

EXHIBITION OVERVIEW

# PERSEVERANCE

Japanese Tattoo Tradition in a Modern World



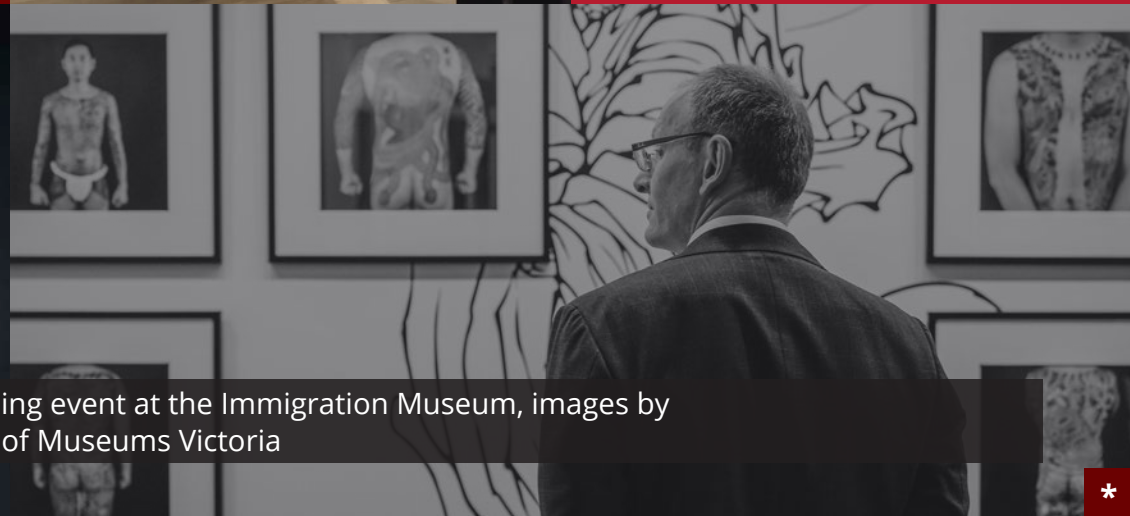




## Life-sized photographs of full body tattoos



**FEATURING**  
the work of  
seven highly  
acclaimed  
tattoo artists



*\*Our Bodies, Our Voices, Our Marks* opening event at the Immigration Museum, images by Xavier Smerdon Photography, courtesy of Museums Victoria





## → EXHIBITION DESCRIPTION

This groundbreaking photographic exhibition by **Kip Fulbeck** and **Takahiro Kitamura** explores the artistry of traditional Japanese tattoos as well as their rich history and influence on modern tattoo practices.

Although tattooing is largely seen as an underground activity in Japan, it has persevered and is now internationally renowned for its artistry, lineage, historic symbolism and the skill of its practitioners. *Perseverance* features the work of seven highly acclaimed tattoo artists—Horitaka, Horitomo, Horishiki, Miyazo, Shige, Junii, and Yokohama Horiken—as well as a host of other modern tattoo experts. The exhibition includes life-sized photographs of full body tattoos, immersive elements, tools, and more.

## → FEATURED ARTISTS & CONTRIBUTORS

### KIP FULBECK, PHOTOGRAPHER & DESIGNER



**Kip Fulbeck** is the author of several books and has exhibited and performed throughout the U.S. and abroad, including solo exhibitions at the Japanese American National Museum.

A Professor of Art at the University of California, Santa Barbara, he has been featured on CNN, MTV, The Today Show, and National Public Radio. *Image by Xavier Smerdon Photography*

### HORITAKA (TAKAHIRO KITAMURA), CURATOR & FEATURED ARTIST



**Horitaka** is a tattoo artist as well as the author and publisher of numerous books on tattoo art and culture. He is renowned for his advocacy of Japanese tattooing as an art form and

has worked as a visiting artist across the U.S. and Europe. Horitaka has lectured at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, UC Santa Barbara and conferences held in Italy and Hawaii. He is the co-founder and co-director of the annual Bay Area Convention of the Tattoo Arts and the owner of State of Grace tattoo shop in San Jose, California. His graphic designs have been used by Nike SB, Bacardi, and many other companies.

