



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

7th Annual “Comfort Women” Exhibition Focuses on Resistance and Reflection

July 18, 2018 (Glendale, CA) – Glendale’s Library, Arts and Culture Department and Glendale Sister Cities—Boeun-gun, Goeseong, Gimpo, South Korea—present **Do the Right Thing: Comfort Women Resist**, an exhibition showcasing the work of nine international artists and documentarians focusing on the narratives of World War II Comfort Women, reflecting on the past and current political and social context of those women sexually enslaved by the Japanese Imperial Army.

The exhibition takes place in the ReflectSpace and PassageWay galleries at Downtown Central Library and runs from July 28 to September 11, 2018 with the opening reception on Saturday, July 28, at 5 pm.

About Comfort Women

Prior to and during World War II, more than 200,000 women from Korea, Taiwan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and East Timor were coerced or forcibly transported to various sites – euphemistically termed “comfort stations” -- across Japanese occupied territories and repeatedly raped, tortured and brutalized. Most women were under the age of 20, some as young as 12. Many young women were murdered or committed suicide during their enslavement.

“Comfort women” is a Japanese euphemism coined by the military to soften the scope and viciousness of their system of slavery. The *Comfort Women Resist* exhibit resists the inherent neutrality of this term and Japan’s repudiation of their role in this atrocity. The art on display challenges and subverts accepted historical narratives and draws attention to current-day efforts of reflection and resistance.

About the Exhibition

Co-curated by Monica Hye Yeon Jun and Ara & Anahid Oshagan, the 2018 exhibition highlights the work of nine artists from four countries deeply connected to the comfort women story.

American-Armenian artist Ara Oshagan, whose work has been informed by multi-generational trauma such as the Armenian Genocide, will exhibit an art installation that resists the erasure of comfort women’s narratives: a large-scale conceptual “comfort station” composed of recent images of comfort women and activists in Korea. “My goal is to craft an immersive experience for visitors,” said Oshagan.

Korean artists Lee + Park draw data about comfort women from the worldwide web to create an ever changing large-scale digital and global portrait; Dutch artist Jan Banning’s intense portraits of Indonesian comfort women casts a light on the wider Asian context; Dokuyama Bontaro, a

Japanese documentarian, connects to the issue with shared stories; American artist Rose Camastro-Pritchett tells comfort women's stories through intimate sewing and patchwork; artist Yu Kyung Kim presents clear acrylic panels stacked on one another displaying current images of former Japanese military sex station sites, addressing the widespread nature of the sites and the passage of time.

The PassageWay gallery walls are dedicated to comfort woman and artist Duk Kyung Kang. Her artwork will be on display as well as two projects by artist and scholar Kyunji Kwon: an interactive Google map which traces Kang's journey as a comfort women and the publication of an essay about Kang's paintings.

The artists in ***Comfort Women Resist***: Jan Banning, Dokuyama Bontaro, I Hwa Hong, Hyunji Kwon, Yu Kyung Kim, Ara Oshagan, Jea Hyung Lee + Jung Min Park, Rose Camastro Pritchett.

EXHIBIT DETAILS

Dates:	Opening Reception:	Downtown Central Library
July 28 – Sept 11, 2018	Saturday, July 28, 2018 5pm - 7pm	ReflectSpace Gallery PassageWay 222 E. Harvard St., Glendale, CA 91205 <i>* Entrance to the reception is from Louise Street only.</i>

About ReflectSpace

ReflectSpace is an inclusive exhibition gallery designed to explore and reflect on major human atrocities, genocides and civil rights violations. Immersive in conception, ReflectSpace is a hybrid space that is both experiential and informative, employing art, technology and interactive media to reflect on the past and present of Glendale's communal fabric and interrogate current-day global human rights issues.

About Library, Arts & Culture

Glendale's Library, Arts & Culture Department began in 1907 and includes six neighborhood libraries as well as the Brand Library & Art Center, housed in the historic 1904 mansion of Glendale pioneer Leslie C. Brand, and the Downtown Central Library, a 93,000 square foot center for studying, learning and gathering. For more information call Library, Arts & Culture at 818-548-2030 or see the website www.GlendaleLAC.org.

@myglendaleLAC #myglendaleLAC www.GlendaleLAC.org

**#comfortwomen #ReflectSpace #WWII #resistance #KoreanComfortWomen
#ComfortWomenResist**

-- 30 --