

DENISE UYEHARA
2315 E. Edison Street, Tucson, AZ 85719
denise@deniseuyehara.com
deniseuyehara.com
(310) 991-3698

Denise Uyehara is an award-winning performance artist, writer, and playwright whose work has been presented across the United States and abroad in London, Helsinki, Vancouver and Tokyo. For over two decades she has investigated what marks the body on its migration across borders of identity. Her interdisciplinary performances often focuses on issues of gender, cultural identity, civil liberties, war and occupation. She is a founding member of the Sacred Naked Nature Girls. Uyehara is a frequent university lecturer and conducts workshops in the community and in theaters, galleries and museums.

EDUCATION

M.F.A., World Arts & Cultures, University of California, Los Angeles, 2004
B.A., Comparative Literature (honors), University of California, Irvine, 1989

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS (selected)

- MAP Fund (2011) with Jason Aragon and Pan Left Productions
- PLACE Grant (2012), Tucson Pima Arts Council/Open Society Funding
- National Performance Network Creation Fund (2010)
- Arizona Commission on the Arts – Project Grant (2009)
- C.O.L.A. Fellowship (Performance), City of Los Angeles, Cultural Affairs (2005)
- Artist in Residence grant (A.I.R.), City of Los Angeles, Cultural Affairs (2005) and artist-in-community grants (1994, 199, 2000)
- Featured Artist, National Performance Network Conference (2004)
- Asian Cultural Council Fellowship (fieldwork Okinawa, 2001)
- Kawahara Fellowship, Asian Studies Dept., UCLA, (fieldwork Okinawa) 2002
- California Civil Liberties Public Education Project, State of California, 2002
- Asian Pacific Performance Exchange (APPEX) fellow 2000
- Poets & Writers on Site residency at Beyond Baroque and Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1999
- PEN West Emerging Voices Fellow, 1999
- Brody Arts Fund, California Community Foundation in theater/performance art, 1993
- James Irvine Foundation Fellowship through Dorland Mountain Arts Colony, 1993
- Mark Taper Forum Mentor Playwrights Project stipend member, 1992-94
- American Japanese National Literary Award, 1992
- C.Y. Lee Playwriting Award, 1995
- Flintridge Commissioning Grant, co-recipient as one of the Sacred Naked Nature Girls, 1995-96
- AT&T:OnStage Productions grant for the production of the play *Hiro* at East West Players, 1994

PERFORMANCES AND INSTALLATIONS (selected)

Transitions (November, 2011), with Native American performance artist James Luna; Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions; part of Getty Centers *Pacific Standard Time* city-wide festival.

Archipelago (February, 2012). Highways Performance Space, Santa Monica and Dinnerware, Tucson; Museum of Contemporary Art, Tucson (May 2012). National Performance Network Creation Fund.

The Senkotsu (Mis)Translation Project: Bones of War, Occupation and (Mis)Translation, 2004-2009. Exploring U.S. Military occupation in Okinawa. Highways Performance Space, Santa Monica ('09), Barnsdall Municipal Gallery ('06), REDCAT at Disney Hall and The Fowler Museum, UCLA ('04).

Sez She, 2004. Produced by the Mark Taper Forum's P.L.A.Y., three-week tour. With Ann Stocking and Kate Rigg, directed by Corey Madden, Ivy Substation, Ivar and southern California colleges.

Big Head, 2003. Highways Performance Space ('03); Tokyo, Dokkyo University International Performance Studies Conference; CSU Summer Arts; Tigertail Productions, Miami ('04), Berkeley Art Museum; The Kirk, Theater Row, NYC ('07), The Kitchen, Ithaca, NY, Links Hall, Chicago ('08).