### FEATURED ARTISTS

#### HORITOMO (KAZUAKI KITAMURA)

Horitomo has devoted his life to the study of traditional Japanese tattooing. In addition to his extensive knowledge of Japanese culture and tradition, Horitomo is also highly experienced in tebori (hand tattooing), the traditional method of Japanese tattooing which predates the electric tattoo machine.

#### HORISHIKI (CHRIS BRAND)

Horishiki has worked with tattoo legend Jack Rudy at the famed Good Time Charlie's Tattooland in Anaheim for over a decade. Horishiki brings a unique perspective to Japanese tattooing and showcases some of the most original Chicano/Latino interpretations of traditional Japanese fables.

#### MIYAZO (MASAO MIYAZAKI)

Miyazo is widely considered one of Japan's premier traditional tattoo artists. He often exhibits at international conventions and is well known and respected in tattoo circles, but his core clientele are Osaka tattoo enthusiasts.

#### SHIGE (SHIGENORI IWASAKI)

Based in Yokohama, Shige embodies the synthesis of traditional Japanese tattoo with contemporary, modern styles. His tattoo work and paintings have been praised worldwide, and his work has been featured in magazines and at conventions, museums, and galleries.

#### JUNII (JUNKO SHIMADA)

Originally from Japan, Junii is a pioneer in Japanese tattooing. She began getting a traditional Japanese bodysuit in the late 1970s, something that is still rare for a woman in Japan. She now tattoos with husband Bill Salmon at Diamond Club Tattoo in San Francisco, California, and has lectured at museums and conventions throughout the nation. She possesses unparalleled inside knowledge of both the Japanese and American tattoo worlds and is recognized as the most important woman in Japanese tattooing.

#### YOKOHAMA HORIKEN (KENJI HORI)

Originally from Yokohama, Horiken is a renowned tebori specialist, one of the few residing in the U.S. He is a graduate of Tama Art University, and a self-taught tattoo artist who constantly works to refine and improve his tattoo skills. His work has been shown internationally, and he has been featured in numerous magazines. Horiken has also received a visa as an artist of extraordinary ability and currently tattoos at State of Grace.







Our Bodies, Our Voices, Our Marks



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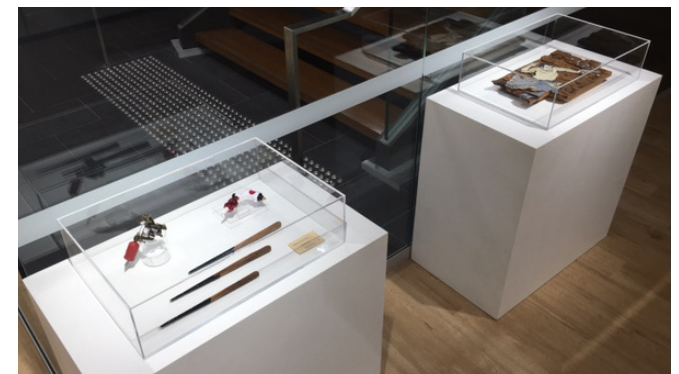


## → FEATURES



- **GRAPHIC ART:** Original artwork graphic elements are applied to the gallery's walls. The designs included are: exhibition title lettering by internationally known street artist Chaz Bojorquez; gaman (the Japanese word for perseverance) in Japanese calligraphy; a drawing of a koi fish; a drawing of Kannon Bodhisattva (Goddess of Mercy, one of Asia's and Japan's most beloved deities); and a drawing of the bonji (representing the eight Buddhist guardian deities based on year of birth). These large graphic elements add drama to the presentation and are simple to create (overheads and instruction included).
- **WOOD RELIEF CARVING:** Wood relief carving of a suikoden warrior created by Horishiki (Chris Brand).
- **PORTRAITS:** More than 100 photographs of contemporary Japanese tattoos, as well as a curved aluminum photographic panorama of 14 full body tattoos.
- **TORII:** A torii, a traditional Japanese gate most commonly found at the entrance of or within a Shinto shrine, symbolically marks the transition from the profane to the sacred.
- **TATTOO TOOLS:** Traditional (3) and modern (2) tattooing tools are featured in the exhibition. These hand tools were made by Horimomo.

