

Undressing the Pacific

a public lecture by

Shigeyuki Kihara



October 9, 2013, Carleton University

A Brief Biography

A native of Samoa, born to a Japanese father and Samoan mother in 1975, Shigeyuki Kihara is a photo/video and performance artist, and curator whose triple self-portrait, *Fa'afafine (In the Manner of a Woman)* was one of the highlights of the exhibition, *Sakahàn: International Indigenous Art* at the National Gallery of Canada during the summer of 2013. This piece, however, only hinted at the breadth of artistry reflected in Kihara's mid-career retrospective, *Undressing the Pacific*, which was developed and curated by the Hocken Library at the University of Otago in New Zealand this past spring, in conjunction with a research symposium devoted to her interdisciplinary artistry. Kihara's international reputation gathered added lustre after her performance video, *Galū Afi: Waves of Fire*, won the prestigious Wallace Arts Trust Paramount Award in 2012.

In 2013 alone, the Milford Galleries in New Zealand mounted a solo exhibition of her work, *Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?*; she received the *Pasifika Research Art Fellowship* from the College of Creative Arts at Massey University in New Zealand; participated in the exhibition, *Lips Painted Red* at the Trondheim Kunstmuseum in Norway; was Artist in Residence at the Festival Belluard Bollwerk International in Fribourg, Switzerland, and until December 2013 is currently Artist in Residence in the International Studio and Curatorial Program in New York City. While in New York, she is making a few select side trips, among them, to the Utah Museum of Fine Arts where a solo exhibition of her work, *salt 8: Shigeyuki Kihara*, continues through December. In 2014, *Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?* will travel to the Pataka Museum in New Zealand.

Kihara's works and performances have been shown internationally in the United States, Australia, China, Taiwan, Poland, Italy, Germany, France, Norway, Canada and Switzerland. Since her incisive and sometimes witty postcolonial commentaries find multiple points of resonance in Canada, Carleton University enthusiastically accepted her offer to visit our campus this fall. We are indebted to the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences for helping to make this visit a reality.

Tonight's lecture is a special presentation of the New Sun Chair in Aboriginal Art and Culture and the School of Canadian Studies, with the support of the Carleton University Art Gallery, Equity Services, the Centre for Aboriginal Culture and Education, the Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies, the School for Studies in Art and Culture, the Pauline Jewett Institute for Women's & Gender Studies, and the departments of English, History, Sociology and Anthropology.

To learn more about the artist, visit: www.shigeyukikihara.com. To watch a selection of her videos, visit <http://vimeo.com/channels/shigeyuki>.

The artist currently makes her home in Auckland, New Zealand.