

BELONGING AS SURVIVAL: Creativity, Activism, and Community

Friday, April 1, 2022

AND TRACING OUR CREATIVE ORIGINS: A Workshop with Sita Kuratomi Bhaumik

Thursday, March 31, 2022

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



WHAT TO KNOW

- ⦿ A virtual event will feature artist, author, and food activist Sita Kuratomi Bhaumik in conversation with chef activist Jocelyn Jackson, artist and educator Patrick “Pato” Hebert, and USC professor Adrian De Leon.
- ⦿ Separately, Sita Kuratomi Bhaumik will lead an interactive workshop inviting participants to trace their creative origins through art.

“Life is not what you alone make it. Life is the input of everyone who touched your life and every experience that entered it. We are all part of one another.”—Yuri Kochiyama

ABOUT THE ARTISTS AND SPEAKERS

SITA KURATOMI BHAUMIK is an artist, co-founder of People’s Kitchen Collective, educator, and author of the forthcoming book *We Make Constellations of the Stars* (Kaya Press). Her work focuses on decolonization, the hierarchy of the senses, and the impact of migration and has been called a “joyous political critique.” Raised in Los Angeles, Tongva land, she is now based in Oakland, Ohlone land, and has worked internationally.

ADRIAN DE LEON is an assistant professor of American Studies and Ethnicity at USC, where he serves on the steering committee of the Center for Transpacific Studies.

PATRICK “PATO” HEBERT is an artist, educator, and organizer who works across a range of media including photography, installation, sculpture, language, light, and graphic design. He splits his time between Los Angeles and New York, where he teaches at NYU Tisch School for the Arts in Art and Public Policy. Pato’s work explores the aesthetics, ethics, and poetics of interconnectedness.

JOCELYN JACKSON is a cook activist, co-founder of People’s Kitchen Collective, and founder of JUSTUS Kitchen. Her approach to cooking is informed by her passion for seasonal food, social justice, creativity, and community. Jackson creates healing food experiences that inspire folks to reconnect with themselves, the earth, and one another, with the goal of collective liberation. She is trained as an artist, attorney, and environmental educator.

PEOPLE'S KITCHEN COLLECTIVE

The People's Kitchen Collective is an Oakland-based political education project including chefs, artists, and activists who use food as a tool to build community. They believe in radical hospitality as a strategy to address the urgent social issues of our time. In 2018 they created a seated meal for 500 people at the West Oakland intersection where Little Bobby Hutton, the first member of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, was murdered by police.

ESTAMOS CONTRA EL MURO | WE ARE AGAINST THE WALL:

Estamos Contra el Muro | We are Against the Wall was a 2016 project to build and destroy a border wall made entirely of piñatas. Led by artist Sita Kuratomi Bhaumik, it included a collective of piñata makers, DJs, chefs, muralists, musicians, and poets. The project encouraged community members to use all of the skills available to them to defend the rights of immigrants.

“How does culture survive?”
—Sita Kuratomi Bhaumik

VOCABULARY CORNER

social art practice: art that focuses on engagement, interaction, and social discourse. It is often participatory, involving people as part of the art. Related and overlapping terms include **socially engaged practice**, **participatory art**, and **relational aesthetics**.

KAYA PRESS

Kaya Press is the premier publisher of cutting-edge Asian and Pacific Islander diasporic writers in the United States. The press is housed in the USC Department of American Studies and Ethnicity.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- ⦿ In her art practice, Sita talks about the connections between feeling, sensing, and surviving. What does belonging *feel* like to you? Is it a temperature? A sensation? What does it feel like to belong?
- ⦿ The People's Kitchen Collective says, “We believe in radical hospitality as a strategy to address the urgent social issues of our time.” What do you think they mean by “radical hospitality”? And how can this be used as a strategy to address urgent social issues?
- ⦿ How might art create a sense of connection and belonging?
- ⦿ What are some important ways of connecting in your community?
- ⦿ What are your “creative origins”?