Maps of City & Body, 1999. Highways Performance Space, CA, Nov. 1999; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1999; Modern Language Association, National Conference, San Francisco, Dec. 28, 1998; Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, Nov., 1998; MuuMedia Festival, Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland, October 1998

Hello (Sex) Kitty: Mad Asian Bitch On Wheels: UC Santa Cruz, March 2000; Theater Offensive, Boston, MA, September 1999; UC Santa Barbara, CA, May 1997; Huntington Beach Arts Center, March 1997; Asian American Theater Company, San Francisco, May 1996; Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, Jan. 1996; Brown University, RI, Sept. 1995; Painted Bride, Philadelphia, Nov. 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, Hairou, Beijing, China, Sept. 1995, ICA, London, July 1994

Headless Turtleneck Relatives: The Tale of Family and a Grandmother's Suicide by Fire: Philadelphia Women's Festival, PA, May 1995; Walker Arts Center, MN, April 1995; Firehall Theater, Women In View Festival, Vancouver, B.C., Jan. 1995; North West Asian American Theater Company, Seattle, Jan. 1995; Cleveland Performance Art Festival (invited artist), April 1994; ICA, London, Oct. 1993

The Sacred Naked Nature Girls (Ensemble)

Randolph Street Gallery, Chicago, May - June, 1996; Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, Los Angeles, March 1996; Sushi Performance Space, San Diego, CA, March 1996; Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), London, Nov. 1995; Luna Sea Women's Project, SF, April 1995; The Echo, Portland, Oregon, Feb. 1995; Highways, Santa Monica, CA Aug–Sept. 1995

Produced plays

Hiro, full-length play, Northwest Asian American Theater Company, Seattle, WA, July 1996; East West Players, Los Angeles, July-Aug., 1994

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (selected)

University Lecturer

University of California, Irvine,

AsianAm 115: Asian American Performance & Writing, 2001-2009

StudioArt 101: Artists as Writers, Spring 2001

Claremont Colleges, Artist & Activist in Residence (forthcoming), spring 2014

University of California, Los Angeles, Dept. of World Arts & Cultures

WAC 5: Performance Art Workshop, Spring 2004

California State University Summer Arts Program, CSU Fresno, Interdisciplinary Performance Art & Writing, Summer 2000 & 2003

Teaching in museums and performance venues

Museum of Contemporary Art – Los Angeles, Instructor, MOCA Education Department Apprentices program, 2004; and workshop instructor, Performance and Contemporary Visual Art, 2004.

Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, 18th Street Arts Center, Highways Performance Space, Electric Lodge, *Rad Asian Sisters Workshop Series*, an annual 10-week performing/writing workshop and presentation for Asian women and men, 1998 – 2002

Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Beyond Baroque, Poets & Writers residency, *Divination Bus #217*, an eight-week writing/performance course, focused on personal narrative, memory and objects, 1999

Highways Performance Space, *Three Rooms*, three-day intensive course, co-taught with performance artists Nancy Agabian and Danielle Brazell, April 1998

Highways Performance Space, *Women's Work*, 10-week workshop, co-taught with Danielle Brazell, performance series for women of diverse cultural backgrounds, funded by the City of Santa Monica, 1997

Other: Okinawan oral history workshop 2004, Beyond Baroque writing and performance 2000, La Boca halfway home for women (with Sacred Naked Nature Girls), Senior Oral History Project, 1993.

Affiliations

Grants Committee, policy-making, Tucson Pima Arts Council, 2009–present
Co-curator, Studio Series, REDCAT, Disney Hall, September & May 2004
Board member, 18th Street Arts Center, 1998–2001

ARTISTIC RESIDENCIES (selected)

- Resident artist, 18th Street Arts Complex, Santa Monica, CA, 1994-2004
- Hedgebrook Women's Writers Center, Seattle, Washington, 2000
- Poets & Writers' Writers on Site Resident Artist, Beyond Baroque and LACMA, 1998
- MuuMediaFestival/Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland, October 1998
- Djerassi Artist Colony, CA, April 1999

PUBLICATIONS (selected)

Books

Maps of City & Body: Shedding Light on the Performances of Denise Uyehara, Kaya Press, 2004

