

Pictures from a Hiroshima Schoolyard

Art Exhibition and Documentary Film

Landmark Center, Saint Paul

September 19 - October 25, 2015

The year 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the end of World War II. 2015 also marks the 60th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Saint Paul and Nagasaki, the oldest sister city relationship between a U.S. city and an Asian city.

In honor of this important anniversary, the Saint Paul–Nagasaki Sister City Committee (SPNSCC) and the Landmark Center are hosting two exhibits: *From War to Reconciliation: Hiroshima Nagasaki Peace Exhibition* from the Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims (Aug. 22–Nov. 28, 2015), and *Pictures from a Hiroshima Schoolyard* (Sept. 19–Oct. 25, 2015).



Hiroko Nakajima - girl, age 12

Pictures from a Hiroshima Schoolyard: Art Exhibition and Documentary Film is funded by a grant from the U.S.–Japan Foundation to the SPNSCC and hosted by Landmark.

Drawings originated from Honkawa Elementary School children in Hiroshima, 1947. The art exhibition is on loan from All Souls Church, Unitarian, in Washington, D.C.

Free showings of the documentary are available on the following Saturdays:

September 19, 26 at 1:00 p.m.

October 3, 17, 24 at 2:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.stpaulpeace.org and www.landmarkcenter.org.

"Lest the Living Forget"

The Story Behind the Hiroshima Pictures



Reverend A. Powell Davies, minister of All Souls Church, Unitarian, 1946

The story began on November 7, 1946, when a photograph appeared in the *Washington Post* showing smiling U.S. Naval officers and their wives about to cut into a cake in the shape of an atomic mushroom cloud.

Seeing the photo in the newspaper, Reverend A. Powell Davies, then minister of All Souls Church, Unitarian, in Washington, D.C., was incensed by the photo's message and delivered a raging sermon entitled "Lest the Living Forget."



Hiroshima children receive art materials at Honkawa School.

Davies's sermon traveled around the world and landed in the hands of Howard Bell, an education aide to General Douglas MacArthur working in Hiroshima. Bell wrote back to Davies describing the horrific conditions of the Hiroshima schools and the desperate need for supplies.

Bell's call for help propelled All Souls Church into action. Church members collected over half a ton of school supplies—crayons, paper, paints, pens, pencils—and shipped them to Hiroshima. They arrived by Christmas and were distributed to an orphanage and two schools, one of which was Honkawa Elementary, less than half a mile from Hiroshima's ground zero. At Honkawa, 400 students and 10 teachers had lost their lives.

Using the new crayons and paints, the children at Honkawa School drew vivid pictures of their memories, hopes, and dreams: a life without war. The drawings were offered to Howard Bell, who in turn sent them back to the church as a thank you from the Honkawa children. Church members gratefully received the pictures—enjoyed them—then carefully stored them away in a drawer, out of sight.



Children from All Souls Church, Unitarian, enjoy materials from Japan, circa 1947.

In 1995, the 48 Hiroshima children's pictures were rediscovered. Slowly the forgotten story of the children's artwork was pieced together, and Melvin Hardy of All Souls—now the collection's curator—helped guide a project to restore the drawings.

In 2006, a Hiroshima-born artist and dancer living in the D.C. area visited the church. Upon being shown the Honkawa children's drawings, Shizumi Shigeto Manale became inspired to find the original artists.

Her viewing that day sent Manale on a 7-year journey. Through committed research, she was able to locate more than 20 of the artists, now in their 70s and 80s.

As a gesture of peace and reconciliation, Manale and members of All Souls traveled to Hiroshima in August 2010, taking the framed children's drawings along to reunite artist with artwork in the school where the pictures were created. Writer and film director Bryan Reichardt was invited to capture the story in what was to become the documentary *Pictures from a Hiroshima Schoolyard*.



Toshimi Ishida - boy, age 8

Toshimi's picture depicts him and his schoolmates picking flowers on a beautiful spring day. He does not remember, but he hopes that it is the scene of something he actually experienced. Toshimi was not present during the bombing, but came back to Hiroshima one week after the bombing. Some time later, he discovered that he was a *hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivor), having been affected by residual radiation after the bombing. He became an architect in Hiroshima.

