



## ***hapa.me* – 15 YEARS OF THE HAPA PROJECT**

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University of California, Santa Barbara

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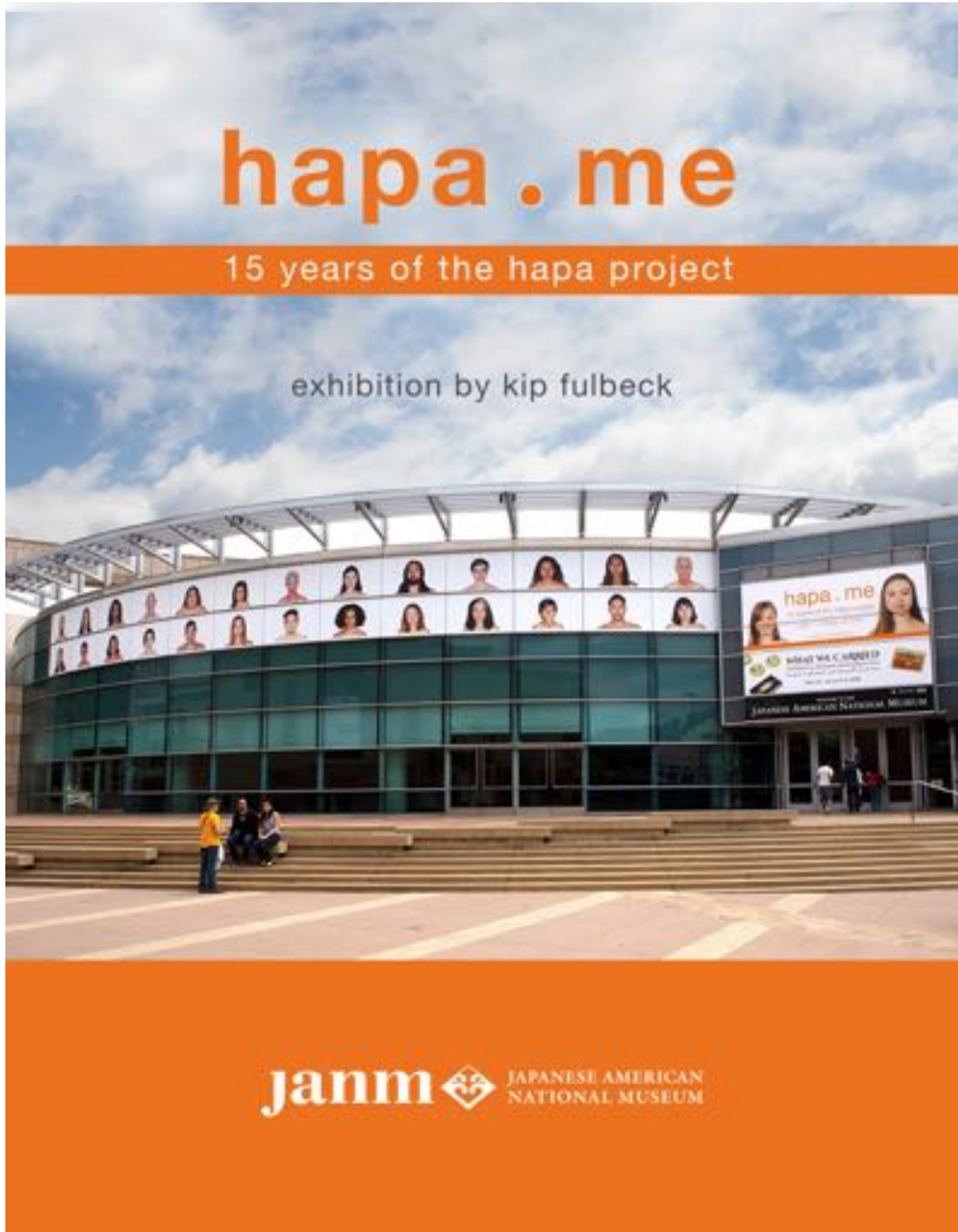
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## ***hapa.me* – 15 Years of The Hapa Project**

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I created *The Hapa Project* in 2001, photographing self-identified mixed race Asian/Pacific Islanders and asking them to handwrite their response to the question “What are you?” Each individual was photographed as neutrally as possible – unclothed from the collarbone up, without jewelry, glasses, or expression. Each subject was then given the opportunity to list their ethnicities in their own words. For many participants, this was their first opportunity to do so.

