

# ART X CONTEMPORARY

512 1ST AVE S. SEATTLE, WA 98104 | ARTX-CONTEMPORARY.COM | 206.839.0377



## LAUREN IIDA

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Represented by ArtX Contemporary

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**Lauren Iida** was born in Seattle, WA and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Cornish College of the Arts (2014). Her primary medium is intricately hand-cut paper focusing on negative space and shadow play, often incorporating layers of ink washed paper. Iida's 30-foot-long hand-cut paper installation project entitled *The Memory Net* is an ongoing series that has traveled the world, taking on new meaning and engaging communities in each new context. Each *Memory Net* captures memories of places, individuals, or communities which are expressed as symbolic objects "trapped" in the cut paper net.



Much of Iida's artwork is influenced by Cambodia, where she has been active for many years working on projects to support and mentor artists since 2008. Other major influences include her family's Japanese American heritage and incarceration during WWII, and celebrating her Pacific Northwest home.

*Memory Net*, Phum Prey Village, Svay Rieng Province, Cambodia, 2017

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lida now shares her time between Seattle and Cambodia, exhibiting her work, creating public art installations, and mentoring emerging contemporary Cambodian artists through the arts collective she founded, Open Studio Cambodia. Based in Siem Reap, Open Studio Cambodia supports emerging Cambodian contemporary artists and organizes exhibitions, art workshops, and contemporary art tours throughout the country.



lida has created multiple bodies of work based on her own photographs taken of friends and fellow artists in Cambodia. In the 2020 series *32 Aspects of Daily Life*, lida paid homage to a series of the same name, created in the 1880s by Japanese woodblock artist, Tsukioka Yoshitoshi (1839-1892). Utilizing watercolor and ink, alongside her distinct paper cut-away technique, lida depicts female-identifying people that she has connected with during her daily life. Mythology, symbolism, and nuance in color and pattern are taken into account, sometimes as a playful reinterpretation of the meaning or aesthetic of Yoshitoshi, and other times drawing from Japanese or Cambodian culture.

14. *Suitable: The Appearance of Two Performers of the Licensed Quarters*, 2020, Hand-cut paper, watercolor and ink, 22.5 x 12.5 in.



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In 2021, Iida was named an Artist-in-Residence at Densho, an organization dedicated to preserving the histories of Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II. With access to Densho's vast digital archives and personal assistance from their archivists and historians, as well as her family's personal collection of photos, Iida created works with references to real places and real people, blending them with surreal painted backgrounds and dreamlike characters that embody the fears, anxieties and hopes of the time. *The Tempo of Courage*, featured in the BIMA Spotlight exhibition is one of twenty new artworks created for this residency.



*Departed (Urashima Taro as Mildred)*, 2021, Hand-cut paper, acrylic, ink, and watercolor, 18 x 24 in.

Iida is the recipient of an Artist Trust GAP Grant, and the 2017 Art Matters fellowship. Her work has been exhibited at numerous venues including ArtX Contemporary (formerly ArtXchange Gallery), King Street Station, the Mayor's Gallery at Seattle City Hall, and Galerie Lee in Paris. Her work has been collected by Meta Open Arts (2023), Washington State Arts Commission (2020), King County Public Art Collection (2019), and she has been commissioned to create public art by The City of Seattle, The City of Shoreline, the City of Bellevue, Sound Transit, and the Denver Theatre District, among many others.