

*Shadows and Ashes:  
The Peril of Nuclear  
Weapons*



*An exhibition originally presented  
at Princeton University,*

*curated by Mary Hamill*

**Montgomery College  
Cultural Arts Center  
April 15 to May 31, 2019**

**Sponsored by:**

**Montgomery College's Institute for  
Race, Justice and, Civic Engagement**

**Peace Action Montgomery**

**Prevent Nuclear War/Maryland**

This two-part exhibition, "Shadows and Ashes: The Peril of Nuclear Weapons," especially emphasizes two time periods: One is August 1945, when nuclear bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The other is now.

The horror of the Hiroshima bombing is suggested in the ceramic masks by Marion Held. Gary Schoichet presents photographic portraits and powerful memories from the atomic bomb survivors he interviewed. Young children who survived the Hiroshima bombing left drawings about their experiences and hopes.

Now, seventy-four years after nuclear bombs were initially made and used, we take stock of their greatly increased capacity to destroy life on earth, and we explore what is being done to eliminate the weapons. The up-to-date set of text graphics and video on these points was made by the Program on Science and Global Security at the Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University.

## Poems of John Canaday

*“ . . . nuclear weapons have been inscribed into our culture and our psyches, a process that is surely among the most crucial transformations in human history.”*

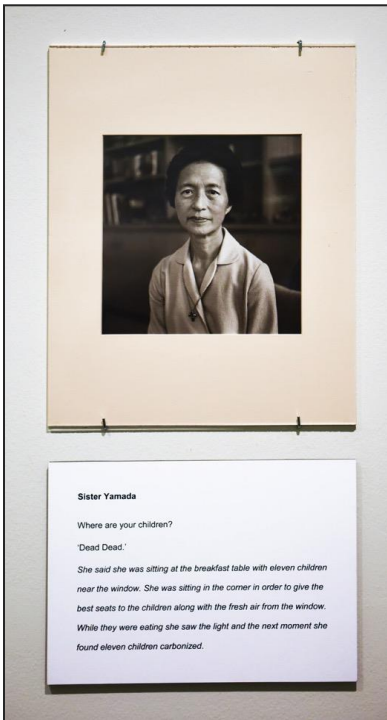
John Canaday, *Critical Assembly: Poems of the Manhattan Project*, University of New Mexico Press 2017.



## Gary Schoichet Photographs

Photographer Gary Schoichet provided portraits and reflective comments of Hiroshima survivors (made in San Francisco in 1982).

### Portraits of Survivors:



Gary Schoichet also contributed documentary photographs of the effective 1982 Anti-Nuclear Rally in New York City.

## Hiroshima Children's Drawings:

All Souls Church in Washington, D.C., contributed 10 Hiroshima Children's Drawings. In 1947, the children of the Church sent art supplies to survivors in two schools and an orphanage in Japan. In response came the crayon drawings from the surviving children of the Honkawa School (who had lost 400 of their classmates and teachers in the bombing).



**Drawing of Black Rain by Michie Takahashi**



## Marion Held Sculptures:

In commemoration of the human catastrophe in Japan, multimedia artist Marion Held made masks of Raku ceramic and other materials.



## Wall Panels and Video:

Eight large colorful wall panels provide up to date information on the risks from nuclear weapons and nuclear materials, the local and global long-term effects of the use of nuclear weapons, the U.S. nuclear weapons modernization plan and its expected costs, and the current effort to eliminate these weapons, including the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons agreed at the United Nations in 2017.

# 4 Nuclear Choices II

**1946**

The UN calls for the elimination of nuclear weapons

**1946**

The UN calls for the elimination of nuclear weapons

**1962**

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to nuclear abolitionists:

**1962**

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to nuclear abolitionists:

**1985**

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to nuclear abolitionists:

**1985**

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to nuclear abolitionists:

**1995**

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to nuclear abolitionists:

**2017**

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to nuclear abolitionists:

In January 1946, in its first year resolution, the General Assembly of the United Nations called for the elimination of nuclear weapons, with the understanding of atomic energy research was used only for peaceful purposes.

