

TRAVELING EXHIBITION

OUR MOTHERS OURSELVES: LEGACIES THAT SHAPE US



Our Mothers Ourselves: Legacies That Shape Us – Featuring deeply personal stories, this exhibition delves into the complexities of maternal experiences and family legacies. Together, 14 photo-based artists use old and new photography, archives, and family heirlooms to piece together the nature of relationships across generations.

Co-curated by Ellen Konar and Adrienne Defendi, this traveling exhibition features more than 100 works that explore the maternal imprint, inherited memory, preservation, and loss. Photography, collage, textiles, and three-dimensional forms transform family archives and objects through processes of layering, obscuring, recontextualizing, and reconstruction.

Behind these materials are distinct family histories. Ellen Konar and Steve Goldband reflect on human resilience instantiated in a charmeuse blouse her mother crafted from a hidden remnant after years of Nazi persecution. Jerry Takigawa draws on collaged archival materials to give voice to his mother's experiences of Japanese American incarceration during World War II. Charlotte Niel embroiders over family photographs in response to her mother's dementia, while Marsha Guggenheim uses blurred and distorted family portraits in search for answers after losing her mother at a young age.

The exhibition also features work by Federica Armstrong, Allison Calteux, Dyana DeCoteau-Dyess, Adrienne Defendi, Priya Suresh Kambli, Kathleen McDonald, Lianne Milton, JP Terlizzi, and Nic Umbs. Moving between love and longing, admiration and estrangement, remembrance and loss, the works consider these women beyond their roles as mothers by focusing on the histories and experiences that shaped their lives.

Our Mothers Ourselves brings together distinct approaches shaped by diverse experiences, while revealing resonances across individual personal stories and communities. Collectively, the works invite audiences to consider what Defendi and Konar describe as “the legacies that we inherit and those we will pass on.”

Designed for flexible installation, ***Our Mothers Ourselves*** supports intergenerational reflection, community storytelling, public programs, and educational engagement across museums, galleries, libraries, universities, and cultural centers.

For more information, visit:

eusa.org/exhibition/our-mothers-ourselves-legacies-that-shape-us

Left Images: Jerry Takigawa, ***New Beginning***, 2020; archival pigment print on rag paper, 24 1/2 x 18 3/4 inches; Courtesy of the artist. JP Terlizzi, ***Ralph/Artist's Self Portrait***, 2019; archival pigment print and thread, 14 x 14 inches; Courtesy of the artist. Kathleen McDonald, ***Thread My Mother Gave Me*** (detail), 2017–2025; textiles and mixed media installation, approximately 24 x 120 inches overall; Courtesy of the artist.

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THE EXHIBITION IN YOUR GALLERY

Exhibits USA allows venues to work with our team of interpretive specialists to customize the exhibition based on spatial limitations. If your institution plans to augment or edit the exhibition you are hosting, please notify us of your plans so we can work together on bringing the best exhibition to your venue.

SUPPORT MATERIALS AND SERVICES

When you host an Exhibits USA® exhibition, you will receive a range of support to present the exhibition to—and engage with—your community, all developed by our team of museum specialists in collaboration with the project's curatorial partners.

THESE INCLUDE:

- A marketing and publicity kit with digital images and cutlines, logos, and a sample press release.
- A programming guide with extensive educational resources and program/activity planning ideas for host venue staff and teachers.
- Custom-designed interpretive panels, object labels, gallery guides, and/or other interactive engagement tools.
- A registrar's packet with instructions and documents for condition reporting, and installing and de-installing the exhibition.
- Custom-built crates for easy handling and maximum protection, along with instructions for proper packing.
- On-call logistical support.

Above: Jerry Takigawa, *Staying Silent*, 2017; pigment print on rag paper, 18 3/4 x 24 1/2 inches; Courtesy of the artist.

Curator: Ellen Konar and Adrienne Defendi

Organized by: Exhibits USA®

Content: 103 items

Duration: 7-week display

Out-of-Region Rental Fee: \$9,550

In-Region Rental Fee: \$5,730
(In-region states: Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas)

Shipping expense: Exhibitor is responsible for payment of outgoing shipping.

Security: Limited

Run. ft.: TBD

Number of Crates: 5

Total Weight: TBD

Insurance: The exhibition is fully insured by Exhibits USA® at no additional expense to you, both while installed and during transit.

DATES AVAILABLE:

Our Mothers Ourselves: Legacies That Shape Us is touring September 2028 through August 2033. The dates below reflect 7-week exhibition periods. Dates are subject to change; please contact MoreArt@maaa.org or (816) 800-0925 for current availability.

January 28–March 16
April 6–May 25
June 16–August 11
September 1–October 20
November 20–January 7