

JAPANESE AMERICAN ARTIST SANDRA HONDA'S
'BROKEN PROMISES, BROKEN DREAMS'



ARTIST KATHLEEN CAPRARIO COLLABORATES WITH THREE OREGON POETS TO INTERROGATE WHITE PRIVILEGE AS PART OF THE MAUDE KERNS EXHIBIT **SOCIAL BEING** By Jenna Comstock

Benjamin Gorman, a poet and high school English teacher living in Independence, Oregon, points to the immediacy of poetry as its source of strength. Detailing the process of collaborating over Zoom with Eugene artist Kathleen Caprario for the piece “Patterns of Privilege: Now Hear This,” he recalls a line about poetry’s power that holds a permanent place in his mind.

“It’s from a conversation with Kim Stafford. He points to how poetry responds to what is happening as it is happening,” Gorman says of Stafford, Oregon’s former poet laureate, “unlike a novel that takes more time to put out after that initial spark.”

The immediacy and strength of poetry is what pulled Caprario, primarily a visual artist, into collaboration with three Oregon poets — Gorman, Bobbie Calhoun and

Carter McKenzie — for her upcoming work, which will be shown alongside the work of four other female artists in the exhibit *Social Being*, opening at Maude Kerns Art Center Jan. 14.

Gorman talks about how Caprario recognized that their poetry and her textiles “can communicate with one another in a way that will be beneficial to the reader of both kinds of texts.”

Caprario’s work interrogates her position of privilege as a white woman in an effort to re-examine her own patterns of communication and being without perpetuating what it is she interrogates. “Patterns of Privilege: Now Hear This” displays the printed poems in the sequence Caprario intends them to be read. Between them hang strips of white sheets depicting imagery evoked by the poems.

An adjunct instructor in art at Lane Community College

since 1995, Caprario has a well established, yet ever evolving, presence in Eugene’s arts community. After her husband’s death by suicide in 2001, Caprario, who had primarily worked in painting and textiles since her late teens and early 20s, stepped boldly into writing for the screen and dabbled in stand-up comedy. Her short film *Mourning After* was shown at the Non-Juried Short Film Corner in Cannes, France, in 2014. No matter what the medium, Caprario describes working in layers and making connections.

Caprario notes how in her early years as an artist, any idea that floated into her head felt like fair game. “Now I am much more aware,” she says. Her recent and upcoming work is about social justice. And she points out that it interrogates her position, rather than commenting on an experience she has not had. “That’s what a colonizing