

KATIE YAMASAKI

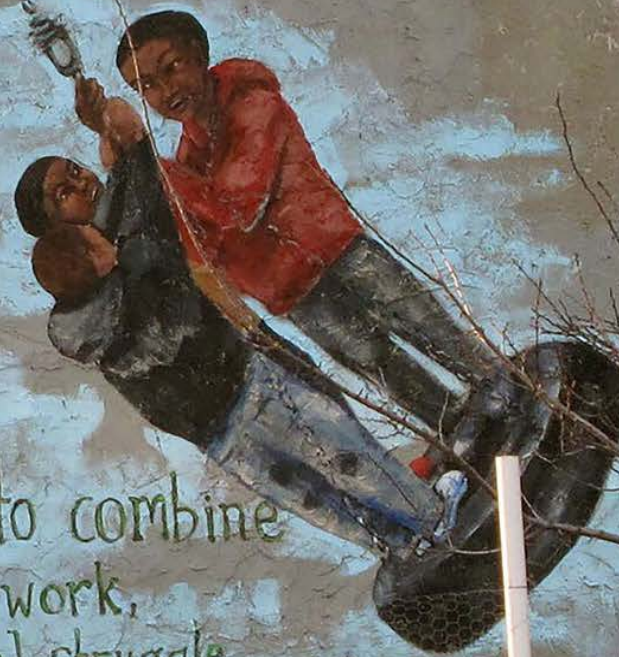
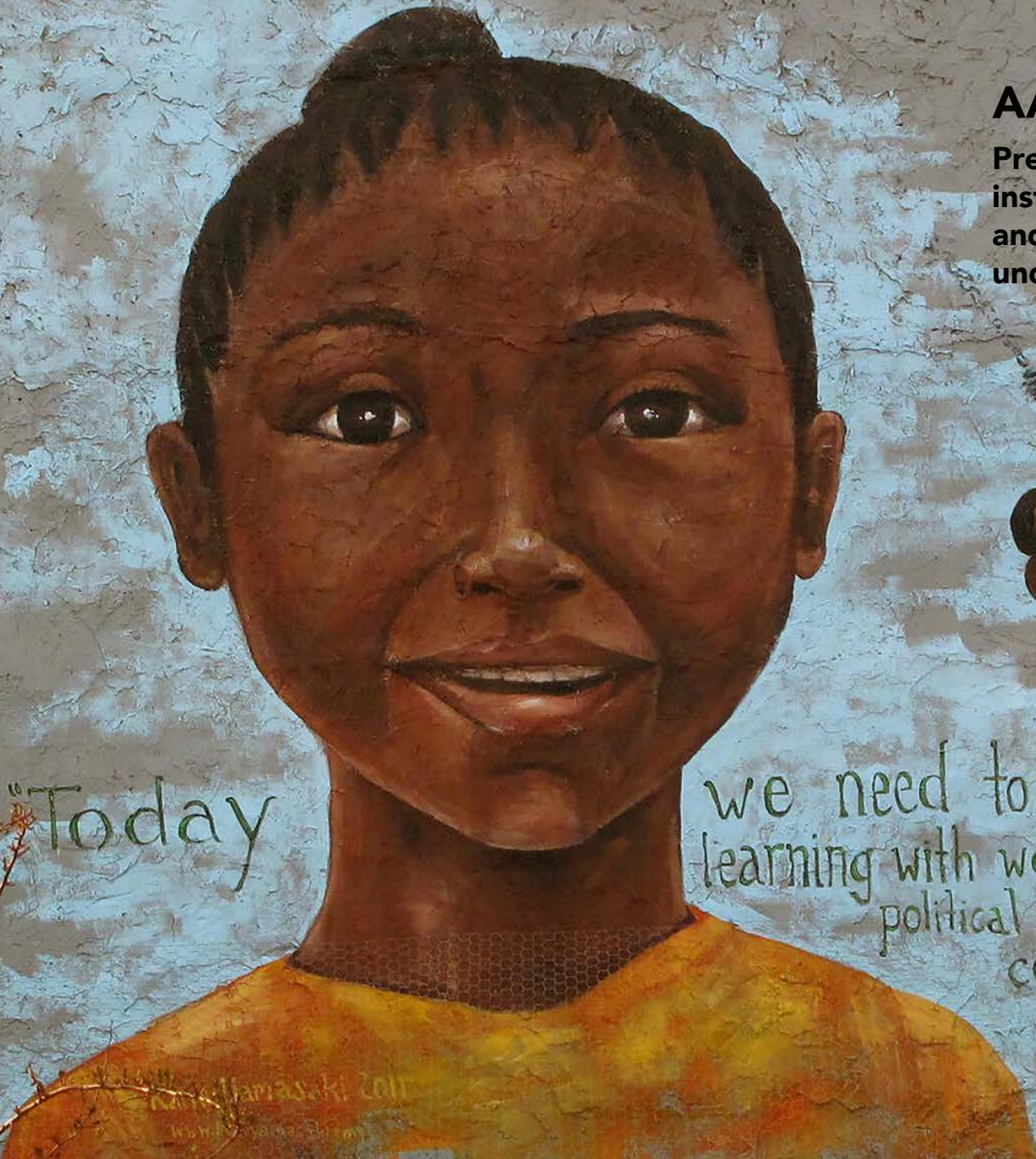
ARTIST, AUTHOR, MURALIST

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR VISITS

School visits to public, private, and independent schools for readers of all ages.

