

## ***“Tempestuous Microcosm” Jave Yoshimoto, 2019***



Yoshimoto offers a series of paintings and sculptures on the theme of humanitarian crisis. Drawing from his own experiences volunteering with the refugee crisis in Greece, collecting stories in Nepal after the 2015 earthquake, and researching the devastation of the Japanese tsunami of 2011, Yoshimoto's eye is finely tuned to the particulars of human trauma in scales both vast and intimate. With dizzying vividness, Yoshimoto's work references aesthetics as diverse as the 18th century woodblock prints of Hokusai and the frenetic smartphone journalism of today. While this exhibition encourages viewers to access their own reserves of empathy, it also challenges us to consider ways in which scenes of disaster are often consumed as entertainment, only to be quickly swept away by a wave of new headlines and other distractions.



*“This was my way of trying to cope with that trauma.”*

### ***Meet the Artist!***



Jave Yoshimoto is an artist and educator of multi-cultural background. He was born in Japan to Chinese parents and immigrated to the United States at a young age. He believes in creating art works that are socially conscious and true to his authentic self. Yoshimoto received his Bachelors from University of California Santa Barbara in Studio Art, his Post-baccalaureate Certificate in Painting and Drawing and Masters of Art in Art Therapy at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and his Masters of Fine Arts in Painting at Syracuse University. He has experiences working as an art therapist/mental health professional, as well as being a painting instructor and as a teaching artist. He served as an artist-in-residence at various artist colonies across the United States. Yoshimoto was a member of the 2015 Union Fellowship cohort.

## *Art as Activism*

Jave Yoshimoto uses his artwork to raise awareness and money for humanitarian causes. This activity invites you to create artwork for a cause close to your heart.

<https://www.u-ca.org/exhibition/tempestuous-microcosm>

### ***Essential Questions***

What is your cause?

Why is it important to you?

What do you most want other people to know about your cause?

What actions can people take to help your cause?

What can you do with your artwork to share it with more people?



1. Think of about societal issues that matter to you. This could include issues about the environment, social justice, public health concerns, systemic inequalities, etc. Choose the issue that you are most passionate about to be your cause for this activity.
2. Use the essential questions to dig deeper into understanding your cause. Get permission to do research on your topic and make notes of your findings.
3. Brainstorm imagery and words that represent your chosen cause. This could include slogans, quotes, symbols, photographs, or even your own personal reflections on the cause.
4. Create a work of art about your cause using your favorite medium.
5. Share your artwork with family and friends, discuss your ideas and share with them your answers to the essential questions.