

INTERROGATING MANZANAR

Photography, Justice, and the Japanese American Internment

UCR | ARTS
block

MARCH 14
through
JULY 18, 2015



Interrogating Manzanar is organized by the California Museum of Photography at UCR ARTSblock and is curated by Jason Weems, Assistant Professor of the History of Art at UCR, and Joanna Szupinska-Myers, CMP Curator of Exhibitions, with contributions from Kathryn Poindexter, CMP Curatorial Assistant. The exhibition was made possible by the generous support of Dr. and Mrs. Ernest and Elaine Nagamatsu, Los Angeles; Dr. and Mrs. Bo and Ikuyo Sakaguchi, Northridge; Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley; UCR's College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS); the Earl Lewis Goldberg Family, Los Angeles; and Yuriko K. Livingston, Monterey Park. Additional support was provided by the City of Riverside.

The 2015 Wong Forum, "Allies, Enemies, Citizens: Figuring Asianness in World War II America," is organized by Jason Weems. Generous support has been provided by the Voy and Fay Wong Endowment through the UCR History of Art Department's Wong Forum on Art and the Immigrant Experience.

Image: Ansel Adams, *Manzanar Street Scene Clouds*, 1943; Courtesy Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

The bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941 sent the United States into a fervor of anger and hysteria. In February 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt signed an executive order permitting the military to contain and incarcerate any groups it deemed hazardous to national security. Within weeks approximately 120,000 persons of Japanese descent, most of them US citizens or legal immigrants, found themselves under orders of evacuation. Forced to liquidate their assets and relocate to remote Federal internment camps, these Japanese Americans faced both the physical hardships of incarceration and the moral violation of their rights as citizens and individuals. Located on the dry and inhospitable eastern shoulder of California's Sierra Nevada range, the camp at Manzanar operated as a confinement site for more than 11,000 Japanese Americans.

Interrogating Manzanar features work by leading American photographers Ansel Adams, Clem Albers, Dorothea Lange, and Toyo Miyatake, who documented the physical, cultural, and psychological conditions of camp life.

For additional information visit www.artsblock.ucr.edu or call 951.827.4787

Friday, May 1 • Wong Forum on Art and the Immigrant Experience • Free and open to the public
10am Curatorial Tour, "Interrogating Manzanar" • California Museum of Photography
1-5pm Symposium, "Allies, Enemies, Citizens" • Culver Screening Room