AAPI STORIES & CONVERSATIONS

Presentations and workshops for diverse institutions interested in expanding the depth and breadth of their relationship to and understanding of the AAPI community.



Today

we need to combine
learning with work,
political struggle,
community service and even play.
-Grace Lee Boggs

Katie Yamasaki 2011



KATIE YAMASAKI is happy to bring her stories and art to your community. Katie travels widely, connecting with students across the country and has shared her work in public, private, independent, and university school settings with readers of all ages. She has also toured her work in museum spaces, public libraries, community centers, parenting programs, churches, and correctional facilities throughout the country.

Depending on which book and topic the community is most interested in exploring, Katie will tailor her talk to best meet the needs and interests of the audience.

Katie is also a muralist and has painted over 80 murals in diverse communities around the world. Her murals, similar to her books, focus on local issues of social justice and identity. In every presentation and conversation, Katie weaves in related stories that have come from painting in community with folks from diverse walks of life.

One of the things Katie has become most known for is her ability to speak with children of all ages, their parents, teachers, and caretakers, about challenging social issues of everyday life. Katie was a public school teacher for 14 years and is able to discuss tough topics with sensitivity and dignity that are at once extremely common, but also socially stigmatized. For example, Katie uses her books "Fish for Jimmy" and "Dad Bakes," and her extensive experience partnering with communities impacted by incarceration, to talk about mass incarceration, family separation, and reconnecting with a family member who has returned home. Please see the full list of topics organized by book below.

ART WORKSHOPS

Katie was a public school art teacher for 12 years and after each presentation, is happy to do a related art workshop with your community. Art workshops can take place in any setting and context, with any age and experience level. It is not possible to do day or week-long mural projects in connection with author visits.

BOOK SIGNINGS

Place an order in advance of your event through your local bookseller or Katie's publisher and she will be happy to sign and personalize books for readers in your community.

AAPI

Katie is often sought out to speak on her unique perspective and life experience as a member of the AAPI community. Using art and storytelling as a vehicle for communication and community building, Katie creates open spaces for dialogue and listening about the often overlooked, under-told issues and stories of the AAPI community today. If your institution is looking to deepen and expand its relationship and connection to the AAPI community, Katie will bring a fresh perspective delivered in engaging visuals and poignant stories from everyday life.





FEES will be established based on several factors including: number of and length of presentation(s) and art workshop(s), travel, and length of visit.

All schedules, fees, and speaking details will be established with:

Rolisa Tutwyler
of CCMNT Speakers.

rtutwyler@ccmntspeakers.com

FISH FOR JIMMY Topics Explored:

AAPI History, WWII, mass incarceration/
internment, family separation, identity,
immigration, family memoir

"A dramatic, visual feast."
— *The New York Times*





- Rosie 8-2016

- Tates 7-2016
- Lila - 5-2016

- Lila 7-2016

- Lila 8-2016

WHEN THE COUSINS CAME

Topics Explored:

Multiracial families, diversity, identity, belonging, learning about our own families, how differences are what makes our relationships strong and special

- School Library Journal Starred Review
- Kirkus Best Books 2018
- Kirkus Starred Review

"A refreshing, reassuring, and honest story about family and friendship that stands out."
— School Library Journal, Starred Review

EVERYTHING NAOMI LOVED

Topics Explored:

Gentrification, being a good neighbor, telling our stories, looking for the helpers, creativity as a way to cope with hard changes, connecting with community as a way to face challenging times

"The nostalgic beauty and uniqueness of New York neighborhoods comes to life in this lush, vibrant book...with Yamasaki complementing the poignant message with delightful and memorable illustrations." — Booklist

"Naomi's home - its sights, smells, sounds, and interactions - is forever a place of love."
— Kirkus Reviews

"Yamasaki and Lendler convey the loss of a living, breathing community beset by gentrification. Muralist Yamasaki...champions the power of ordinary people to preserve what's lost through art."
— Publisher's Weekly, Starred Review

- Publishers Weekly Starred Review
- 2020 Junior Library Guild Selection





DAD BAKES

Topics Explored:

Parental incarceration and re-entry, alternative family structures, children of incarcerated parents, challenging binary thinking, everyone is more than one thing, waiting

- 2021 Best Books of the Year New York Public Library
- 2021 Best Books of the Year Publishers Weekly
- 2021 Best Books of the Year Amazon
- School Library Journal Starred Review
- Publishers Weekly Starred Review
- 2021 Best Books of the Year Kirkus
- 2021 Junior Library Guild Selection
- Kirkus Starred Review

"Laced with themes of community, identity and love, author-illustrator Katie Yamasaki's picture books offer sensitive, nuanced stories in an accessible format—a description that also fits her work as an internationally renowned muralist. Inspired by her work with formerly incarcerated people, Yamasaki's latest book, Dad Bakes, centers a father, his daughter, and the loving relationship between them."