Fifteen years later, I reached out to the original participants to reshoot their portraits, inviting them to write new personal statements and interviewing them about how their identity and the world around them has changed. I also photographed hundreds of new volunteers, many of whom weren’t even born when the project began. This work evolved into the exhibition and book [\*hapa.me – 15 Years of The Hapa Project\*](#), which premiered at the Japanese American National Museum in 2018 and is now touring nationally.



The number of Americans calling themselves multiracial surged by 276% in the 2020 Census — far outpacing the growth of any other racial-ethnic category. Multiracial people now account for nearly 10% of the U.S. population.

"The project resists the rigid codification and categorization in the history of photography. What you're left with on each page is a face, a few words and a surprising amount of wisdom."

— Bonnie Tsui, *Los Angeles Times*





"I could not help but become choked up. This community has committed themselves to paving the way for understanding and belonging — not only for ourselves, but also for our children. It was a moment of celebration and joy to be recognized. And is ultimately what this exhibit is about — to finally be seen."

— Farzana Nayani, author of *Raising Multiracial Children*



What are you? Shouldn't you be asking my name first?



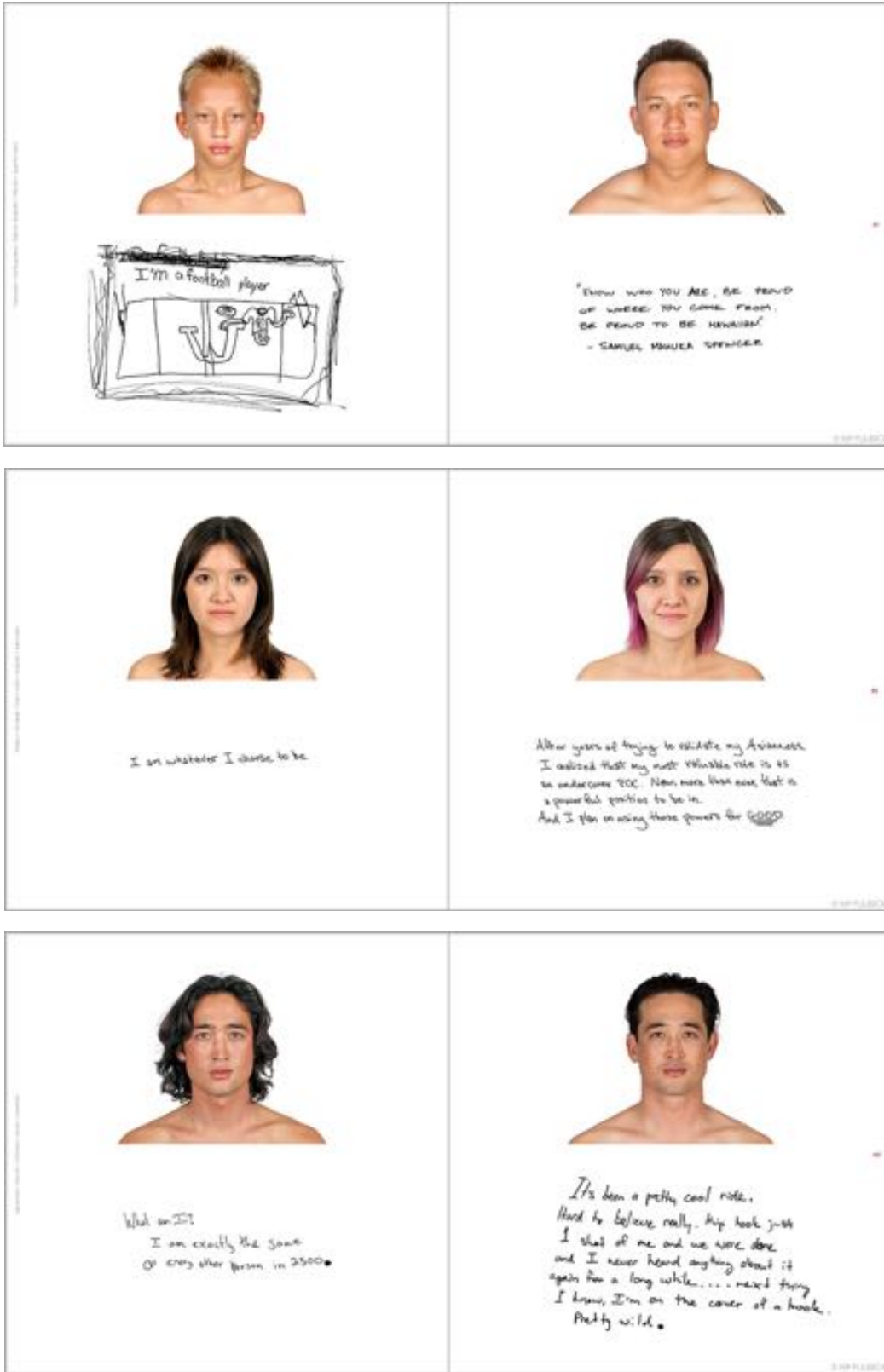
Hey! I'm Chinese. Nice to meet you, too.