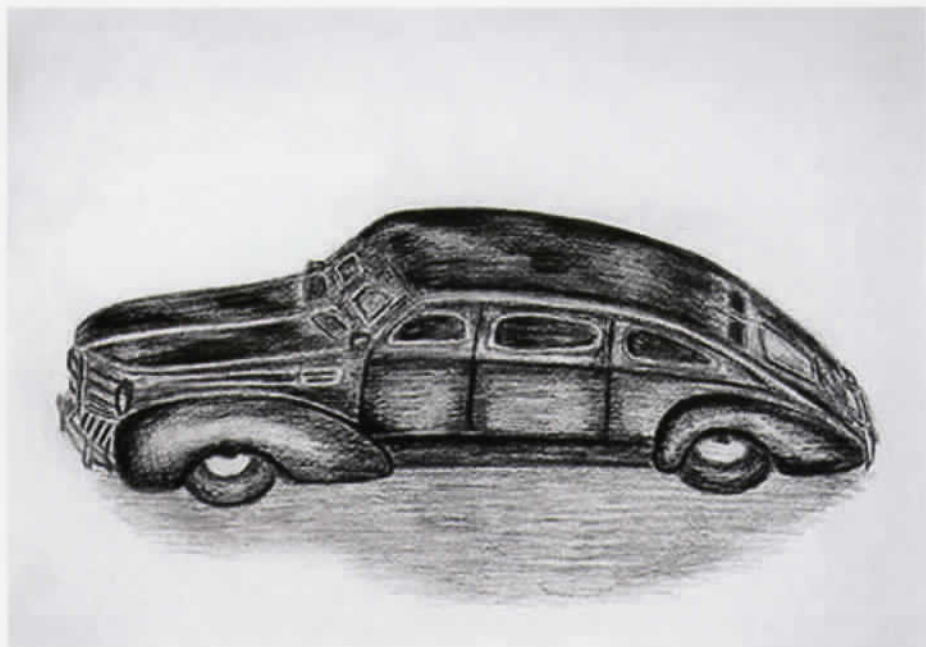
All biographies excerpted with permission from www.hiroshimaschoolyard.com

Schoolyard: A Sampling



Misako Simomura - girl, age 10

Misako drew the Honkawa River lined with green cherry trees, with her school in the distance. She was evacuated with her family before August 1945, but she lost all of her classmates, and her family lost their home and many relatives. She had wanted to become a nurse when she grew up, and her wish came true. She still lives in Hiroshima and became a nurse at Red Cross Hospital. She has been very active in assisting the atomic bomb survivors.



Nobuhiro Nishimura - boy, age 10

In 1947, Nobuhiro had never seen a car in Hiroshima—only jeeps. He admits that his father helped him draw his picture of a futuristic car—the type of car, he says, that he would have designed. His grandparents were kimono makers in Hiroshima, and both were killed by the bomb. He took up the family trade and he now lives in a building, which he owns, located on the same spot as his grandparents' kimono shop.



Genji Higashigawa - boy, age 12

Genji drew a picture of an ancient temple from memory. He was in Manchuria with his parents when the bomb was dropped and came back to the city in 1946. He lost his uncle and cousins in the bombing. He now owns a sushi restaurant in Hiroshima.



Shizumi Shigeto Manale and Bryan Reichhardt

Shizumi Shigeto Manale (Producer) is a dancer, performing artist, choreographer, director, author, and film producer born in Hiroshima and raised in Osaka, Japan. She has received numerous awards for her works, including the 2010 Maryland State Montgomery County Executive's *Excellence in the Arts and Humanities Outstanding Artist and Scholar Award* and a Cable ACE Award. [...] She directed, wrote, and choreographed a joint U.S.-Japan musical theater production for deaf and hard-of-hearing students at Gallaudet University.... Shizumi is the founder of Shizumi Kodomo [Child's] Dance Troupe in Washington, D.C.

Bryan Reichhardt (Director) is an award-winning filmmaker drawn to compelling stories about cultural connection. *Pictures from a Hiroshima Schoolyard* is his third feature-length documentary film. A 25-year veteran in production, Mr. Reichhardt has produced and/or directed hundreds of programs [aired on PBS, CNN, and BBC]. He is currently in development on several new projects, again focusing on culture, peace and reconciliation. His production company, Boru Media, operates out of Silver Spring, Maryland.



St. Paul Peace

www.stpaulpeace.org

St. Paul Peace is a community of educators from Hamline University, Saint Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee (SPNSCC), and World Citizen, supporting the Hiroshima Nagasaki exhibitions at the Landmark Center.

St. Paul Peace Committee members include

Caren Stelson, St. Paul Peace chair, SPNSCC

Dr. Walter Enloe, Hamline University School of Education

JoAnn Blatchley, president, SPNSCC

Maggie Quam, vice-president, SPNSCC

Martha Roberts, president, World Citizen

Travis Erickson, graphic and web designer, Hamline University

Kristin Gallagher, editor, SPNSCC

Special thanks go to the team of fieldtrip guides and Twin Cities teachers who developed Hiroshima Nagasaki classroom materials. For further information, educational projects, and resource links, visit www.stpaulpeace.org.

The SPNSCC thanks Shizumi Shigeto Manale and Bryan Reichhardt for their documentary film of the story—as well as Melvin Hardy and All Souls Church, Unitarian, for loaning out the Hiroshima children's drawings to Landmark Center.

We gratefully acknowledge the Landmark Center for its hospitality in hosting this remarkable exhibition.