Soon afterwards, having a nuclear war was Albert Einstein and other leading scientists feared or warned through the newly formed Emergency Committee of the Atomic Scientists that the only way of its being used is through its destruction. "Through the use of atomic energy, we affirmatively say, though the use of the word is not intended, that we are not prepared to accept the possibility of a world in which the use of atomic energy is not controlled through the agreed understanding and respect of the conscience of the world."

Peace movements around the world meeting with non-nuclear states and panels of atomic nuclear weapons states struggled with some success against the nuclear arms race. They called for an nuclear weapons testing and support for limits on nuclear armaments. A high point in this effort in the United States was the 12 June 1962 "March on the White House" nuclear health demonstration in New York City. There were nearly one million participants, making it the largest single peace demonstration in U.S. history.

These efforts to ban the bomb were recognized through Nobel Peace Prizes for five individuals and groups, including Linus Pauling, "in recognition of the international campaign for the prohibition of nuclear weapons, for his work against the testing and use of nuclear weapons." Only the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War has "services rendered by spreading authoritative information and by inspiring or supporting the campaigns 'comprised of atomic war'." (1962) and, among others, and the frequent identification of activities that he leads, such as about anti-nuclear (London and other). "The bomb affects the individual and the public in nuclear arms, nuclear politics and, in the longer run, its ultimate such as" (1962). The Japanese scientists Atomic Bombardment "the spread of human beings to human beings." Promotional peace humanity, and to fight the war."

In 2006, under international pressure, the United States, Britain, France and China agreed "to begin negotiations on the nuclear weapons states to document the end of nuclear arms research leading to nuclear disarmament." There are no groups, however.

In 2017, at the United Nations in New York, 122 states agreed a treaty for the prohibition of nuclear weapons. It requires the immediate elimination of nuclear weapons and prohibits activities for nuclear research. States that might wish to provide assistance to people affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons, and international organizations of a state ratification by those activities. The treaty entered into force on 22 September 2021.

The 2017 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the international campaign to ban nuclear weapons (ICAN), for "its work to gain attention to the prohibition, transparency, consequences of the use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty ban on nuclear weapons."

**In 2017 the United Nations adopted a Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**



**“Plan A.” Animated video of potential nuclear destruction from existing weapons.**

This four-minute audiovisual piece features a simulation of an escalating nuclear conflict between the United States and Russia. The simulation is based on real force postures, targets, and fatality estimates. It was developed for the exhibition by Alex Wellerstein, Tamara Patton, Moritz Kuett, and Alex Glaser, with sound by Jeff Snyder.



## **Special Events**

*All events are free and open to the public. See*

*<https://www.peaceactionmc.org/> for information updates.*

### **Exhibition Opening Reception: April 17, 7 pm**

#### **Panel Presentations and Lectures:**

**April 24, 1-3 pm:** “The Intersection of Race and Nuclear Weapons,” Dr. Vincent Intondi

**May 6, 7-9 pm:** “Legislative Advocacy for Reducing the Threat of Nuclear War”

**May 10:** “The UN Treaty to Abolish Nuclear Weapons”

#### **Films:**

**April 29, 7-9 pm:** *Pictures from a Hiroshima Schoolyard*

A collection of surprisingly joyful drawings created by schoolchildren living among the ruins of Hiroshima in 1947 becomes the heart and soul of this true, inspiring story about an exchange of gifts between Americans and Japanese after a devastating war. This powerful documentary about reconciliation and the power of gift, introduces the children artists (now in their late 70s) who reflect on their early lives amidst the rubble of their destroyed city and the hope they shared through their art. In 2010, the newly restored drawings, buried for decades deep inside All Souls Church in Washington DC, are taken back to Japan where they are reunited with the artists and exhibited in the very building where they were created.

*My Small Steps from Hiroshima*

**May 10, 1-3 pm:** This is a special story about Kaoru Ogura, a second generation Japanese American, who experienced events during the pre-war and post-war periods, both in America and in Japan. The film conveys his experience and unique perspective on a journey towards peace. “Kaoru Ogura dedicated his life to telling the world about the Japanese city where the first atomic bomb was dropped. He brought public figures from other countries together with survivors in postwar Hiroshima, where he worked as a translator because he was born and raised in the U.S. The devastation shocked the visitors, causing them to spread the word internationally, (eventually leading to)....the anti-nuclear movement. This program recounts the life and work of those activists and the experiences of Kaoru Ogura.”

