

JADE KURIKI OLIVO (PUPPIES PUPPIES)

Executive Order 9066 (Soul Consoling Tower)

Queer Thoughts, New York

March 9 – April 21, 2019

Manzanar Cemetery (Soul Consoling Tower)

The largest photograph in this exhibition depicts "Soul Consoling Tower," a monument constructed in 1943 by residents of Manzanar, one of a network of internment camps that imprisoned Americans of Japanese descent and Japanese immigrants to America. Supervised by an imprisoned stonemason, the internees originally built the obelisk as the centerpiece of the community's cemetery. Now the tower is decorated with offerings in observation of the suffering of Manzanar's inhabitants, sitting just beyond the barbed wire fences that enforced the isolation and oppression of the people there. The photograph of the monument was produced by Ansel Adams and appropriated for this exhibition. The appropriation of this image is in the style of Sherrie Levine's photographic series "After Edward Weston". This work acts as a proposal to recreate the "Soul Consoling Tower" in various locations around the world.

Executive Order 9066 (Flyer)

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed *Executive Order 9066*, which eventually led to the forced removal of approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans and Japanese immigrants. These flyers, announcing the relocation of all persons of Japanese ancestry, were posted across California, Oregon, Washington and parts of Arizona ordering the evacuation of people of Japanese ancestry throughout the coastal states. Along with instructions on where to assemble, the flyers also stated what a family should and should not bring with them; among the items not allowed were pets, household goods, and furniture. Some families had as little as 24 hours to prepare to leave. They had no idea of where they were going or how long they would be gone. Internees were transported – usually by train – to one of 10 internment camps that had been hastily built by the US Government in America's wastelands. The forced relocation of thousands of Japanese American citizens is an example of a large scale civil rights violation. It went against the US Constitution, especially the Fifth Amendment, which states, "No person shall be ... deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law."

Tule Lake Segregation Center

The Manzanar Committee reiterated its opposition on Sept. 27 to Modoc County, Calif.'s, proposed construction of a perimeter fence at the Tulelake Municipal Airport, which would deny access to much of the site of the former Tule Lake Segregation Center. "We strongly oppose the proposed construction of a fence at the Tulelake Municipal Airport in Modoc County," said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey. "This fence will degrade an essential and unique cultural, social and historical landmark, and negatively impact our government's efforts to preserve the site of the former Tule Lake Segregation Center." Embrey noted that the Manzanar Committee and, in particular, its former longtime leader, Sue Kunitomi Embrey, was instrumental in the creation and development of the Manzanar National Historic Site in California's Owens Valley. "My mother, Sue Kunitomi Embrey, led Pilgrimages to Manzanar for more than three decades, from 1969-2004, the year the Manzanar National Historic Site opened," he said. "She testified before numerous government agencies, and in 1991, helped lead the efforts within Congress to designate Manzanar as a national historic site. In her testimony before the Senate Committee, she said,

'Democracy is a fragile concept, only as good and strong as the people who practice it. Let us tell the world we are a people, strong and resolute, acknowledging the errors of the past in order not to repeat them in the future. This is the legacy we believe the Manzanar historic site can leave for future generations.' "Erecting a fence at the Tulelake airport will severely damage one of America's most important national historic sites, negatively impacting future efforts to both preserve and interpret what happened at one of America's concentration camps," Embrey added. "One of the most important considerations the National Park Service took into account was how the site at Manzanar was largely untouched. No buildings had been erected nor were any other significant alterations made since the camp closed in 1945. The NPS took full advantage of the opportunity and has re-created many of the features of the War Relocation Authority camp, greatly enhancing people's understanding of what happened to tens of thousands of innocent people when their basic Constitutional rights were denied simply because of their ancestry." Given the current political climate, historic sites such as Manzanar and Tule Lake play a critical role in shaping our future. "It might be ironic or counterintuitive that we, the families of innocent Americans incarcerated simply because of their ancestry, would be so passionate about preserving these sites," said Embrey. "But we strongly believe that it is essential for all Americans to understand our past in order to preserve our future as a democratic and just nation. "As such, we must reiterate our opposition to the proposed fence for the Tulelake Airport," Embrey continued. "The proposed fence would severely damage the historic fabric of the site of the former Tule Lake Segregation Center and would significantly harm efforts to preserve the site." Embrey concluded, "We call on Modoc County officials to work cooperatively with former inmates of the Tule Lake Segregation Center, the Tule Lake Committee and the National Park Service to find a resolution to this issue that does not harm the historic fabric of the Tule Lake site." At its peak the maximum-security internment camp at Tule Lake held 18,000 people secured by 1,200 guards (many with machine guns) monitoring fences from 28 watch towers, and backed up by eight tanks.

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Jade Kuriki Olivo (Puppies Puppies) lives and works in Los Angeles. Recent solo exhibitions include Barbara Weiss, Berlin; What Pipeline, Detroit; and Overduin & Co., Los Angeles. In 2019 the artist will present solo exhibitions at Halle für Kunst, Luneberg; Remai Modern, Saskatoon; and a two person exhibition with Eliza Douglas at Francesca Pia, Zurich. Their work was included in the 2017 Whitney Biennial, and the 9th Berlin Biennale. This is Jade Kuriki Olivo's fourth solo exhibition with Queer Thoughts.