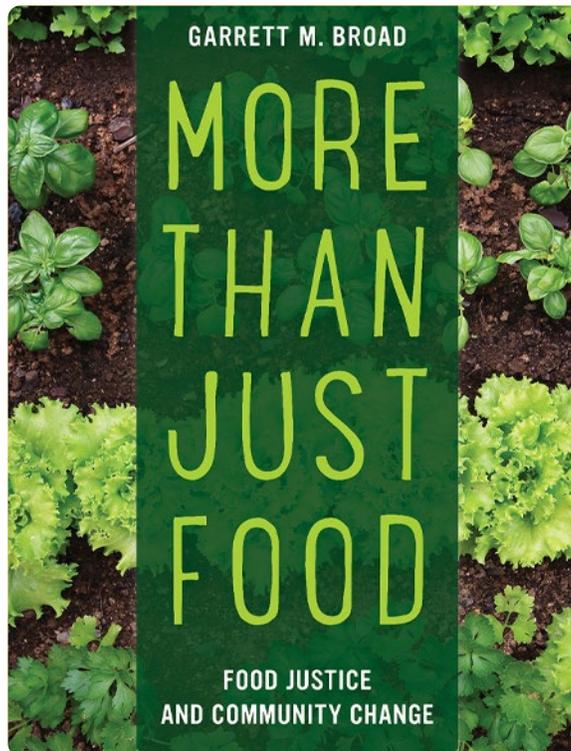
Sita Kuratomi Bhaumik is an artist, co-founder of People's Kitchen Collective, educator, and author



Estamos Contra el Muro | We are Against the Wall, 2016

IF YOU LIKED THIS EVENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:

- 🕒 **Sita Bhaumik online** | sitabhaumik.com, @sitabhaumik
- 🕒 **People's Kitchen Collective**
peopleskitchencollective.com, @510PK
- 🕒 **JUSTUS Kitchen** | justuskitchen.com, @JUSTUSkitchen
- 🕒 **Pato Hebert online** | patohebert.com
- 🕒 **Community Services Unlimited** | csuinc.org, @csuinc
- 🕒 **Kaya Press** | kaya.com
- 🕒 **The Othering and Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley**
belonging.berkeley.edu
- 🕒 **Upcoming Visions and Voices events:**
 - 4/14:** [Crafting Change: An Afternoon with the Social Justice Sewing Academy](#)
 - 4/15:** [Make Mend: Kintsugi Hack](#)
 - 4/21:** [Ku'er Worlds: Queering Chinese American Identities in Art and Film](#)
 - 4/22:** [Ku'er Worlds: Art and Filmmaking Workshop](#)
 - 4/29-30:** [South of Expo: Art, Artists, and Cultural Spaces Since the 1960s](#)



DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

Ariana Varela of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about this event. Electronic resources are accessible through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at libraries.usc.edu but may require the user to log in using their USC credentials.

ARTICLE

James C. Kaufman, "[Looking Forward: The Potential of Creativity for Social Justice and Equity \(and Other Exciting Outcomes\)](#)," *The Journal of Creative Behavior* 51, no. 4 (2017): 305-7.

BOOKS

Garrett M. Broad, [More Than Just Food: Food Justice and Community Change](#) (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2016).

Moshoula Capous-Desyllas and Karen Morgaine, eds., [Creating Social Change Through Creativity: Anti-Oppressive Arts-Based Research Methodologies](#) (Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2018).

Lee Anne Bell, [Storytelling for Social Justice: Connecting Narrative and the Arts in Antiracist Teaching](#) (New York: Routledge, 2020).

Joshua Sbicca, [Food Justice Now! Deepening the Roots of Social Struggle](#) (Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2018).

STREAMING VIDEOS

Helen De Michiel, Sophia Constantinou, and Mike Shen, [Lunch Love Community](#) (Bullfrog Films, 2017).

Mark Dworkin and Melissa Young, [Good Food](#) (Bullfrog Films, 2008).

DATABASES

[Food and Drink in History](#)

[Food Studies Online](#)

[Public Art Archive](#)

[Creative Commons Search](#)

