

Installing two public art frames, 6' x 6' each, on the West-facing brick wall of the Metropole Building, 423 2nd Ave Ext S.

Frames will be installed at 4 corners of the frame structure, with hardware penetrating only the grout, not the bricks, and can be filled once removed.

The 6' x 6' size of each structure is selected to stay clear of ghost signs higher on the wall. This size allows us to stay safely below these ghost signs. Artworks will be created by Michelle Kumata and Yi Du, and will rotate with new artists and artworks in the future with the approval of PSPB.

MICHELLE KUMATA

The location of this mural at the Metropole Building connects me to family and community stories. The mural image is a combination of two old family photos to show my Auntie Tomo (left), and my mother, Sakiko (right), in front of their post-WWII home, the Standard Hotel, a flop house that their parents managed, which was located on Second Ave South, across the street from the Metropole Building.

My mother remembers Mrs. Kikuchi, a widow who ran the hotel in the Metropole building while raising three children. There were numerous hotels that were managed by Japanese American families in Pioneer Square, the International District and downtown Seattle.

My maternal grandparents, Kametaro and Kinue Kawaguchi, were Issei, first generation immigrants from Japan. They managed the Standard Hotel when they returned to Seattle after being unjustly incarcerated at Minidoka, an American concentration camp, during World War II. My grandparents did what they could to make a living and support their family, especially after the War, when they had to start their lives over again.

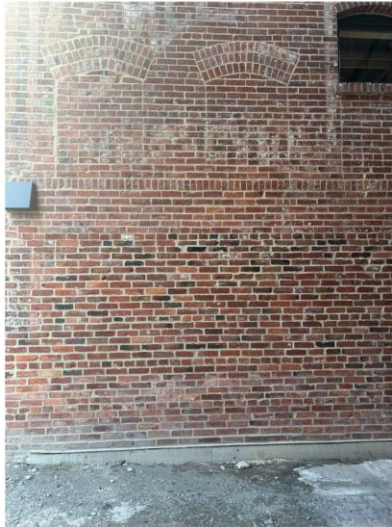
I plan to paint sashiko stitches, which were traditionally used to repair, reinforce and embellish garments that were passed down through generations. The stitches represent immigrant families who are resilient and resourceful, and make do with what they have to survive. I will incorporate symbols, such as waves to represent my grandparents' immigration from Japan and the challenges our community faced. Warm colors will accent the human subjects, to give them presence, while the background will be monotone gray tones or indigo blue tones. Indigo is a natural dye commonly used in Japanese textiles, that has healing properties. I hope that sharing this history contributes to healing and legacy.

I am grateful for this opportunity to recognize Japanese American history in Pioneer Square.

MICHELLE KUMATA (PAST WORK)



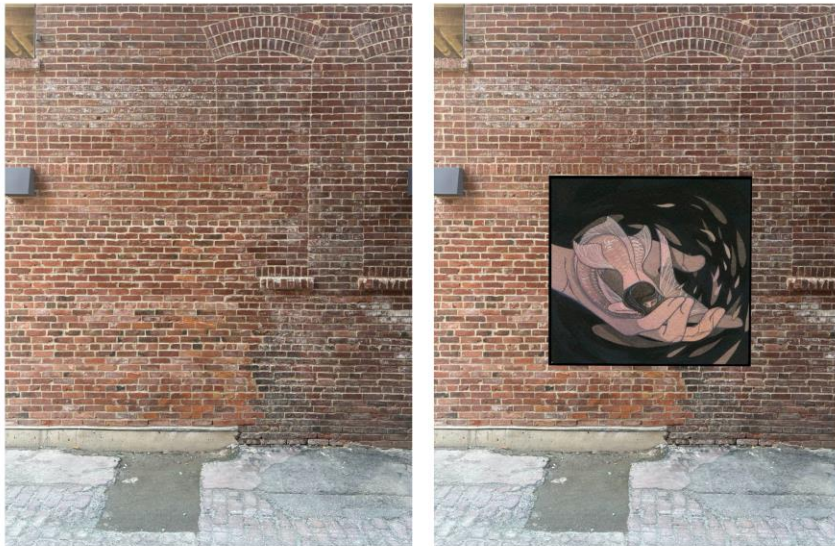
MICHELLE KUMATA



YI DU



YI DU



MICHELLE KUMATA + YI DU



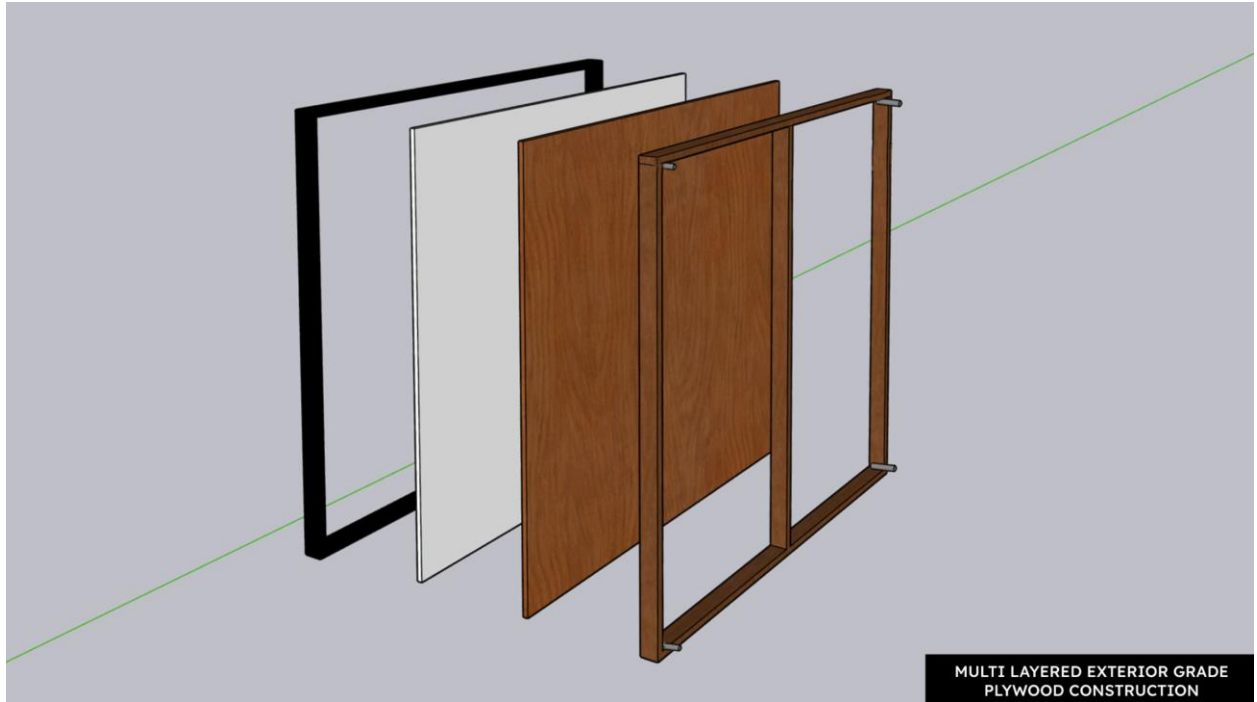
4" depth

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2.5"



MULTI LAYERED EXTERIOR GRADE
PLYWOOD CONSTRUCTION



EXTERIOR FRAMED PANELS

10 x 10 FT
8 x 8 FT
6 x 6 FT

ART
XIV