### **About the Exhibition Contributors:**

**Gary Schoichet** is an accomplished photographer often lauded for his ability to develop rapport with people as a basis for making sensitive portraits and engaging stories. His large body of work from the 1980s included a San Francisco project of interviewing and photographing survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear bombings. Regarding his motivation he says, "The actual effects of it... were with these people for the rest of their lives. Families were lost, and histories lost... so maybe if people start to feel for other people, something will happen." His work appears in magazines and exhibits.

**Marion Held's** solo exhibits include: Hunterdon Museum of Art, New Jersey State Museum, Morris Museum, The Newark Museum, Medialia Gallery, Art Resources Transfer, the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, 14 Sculptors Gallery, Aljira, University of Wisconsin, and William Paterson College. Selected group shows include: h2O (Kyoto, Japan), the Ifan Museum (Dakar, Senegal), Kenkeleba Gallery (NYC), and the Meguro Museum (Tokyo, Japan). Held's many awards include two NJ State Council on the Arts Fellowships in Sculpture, a Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation Creative Fellows Award, an Aljira Emerge Fellowship, three Dodge Foundation grants, as well as several residencies. She was an invited artist to international working symposia in Dakar; Beer-Sheva, Israel; Mojacar, Spain; and Boleslawiec, Poland.

**Hiroshima Children's Drawings** are from All Souls Unitarian Church in Washington, DC, thanks to Mel Hardy, who is also co-founder and curator at Millennium Art Salon. The drawings toured the U.S. after the war, went missing (in an attic) for decades, and were recently restored and documented.

Contributors from **Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School Program on Science and Global Security:**

The Program on Science and Global Security is based at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. It has carried out technical research, policy analysis, education and training in nuclear arms control, disarmament and nonproliferation for more than four decades.

**Alexander Glaser** is Associate Professor at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Princeton University, where he directs the Nuclear Futures Laboratory and co-directs the Program on Science and Global Security. He was selected by Foreign Policy magazine as one of the "100 Leading Global Thinkers of 2014."

**Zia Mian** is a physicist and co-director at the Program on Science and Global Security, where he also directs the Program's Project on Peace and Security in South Asia. He is co-chair of the International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM). He received the 2014 Linus Pauling Legacy Award for "his accomplishments as a scientist and as a peace activist in contributing to the global effort for nuclear disarmament and for a more peaceful world.

**Tamara Patton** is a PhD student at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. Previously she was a researcher at the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation and at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. In 2017, she was selected by *Pacific Standard* for its "30 under 30" list of young intellectuals "poised to shape society's coming ideas".

*Thanks for the "Shadows and Ashes: the Peril of Nuclear Weapons" exhibition go to curator Mary Hamill and the Bernstein Gallery, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University (issuu.com/woodrowwilsonschool/docs/web\_retrospective).*

*Thanks for the poems go to John Canaday. Thanks for the installation photographs go to Egon Matthew Jiminez. The exhibition also travelled to the Judith Reppy Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies at Cornell University thanks to curator Hannah Rogers. Contact: [bernsteinprinceton@gmail.com](mailto:bernsteinprinceton@gmail.com)*

## **About the Exhibition Sponsors:**

**Montgomery College's Institute for Race, Justice, and Civic Engagement's** mission is to create a place for students seeking equality, radical inclusion, and social justice while providing the resources to ensure each student can reach their true potential as scholars and leaders, and to create a hub for students to become change agents through civic engagement.

**Peace Action Montgomery** is a chapter of the national organization Peace Action, the nation's largest peace group. It works to build people power at the local level, in Montgomery County, MD, and relies on volunteers like you. For more information or to join, see the Web site: <https://www.peaceactionmc.org/>

**Prevent Nuclear War/Maryland** is a coalition in Maryland organized to advocate for an end to nuclear weapons and to promote the campaign "Back from the Brink," to reduce the risk of nuclear war. For more information, see <https://www.preventnuclearwar.md.org/>