- Two 6' tables for binders to be viewed on.
- Chairs
  - For longer installations, an 8' square storage space is needed to hold display materials.

## ***Booking Specifications***

- Available beginning June 1, 2018
- Booking period is from 1 day including 1 workshop or longer if space meets needed requirements (negotiable).
- **The Contested Histories program is free. You must meet scheduling and space requirements. Booking slots are limited.**

## ***Shipping Details***

- JANM makes all arrangements. There are no costs unless special requirements are needed.

## ***Contacts***

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