

Henry chose to create this series of 27 oil on canvas paintings as a way of commemorating his bittersweet experience, leaving his home of Prince Rupert but also discovering a close-knit community of Japanese Canadians. Completed in 2002, this series was originally painted from reference photographs and portrayed in a linear fashion, beginning with the 1942 Order-in-Council notice, announcing the removal of all Japanese Canadians within a 100-mile radius of the BC coastline, and concluding with Henry's final days in New Denver just before the war ended.

This exhibition aims to take a non-linear approach to further reflect on how these years of Internment and beyond impacted not only Henry and his family, Kimiko his mother, and Greg his son. These multiple perspectives personalise Internment as not only a historical event to be recounted, but also an ongoing point of reconciliation and reflection. It is for this reason that with the development process of this exhibition, Henry and Greg were asked the following questions:

- How have the effects of internment affected your relationship to Canada and national identity?
- How have the effects of internment impacted the way you celebrate your culture (both Japanese and Canadian)?
- In what ways do you feel internment has taught you, your family, and community resilience and reconciliation?
- What does the Japanese Canadian community mean to you?
- What do you feel is your responsibility and connection to Japan?

Their answers to these questions are incorporated into this exhibition as direct quotations, in addition to quotes from a 1992 Interview with Kimiko.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SHIMIZUS, HENRY, JOAN, GREG, AND KIMKO, FOR THEIR GENEROSITY IN SHARING THEIR FAMILY'S STORY.

THIS EXHIBITION WAS MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF BRYCE KANBARA, JOHN PRICE, AND THE LEGACY GALLERY STAFF.



Throughout this exhibition, it was discussed how important it is to preserve and share this knowledge and history with future generations.

Please consider donating to The Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre, located on the site of the former New Denver internment camp to continue this work. You can donate by scanning the QR code or by visiting:

tinyurl.com/NikkeiInternmentMemorialCentre:



ISSHONI: HENRY SHIMIZU'S PAINTINGS OF NEW DENVER INTERNMEN

APRIL 22 - JUNE 18, 2022
LEGACY ART GALLERY DOWNTOWN
630 YATES STREET, VICTORIA, BC

CURATED BY SAMANTHA MARSH

Kimiko Shimizu

Issei- first-generation Japanese Canadian)



Kimiko was only nineteen years old when she met Shotaro Shimizu. At this point, in 1926, Shotaro had successfully established the Dominion Café and Hotel in Prince Rupert and had traveled back to his home prefecture to find a wife. Kimiko knew no one who had emigrated to Canada, nor what to expect from the town of Prince Rupert. Despite this, over the next fifteen years, Kimiko became an essential part of the Shimizu's business, in addition to raising four children, the eldest being Henry Shimizu.

"My first feeling was that of surprise, I'm sure that my husband first thought of his business, we had a hotel and restaurant. I thought about my 4 children... They were all Canadian-born, but I wondered what would happen to them." - Kimiko

Henry Shimizu

Nisei- second-generation Japanese Canadian)



In his post Internment years, Henry Shimizu was among the first Japanese Canadian medical doctors, specialising in plastic surgery and holding numerous leadership positions in the medical community. In addition, he played an active role in advocating for the Japanese Canadian community, including chairing the Japanese Canadian Redress Foundation from 1989 to 2001 and later receiving several awards, including the National Association of Japanese Canadians, National Award (1999) and the Order of Canada (2004).

"I believe that the feelings of "Injustice", which led to internment and loss of all our possessions, required that Japanese Canadians had to show that we are "respected and respectful" Canadians." - Henry

Greg Shimizu

Sansei- third-generation Japanese Canadian)



Greg Shimizu and his partner Twilla MacLeod founded the Edmonton-based taiko group Booming Tree in 2008. The name honours the 1,500 cherry blossom trees his grandfather, Shotaro Shimizu, donated to Prince Rupert after WWII. These trees were a gesture of kindness and commemoration for Shotaro who never returned to Prince Rupert after Internment. In 2018, many of these trees were accidentally chopped down, and to make reparations for this loss, the federal government has placed a plaque sharing the story of the Shimizu's internment journey and displacement from Prince Rupert.

"Having the Japanese community allowed an opportunity to engage in activities and events. Without it life would be less rich and diverse for me." - Greg
