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## NEWS RELEASE

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## Immigrant Story Art Exhibition Showcases the Wide Range of Asian American Experiences in Oregon

*On view at the Oregon Historical Society August 26, 2022 — January 8, 2023*

**Portland, OR — August 24, 2022** — The Immigrant Story and the Oregon Historical Society, in collaboration with Portland photographer Jim Lommasson and conceptual artist Roberta Wong, will present a powerful new exhibition, [\*I Am An American: Stories of Exclusion and Belonging\*](#), opening this Friday, August 26 at the Oregon Historical Society's museum in downtown Portland. The exhibition includes photographs, collected objects, and narratives from Asian Americans, speaking to the resilience of Asian Americans in the face of exclusion and hatred as well as the many dimensions of Asian American identity.

The display focuses on six Asian American women whose experiences reflect the different facets of Asian American identities. Their stories correspond with a history of xenophobic policies that resulted in the discrimination and erasure of many Asian Americans.

"*I Am An American* attempts to shed light on the racism that is woven into the fabric of America," said exhibition photographer Jim Lommasson. "I believe that finally America is beginning to wake up and take anti-Asian discrimination seriously."

The collection is part of a broader campaign, [\*Oregon Rises Above Hate\*](#), that seeks to amplify the narratives of Asian Americans in Oregon to draw attention to the rise in hate aimed at Asian American in America. The title, "I Am An American," was intentionally chosen to bring attention to the 80 years since the federal government confiscated property and sent more than 100,000 Japanese Americans to incarceration camps in the early days of World War II. That same phrase, "I Am An American," became a rallying cry for all Asian Americans.

“Today in the United States,” said Sankar Raman, founder and the current board president of [The Immigrant Story](#), “persons of Asian descent are still trying to combat xenophobia, hateful rhetoric, and the resulting violence, despite being Americans for multiple generations.”

*I Am An American: Stories of Exclusion and Belonging* ultimately recognizes that while xenophobia and anti-Asian violence have been defining parts of the Asian American experience, they need not determine its future.

*I Am An American* is on view August 26, 2022, through January 8, 2023. The Oregon Historical Society’s museum is open seven days a week, Monday–Saturday 10am–5pm and Sunday 12pm–5pm. Admission is \$10, with discounts for students, seniors, teachers, and youth. Admission is free every day for OHS members and Multnomah County residents.

Images for press are available [here](#).

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### **About the Oregon Historical Society**

For more than a century, the Oregon Historical Society has served as the state’s collective memory, preserving a vast collection of artifacts, photographs, maps, manuscript materials, books, films, and oral histories. Our research library, museum, digital platforms & website ([ohs.org](https://ohs.org)), educational programming, and historical journal make Oregon’s history open and accessible to all. We exist because history is powerful, and because a history as deep and rich as Oregon’s cannot be contained within a single story or point of view.

### **About The Immigrant Story**

An award-winning nonprofit organization, The Immigrant Story documents and archives the voices and stories of immigrants in short, visual, written and podcast formats. The organization’s vision is to provide curated and relevant content to enhance empathy and create an inclusive community. The goal is both to advance the national dialogue and to dispel myths about new Americans through strong, thoughtful, narratives. Learn more at [TheImmigrantStory.org](https://TheImmigrantStory.org).