“When I attended the opening, I was struck by how happy, safe, and at home I felt surrounded by hundreds of other mixed-race folks ... As the day went on, it became not only an opening of an art exhibit but also a festival of spontaneous storytelling as well. Seemingly everyone wanted to tell their story and to hear everyone else’s.”

— Stuart Gaffney, *San Francisco Bay Times*







The exhibition includes 8 handmade bamboo & steel artist books, each featuring portraits of new participants and original calligraphy.



"This exhibit is about racial complexity. It shows mixed people grappling with the complexities of their ancestry, with how others see them, with how they see themselves ... *The Hapa Project*, now fifteen years on, has been a place where people explore their own mixedness while recognizing, appreciating, sometimes challenging, but always engaging the mixedness in each other. It is one of Kip Fulbeck's great gifts to society."

— Paul Spickard, author of *Almost All Aliens: Immigration, Race, and Colonialism in American History and Identity*



# exhibition catalog

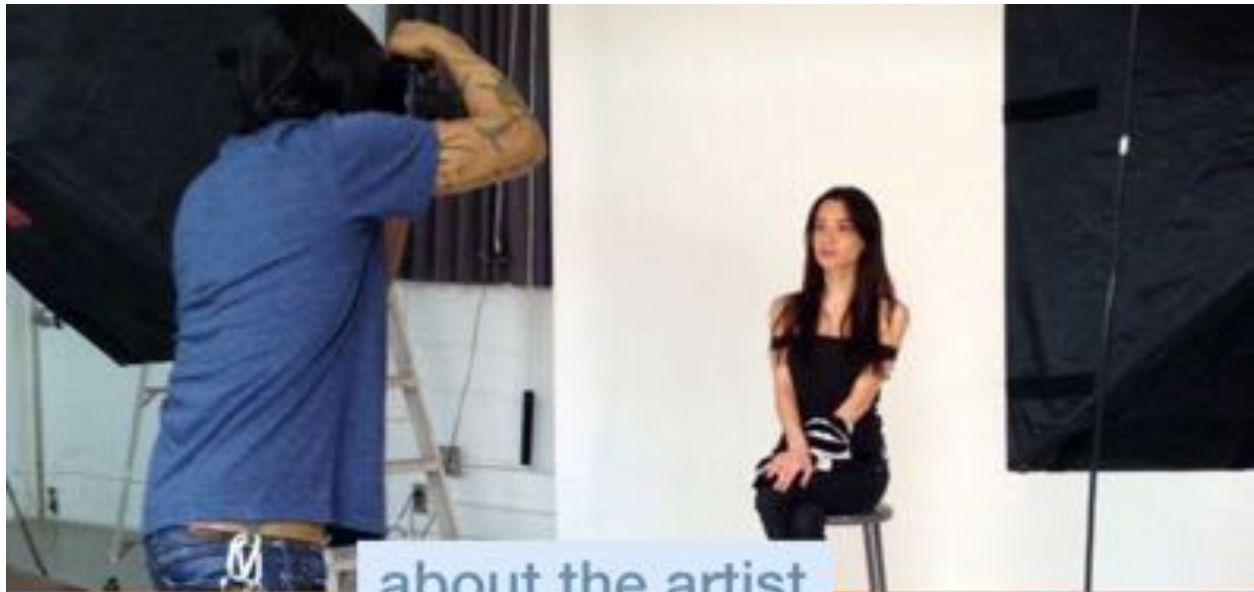
Celebrating the millions of individuals identifying as part Asian or Pacific Islander, Kip Fulbeck's long-awaited follow-up to *Part Asian, 100% Hapa* pairs portraits and statements from the original series with their updated counterparts.

Also containing over 100 new portraits, this elegant photography book features essays by Hapa luminaries Velina Hasu Houston, Richard Keao'opuaokalani NeSmith, Cindy Nakashima, and Paul Spickard.