— Publishers Weekly Starred Review



**SHAPES, LINES, AND LIGHT:
My Grandfather's American Journey**

Topics Explored:

AAPI History, immigration, racial profiling, architecture and space making, working conditions, mass incarceration, being a person of color in a white space, intergenerational relationships: how to ask questions of our elders, what gets passed down between generations, family memoir

"An American story of beating the odds and overcoming bigotry to create something greater than oneself. Inspiring." — Kirkus Reviews

- 2022 Best Books of the Year New York Public Library
- 2023 Michigan Notable Books, Michigan Public Libraries

PLACE HAND HERE

Topics Explored:

Being separated from people we love, community, parental incarceration, safe spaces, being seen, friendship, waiting, mothers who are incarcerated and the impact on an individual and community



TESTIMONIALS



"I wanted to thank Katie for her visit to Packer. In my 18+ years as a librarian, that was by far one of the BEST presentations I've ever seen. Both her presentations were incredibly touching, real, fun, informative, and perfectly age appropriate. The students and teachers thought so too."

— Megan Kilgallen, Pre/Lower School Librarian, the Packer Collegiate Institute

"Thank you for this incredibly kind email and for such an amazing visit. You really exceeded my high expectations and I know the students had such fun while also engaging in really deep thinking about topics that matter - the dream! From our assembly to the workshops to inspiring our Middle School students (and their art teacher), it was such a success."

— Megan Westman, Lower School Librarian, The Nightingale-Bamford School

"The same love and empathy that Katie expresses so viscerally through her words and images come through when she is speaking. In that way, the love and empathy transfers, making us all feel like one close family. I feel more connected to my fellow human being when I hear Katie speak about her work and that is as much of a gift to take away as one of her books!"

— Julia Putnam, Principal of the James and Grace Lee Boggs School, Detroit

"That was SO BRILLIANT, Katie! We are so happy for this partnership. Your work discusses such important feelings and issues. It was so captivating and being able to show the kids how to start thinking about drawing a mural was awesome! Finding what they love about where they live is a BIG DEAL. IT REALLY WAS SO SPECIAL!!!"

— Adriana Alba, Children's Aid Society

"Thank you again for coming in - your stories touched so many people, myself included. Thank you for the inspiring session."

— Jenna Discher, Global OD Specialist, Momentum Worldwide

"On behalf of the P.S. 44 school community, I'd like to express my gratitude for Katie's inspirational and engaging presentation. Katie is such a talented writer and author which further enhanced the presentation. It is evident that because of this opportunity it has fostered an educational impact on students. We are most appreciative and look forward to reading more of your wonderful books, and possibly having you visit in person in the upcoming future."

— Alisa D. Bialor, Librarian, P.S. 44R

TESTIMONIALS



"I wish I had a recording device on me to capture the effusive feedback we've received about your presentation. You have received nonstop praise from our community. In every interaction I've had with students and teachers, the word "awesome" keeps coming up; I think (for a change) they are actually using the word awesome as it was originally intended. What has filled us with awe? Your artistry, which (I mentioned in my intro) has personally inspired me to draw, paint, and make collages again. Your beautiful writing, which has attracted equal praise. Your proactive response to family trauma and social injustice that's made more than one of colleagues turn to me and whisper, "I should write a book about my own family's story. It doesn't exist...yet. But it would make a great children's book." Most gratifying (to me, as their librarian) is how in the wake of your presentation, students are hugging your books to their chests, and spreading the word to their classmates about how they should really, really read the book, too. So, thank you! We really appreciate the connections you've forged, both inside our individual brains, and collectively, within our community."

— Natasha Goldberg, Chapin Middle School Librarian

"Katie Yamasaki has the ability to make emotional connections through her storytelling that appeals to the best in each of us. Her mastery in framing the complex topics of our lives in simple terms that anyone can empathize with makes her all the more special as a public speaker and sought-after storyteller."

— Jim Zhu, Principal, Deloitte Consulting

"Katie Yamasaki is a quintessential storyteller. Using multiple modalities, visual and oral forms of communication, she weaves together complex understandings of themes ranging from urban change and mass incarceration to the ways we treat each other and heal our communities. Being able to watch Katie speak is like watching a plant grow from bud to blossom, and reaping the benefits of its beauty and insights."

— R. L'Heureux Lewis-McCoy, Ph.D. Associate Professor Sociology of Education, NYU, Author of *Inequality in the Promised Land*

"Just wanted to take a moment to thank you for the awesome school experience you gave our Early Childhood scholars today. Providing our scholars exposure to all different types of texts, the arts, and the world around them is extremely important to us. Our scholars were so excited, engaged, and inspired. It was great to hear scholars talk about it during their lunch and recess and it is great to hear the ways some of the teachers are going to build on your visit. The feedback was great and we hope you feel the same about your presentation."

— Kevin Won, Assistant Principal, P.S./I.S. 288, The Shirley Tanyhill School