Anthologized performances and plays

Hello (Sex) Kitty, solo performance anthologized in *O Solo Homo: The New Queer Performance*, eds. Holly Hughes and David Roman, Grove Press, 1998

Hiro, full-length play, anthologized in *Asian American Drama*, ed. Brian Nelson, Applause Books, 1998

Headless Turtleneck Relatives, solo performance, excerpted in *Getting your Solo Act Together*, by Michael Kearns, Heinemann, 1997

Hiro, in *Asian American Drama: 9 Plays from the Multiethnic Landscape*. ed. Brian Nelson. New York: Applause, 1997

Critical Essays

“The Third Level, Where Kathakali and Performance Art Meet: A conversation between APPEX 2000 artists Denise Uyehara and Ettumanoor Parameswaran Kannan,” in *Narrative/Performance: Cross-Cultural Encounters at APPEX*, Regents of the University of California, 2004

Lost & Found: *The Hidden Community of Seekers and Finders*, in *Mobile Zones - City Space in Globalised Culture*, MuuMedia Festival. Catalogue. Helsinki, Finland: AV-arkki, 1998

BIBLIOGRAPHY (selected)

Ontiveros, Mario. "Working-in-Common and Cross-Cultural Art Practices." Narrative/Performance: Cross-Cultural Encounters at APPEX. The Regents of the University of California, 2004.
www.wac.ucla.edu/cip

Cheng, Meiling. "Big Head." By Denise Uyehara. With additional words by Masamori Kojima, Edina Lekovic, Shady Hakim, Lulu Emery, Tamadhur Al-Aqeel, Lillian Nakano. Highways Performance Space, Santa Monica. 21 February 2003." Theatre Journal Vol. 55, No. 3 (October 2003): 518-519.

Hart, Hugh. "Art of urgency; A new performance work focuses on the plight of Arab Americans.: Los Angeles Times. Los Angeles, Calif.: Feb 18, 2003. pg. E.1

----- . "Headless Turtleneck Relatives by Denise Uyehara." In Other Los Angeleses: Multicentric Performance Art. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002: 221-226.

Kurahashi, Yuko. "Denise Uyehara". Asian American Playwrights: A Bio-Bibliographical Critical Sourcebook. Ed. Miles Xian Liu. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002. 334-39.

Kim Lee, Ester. A History of Asian American Theater. Cambridge, 2006. 156, 171-176.

Ikeuchi Yasuko. "Theater/Performance and Gender: the Third Conference for Asian Women and Theatre". Article in Japanese. Gendaishiso, May, 2001.

Heikkinen, Mikko-Pekka. "Kiasman vierailevat tähdet tekevät tavarasta taidetta." Review. Helsingin Sanomat. Review in Finnish. October 1997.

Kearns, Michael. Getting Your Solo Act Together. Heinemann: Portsmouth, NH, 1997.

Curtis, Cathy. "Familial Material: UCI Grad's Piece Mines Roots Poetically with Subtle Body Language." Review. Los Angeles Times March, 8, 1997, Orange County ed., sec. F: 1-3.

Monaghan, Connie. "Performance Pick of the Week - Hello (Sex) Kitty." LA Weekly March 24-30, 1995. 17.17, sec. Arts.

Breslauer, Jan. "Uyehara Paints an Arresting Dreamscape with 'Relatives'." Review. Los Angeles Times December 11, 1993, sec. F.

----- . "Performance Pick of the Week - Headless Turtleneck Relatives." LA Weekly December 10-16, 1993, 16.2, sec. Arts.

Trabitz, Randee. "Theater Pick of the Week - Hiro." Review. LA Weekly July 15-21 1994, 16.33 ed., sec. Calendar.

"National Review of Live Art - Headless Turtleneck Relatives." Variant (London) October 1993: 26.

ET CETERA

Videos and more information at deniseuyehara.com
Professional references upon request