



Colors of Confinement: Rare Kodachrome Photographs of Japanese American Incarceration in World War II (Documentary Arts and Culture, Published in ... for Documentary Studies at Duke University)

From The University of North Carolina Press

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In 1942, Bill Manbo (1908-1992) and his family were forced from their Hollywood home into the Japanese American internment camp at Heart Mountain in Wyoming. While there, Manbo documented both the bleakness and beauty of his surroundings, using Kodachrome film, a technology then just seven years old, to capture community celebrations and to record his family's struggle to maintain a normal life under the harsh conditions of racial imprisonment. *Colors of Confinement* showcases sixty-five stunning images from this extremely rare collection of color photographs, presented along with three interpretive essays by leading scholars and a reflective, personal essay by a former Heart Mountain internee.

The subjects of these haunting photos are the routine fare of an amateur photographer: parades, cultural events, people at play, Manbo's son. But the images are set against the backdrop of the barbed-wire enclosure surrounding the Heart Mountain Relocation Center and the dramatic expanse of Wyoming sky and landscape. The accompanying essays illuminate these scenes as they trace a tumultuous history unfolding just beyond the camera's lens, giving readers insight into Japanese American cultural life and the stark realities of life in the camps.

Also contributing to the book are:

Jasmine Alinder is associate professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she coordinates the program in public history. In 2009 she published *Moving Images: Photography and the Japanese American Incarceration* (University of Illinois Press). She has also published articles and essays on photography and incarceration, including one on the work of contemporary photographer Patrick Nagatani in the newly released catalog

Desire for Magic: Patrick Nagatani--Works, 1976-2006 (University of New Mexico Art Museum, 2009). She is currently working on a book on photography and the law.

Lon Kurashige is associate professor of history and American studies and ethnicity at the University of Southern California. His scholarship focuses on racial ideologies, politics of identity, emigration and immigration, historiography, cultural enactments, and social reproduction, particularly as they pertain to Asians in the United States. His exploration of Japanese American assimilation and cultural retention, *Japanese American Celebration and Conflict: A History of Ethnic Identity and Festival, 1934-1990* (University of California Press, 2002), won the History Book Award from the Association for Asian American Studies in 2004. He has published essays and reviews on the incarceration of Japanese Americans and has coedited with Alice Yang Murray an anthology of documents and essays, *Major Problems in Asian American History* (Cengage, 2003).

Bacon Sakatani was born to immigrant Japanese parents in El Monte, California, twenty miles east of Los Angeles, in 1929. From the first through the fifth grade, he attended a segregated school for Hispanics and Japanese. Shortly after Pearl Harbor, his family was confined at Pomona Assembly Center and then later transferred to the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming. When the war ended in 1945, his family relocated to Idaho and then returned to California. He graduated from Mount San Antonio Community College. Soon after the Korean War began, he served with the U.S. Army Engineers in Korea. He held a variety of jobs but learned computer programming and retired from that career in 1992. He has been active in Heart Mountain camp activities and with the Japanese American Korean War Veterans.

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Editorial Review

Review

Sheds new light on life in Wyoming's Heart Mountain internment camp. . . . Disarming. . . . [Manbo's] images show movement and smiles caught in a moment. The people do not perform because of his camera but in spite of it.--*Casper Star-Tribune*

Injustice, in Kodachrome.--*The New York Times*

These images offer readers glimpses of the internment that are in vivid color and, unlike government-sanctioned photos, candid and earnest. . . . Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.--*Choice*

[A] provocative and noteworthy collection. . . . [with] unquestionable cultural and historical significance.--*Publishers Weekly*

A rare insider's view of daily life in [Japanese-American internment] camps.--*Durham Herald Sun*

These portraits provide a stark reminder that the families of Heart Mountain were prisoners of war.--NPR Online

The strength of this title is the photography: Manbo documents a people who rose above persecution and injustice to carry on traditions and form a community in a barren landscape. Anyone interested in documentary photography and American social and cultural history will appreciate this book. Highly recommended.--*Library Journal* starred review

The narratives and scholarly essays combine with the photos to forge a powerful statement. As humans we see the world in color, so the Kodachrome images convey the circumstances, as we would experience them if we were there. This level of reality is something that existing black and white camp photos cannot duplicate.--*American Studies Journal*

Muller recognized this power of color photography to revive the past and has created a book that presents the internee experience through a modern lens. Just as Manbo's slides were miraculously preserved (in a box in his son's garage), Muller's compilation will help preserve our collective memory of the internment experience.--*Hyphen: Asian America Unabridged*

The collection of pictures [Manbo] took there. . . represent a singular view of internment, all executed in color.--*Los Angeles Times*

Stunning.--*Huffington Post*

Poignant images of pickup baseball, judo matches, parades, and other daily life in a Wyoming internment camp for Japanese Americans during World War II.--*Military History Quarterly*

Showcas[es] 65 color images from [Bill Manbo's] rare collection. . . . Each of the essays helps the reader look at the photographs from a different perspective.--*Carolina Law*

The photographs give a haunting account of what life was like for Japanese descents.--*Daily Mail Online*

These are not pictures of horrors of confinement but rather photos that show how the Japanese made lives for themselves.--*Denver Post*

This is a testament to the incredible power of photography. Even one frame can change the tide of public opinion because photography has the power to add layers to our understanding of how events transpired and how people were affected.--*Washington Post*

This volume is at once a wonderful and rare addition . . . to the existing images of the *Nikkei* experience while incarcerated during World War II.--*Nichi Bei Weekly*

Review

Eric Muller's *Colors of Confinement* skillfully presents a multifaceted montage, integrating the insights of an historian, an expert on photography, and a former prisoner of Heart Mountain. The contributors demonstrate that Kodachrome images of Japanese American incarceration can offer a deeper understanding of the WRA

camps, even as they raise troubling questions about memory, representation, and meaning.--Lane Ryo Hirabayashi, University of California, Los Angeles

I was imprisoned at Heart Mountain when I was twelve, so my memories of camp life are still vivid. *Colors of Confinement* brings back these memories in living color and gives them new life. It was almost scary to be able to relive the experience while reading this book.--Norman Mineta

The color photographs of Bill Manbo are at once beautiful, poignant, and stinging with irony. Young girls in vibrantly colorful kimonos dancing in front of black tarpaper barracks, a teenager in full Boy Scout uniform lifting the stars and stripes up high in a U.S. concentration camp--these are pictures of resilience and fortitude from a dark chapter of American history.--George Takei

From the Inside Flap

In 1942, Bill Manbo and his family were forced from their Hollywood home into the Japanese American internment camp at Heart Mountain in Wyoming. While there, Manbo documented his surroundings using Kodachrome film, a technology then just seven years old, to capture community celebrations and to record his family's struggle to maintain a normal life under the harsh conditions of racial imprisonment. *Colors of Confinement* showcases sixty-five stunning images from this extremely rare collection of color photographs, presented along with three interpretive essays by leading scholars and a reflective, personal essay by a former Heart Mountain internee.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mark Gatling:

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also work as a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. Associate programs you got of course the knowledge the actual information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with training books but if you want feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. The actual *Colors of Confinement: Rare Kodachrome Photographs of Japanese American Incarceration in World War II* (Documentary Arts and Culture, Published in ... for Documentary Studies at Duke University) is kind of reserve which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Julie Boyle:

Reading a reserve can be one of a lot of exercise that everyone in the world loves. Do you like reading book therefore. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoy it. First reading a publication will give you a lot of new data. When you read a book you will get new information mainly because book is one of various ways to share the information or perhaps their idea. Second, examining a book will make a person more imaginative. When you looking at a book especially fictional works book the author will bring someone to imagine the story how the people do it anything. Third, you can share your knowledge to some others. When

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Mason Childress:

People live in this new time of lifestyle always aim to and must have the spare time or they will get large amount of stress from both way of life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not just a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to you of course your answer may unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, typically the book you have read will be *Colors of Confinement: Rare Kodachrome Photographs of Japanese American Incarceration in World War II* (Documentary Arts and Culture, Published in ... for Documentary Studies at Duke University).

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