

Images and Imaginings of Internment: Comics and Illustrations of Camp

Self-Guided Tour



Images and Imaginings of Internment: Comics and Illustrations of Camp

Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
May – November 20, 2023

We welcome you to this self-guided tour of *Images and Imaginings of Internment: Comics and Illustrations of Camp*. As you engage with the physical exhibition, please take a picture (maybe even a selfie) or two or three photos of the images that help you connect with this history. Please post the images to Instagram and be sure to include #imagesandimaginings.

Content Advisory: It is important to note that this exhibition engages with a history that includes negative images and language targeting Japanese Americans. We have made a decision not to remove this content but, rather, to ask that you consider how the stereotypes and images harm those who are recipients of this rhetoric, as well as those who use negative language and/or laugh at such images. We ask that you be reflective of who you are as you engage with the materials.

Comic Pamphlet

Please take one of the pamphlets before entering the exhibition.

1. Look at the map in the center fold. What camp/s, if any, do you already know about?
2. What camp is closest to where you grew up (if in the United States) or where you settled in this country?
3. Did you learn about this history in your education? If so, share one thing you remember learning.

Roosevelt Hall, First Floor

I. The Image Border

1. Consider the border for the exhibition in Roosevelt Hall. Why do you think there is a border?
2. What images you see repeated in this border make an impact on your understanding of Japanese American Incarceration in WWII?

II. The images in this part of the exhibition are grouped by theme:

- Children at Camp
 - Building Home at Camp
 - Burden of Becoming the Nation's Scapegoat
 - Daily Life
 - Sanitation
 - Camp Entertainment
 - Food
1. Select one of the themes and look closely at the images/comics. How is humor a component in these images? What does that humor add to your understanding of this history?
 2. Take a photo of the image or group of images that you focused on in this part of the exhibition. What about this/these images caught your attention?

Remember to post your photos to Instagram: #imagesandimaginings.

3. What questions do you have about any of the themed images and/or about life in camp?

Leatherby Libraries, First Floor

I. Making History Visible: Modern Depictions of Japanese Incarceration

1. After looking at the covers and reading the descriptions. Which of the three graphic novels might you want to read first? Why?
2. If you have already read one or more of the novels, which one/s?

II. Comics Outside Camp: Justifying Incarceration

What language/image in the three comics featured in this case do you find as particular useful for igniting people to “justify incarceration”?

III. Comics Inside Camp: Asserting Agency

How does the tone/feel of the comics in this case contrast with those in the left case? What leads you to this conclusion?

Center Exhibit

1. After looking at the panels in this part of the exhibition, sketch or describe an image that helps you connect with this history. If there is text with the image you choose to sketch, transcribe that text next to your sketch.
2. After working with this part of the exhibition, what are a couple of questions you have about Japanese Incarceration during World War II?

Don't forget about taking a picture or two [you could photograph your sketch and post it as well as other photos #imagesandimaginings].

Leatherby Libraries, Fourth Floor

I. Takaragawa Family: An American Family Story

1. Choose one photo and notice a specific detail that makes you think about a Japanese family being incarcerated. Explain.
2. Ask a question about/of a photograph in this exhibit.

II. Comics Inside Camp: Miné Okubo

1. Look at the eight panels from Okubo's *Citizen 13660*, write a caption for one or more of the illustrations.
2. What do you notice about Okubo's illustration style?
3. How is the painting in the middle cabinet both like and different from the illustrations in *Citizen 13660*?

III. The Munemitsu Family Collection

1. Why did the Munemitsu family lease their farm to the Mendez Family?
2. What import is the *Mendez v. Westminster* case to Orange County history? to U.S. history?

IV. Comics Outside Camp: Justifying Incarceration

1. Read the *Captain Courageous* and *Superman* comics. What specific images or words stand out to you? How does this comic create a negative stereotype of Asians?
2. Are you/or are you not surprised that popular comics had this content? Explain.



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