- **CIRCULAR GLASS BONJI SCRIPT ART PIECES:** Bonji is the Japanese generic term for the Siddham script which has its roots in North Indian script used for writing Sanskrit. The bonjis represent the eight Buddhist guardian deities based on year of birth.
- **AUDIO FILES:** Audio files featuring voices of the curator and artists are available for use as an audio tour.
- **MEDIA PRESENTATION:** Videos include interviews by the exhibition curator and artists, offering insights into the exhibition.
- **HISTORICAL OVERVIEW:** Text panels exploring the symbolism of central Japanese tattoo imagery/subjects and a historical overview of Japanese tattoo and its modern origins as an art form derived from ukiyo-e (literally pictures of the floating world).
- **PHOTO STAND INS:** Guests interact with the exhibition by placing themselves in two of the portraits—becoming instantly tattooed.
- **LANTERNS:** These handmade lanterns feature the title of the show and the names of the artists in kanji (Japanese calligraphy). Lanterns are traditionally used by Japanese tattooers to announce themselves and their titles.
- **TAKO:** Individually crafted silk tako (kites), each featuring tattoo art by one of the exhibition's participating artists.





## → EXHIBITION PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Exhibition travels in 8 crates.

Linear footage requirement: 250 ft.\*

- 8 life-sized prints on metal (each is 36" x 84")
- 5 framed large prints (each print is 61" x 63")
- 90 framed prints (each print 24" x 24")
- 1 12' curved aluminum photographic panorama of 14 full body tattoos with artist biographies
- 1 traditional torii (78" x 102", ceiling support for torii [two cables] at 250 lbs)
- 24 silk tako (kites)
- 1 large and 7 small lanterns
- 5 traditional and modern tattooing tools
- 1 wooden relief carving
- 7 circular glass bonji script art pieces
- 2 primary text panels (plus an additional introductory text panel)
- 7 secondary text panels
- 6 graphic elements (overheads and installation instructions provided)



- 13 video presentations (DVD format)
- 2 life-sized photo stand ins (48" x 57" and 24" x 24")

\* A subset of the photographs can be made available for venues with space limitations.

## → EXHIBITION PUBLICATION

The companion book, *Perseverance: Japanese Tattoo Tradition in a Modern World*, features 300 photographs by Kip Fulbeck, a selection of which are included in the exhibition. The book is edited by exhibition curator Takahiro Kitamura and features writings by Dr. G.W. Kimura; Fulbeck; Junko Shimada; Chaz Bojorquez; Chris Brand; Jill Halpin; Kenji Hori; and Kitamura. It is published by the Japanese American National Museum.

## → VENUE REQUIREMENTS

<b>Space Required</b>	2,000 - 4,000 sq ft
<b>Minimum Ceiling Height</b>	12 ft
<b>Production Time</b>	4 working days for installation, 3 working days for deinstallation
<b>Venue Preparations</b>	Painting and minor graphics as needed per agreed floor plan. Hanging Fixtures. Objects require cases.
<b>Inbound Freight</b>	1 x 20 ft truck

## → BOOKING INQUIRIES

✉ [info@flyingfishexhibits.com](mailto:info@flyingfishexhibits.com)  
📍 [www.flyingfishexhibits.com](http://www.flyingfishexhibits.com)



JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

➤ [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org)

The mission of the **Japanese American National Museum** is to promote understanding and appreciation of America's ethnic and cultural diversity by sharing the Japanese American experience.

The Japanese American National Museum is the first museum in the United States dedicated to sharing the experience of Americans of Japanese ancestry as an integral part of U.S. history. Through its comprehensive collection of Japanese American objects, images and documents, as well as multi-faceted exhibitions, educational programs, documentaries and publications, the National Museum shares the Japanese American story with a national and international audience.

*Perseverance* is produced by the Japanese American National Museum and toured internationally by Flying Fish.

**Contact Us For Exhibit Hosting Information!** +1.651.207.8877 / [info@flyingfishexhibits.com](mailto:info@flyingfishexhibits.com)



**FLYING FISH**

➤ [www.flyingfishexhibits.com](http://www.flyingfishexhibits.com)

**Flying Fish** is a world-renowned producer of museum and science center exhibitions offering comprehensive services from design & fabrication to sales & marketing and global tour operations. Flying Fish works with some of the world's top museums to co-produce exhibitions from their collections and is entrusted to tour its clients' exhibitions globally. Flying Fish provides a wide variety of services to execute upon a successful touring exhibition program.

Flying Fish services include:

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- Exhibition Freight & Logistics
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