10 x 10 inches, color, 212 pp



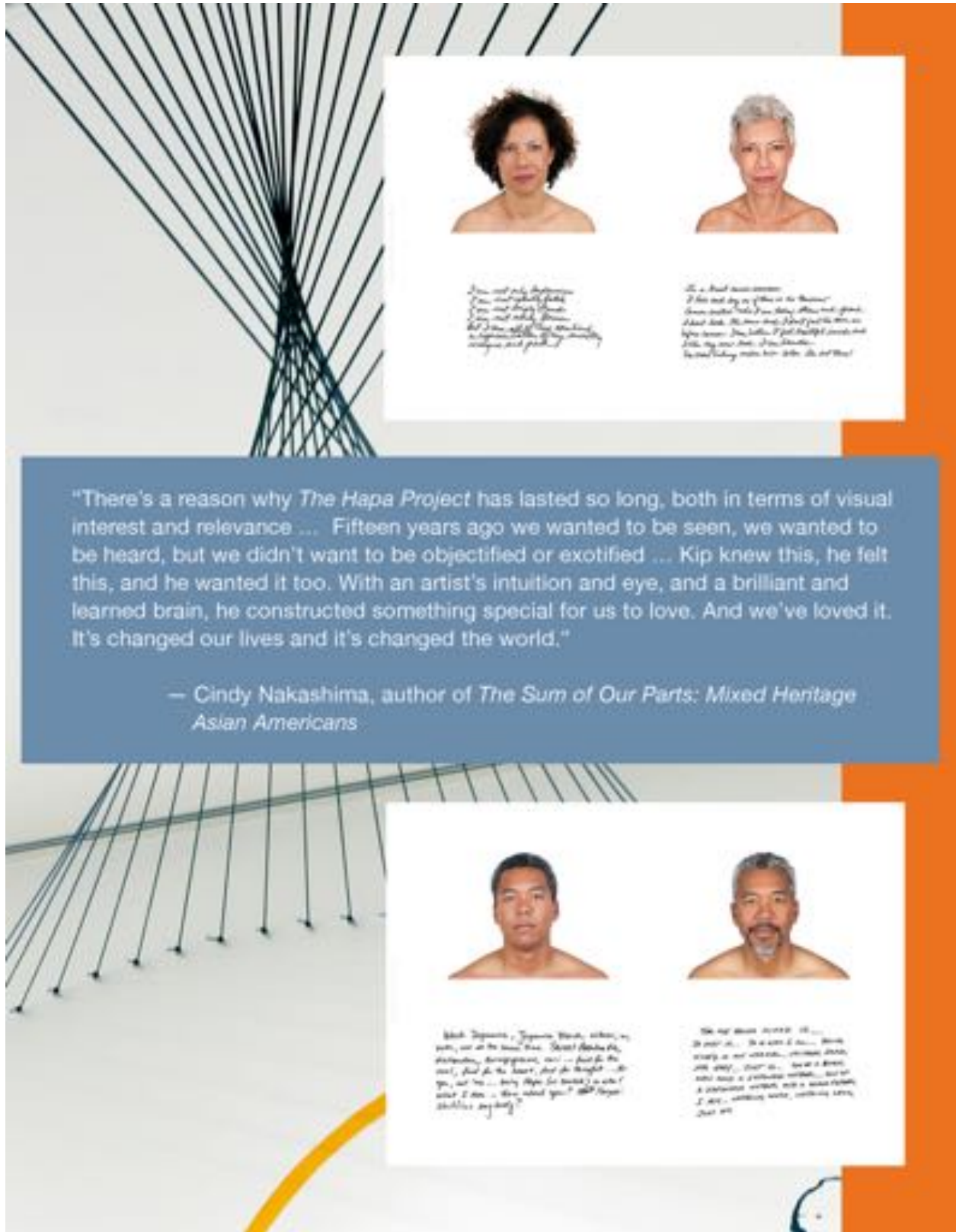


## about the artist



Kip Fulbeck has exhibited in over 20 countries and throughout the U.S., and has been featured on CNN, PBS, *The New York Times*, *The TODAY Show*, Voice of America, MTV, and various NPR programs. He teaches as a Distinguished Professor of Art at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he is the recipient of the Faculty Diversity Award and Distinguished Teaching Award. An active surfer and ocean lifeguard, he is also a national champion masters swimmer.









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*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*

 JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM