

Artful Films That Challenge Stereotypes



Kimi Takesue

Associate Professor, Department of Arts, Culture, and Media

CURRENT RESEARCH

Documenting ordinary lives to illuminate the extraordinary nature of cross-cultural connection

Film has the unique capacity to connect us to worlds outside of ourselves and, thus, deepen our understanding of other life experiences, while also increasing our self-understanding. Kimi Takesue, Associate Professor of Arts, Culture, and Media at Rutgers University, is an award-winning filmmaker who explores the complex dynamics of cross-cultural encounters. Her films examine the meeting point when people from different worlds search for communication and connection. Over the last 20 years, she has produced and directed nine acclaimed films in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the US. All of Takesue's films are structured as immersive sensory experiences that invite the viewer to "be part of the journey." She encourages audiences to see the visual poetry of everyday life and to look deeply at things they might otherwise overlook. Takesue moves among genres in order to express different ideas, experiment with various filmic languages, and, perhaps most importantly, inspire audiences to see and reflect upon the world in a new way.

In addressing social issues, Takesue creates artful films that challenge stereotypes, encourage contemplation and, hopefully, increase our sensitivity, empathy, and understanding of others. Her evocative, formally innovative films have stimulated engaged discussion and meaningful dialogue around identity, cultural representations, cross-cultural encounters, tourism, documentary practices, and globalization.

Takesue's films have a distinctive and intimate perspective since she often fills both creative and technical roles as Director, Producer, Cinematographer, and Editor. In the US, there is little industry support for contemplative forms of filmmaking; therefore,...

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AFFILIATION



Rutgers University

EDUCATION

- M.F.A. in Film and Media Arts, Temple University
- B.A. in Cultural Studies & Women's Studies, Oberlin College

AWARDS

- John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship-Film
- Rockefeller Media Arts Fellowship-Film & Video
- New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship-Film & Video
- Gold Medal & Grand Jury Prize: Brno International Short Film Festival, Czech Republic
- Grand Jury Prize & Audience Award: Brooklyn International Film Festival, New York
- and 2 more...

RESEARCH AREAS

Humanities, Global Policy

FUNDING REQUEST

Takesue's intimate observational documentaries are made extremely resourcefully as she is Director, Producer, Cinematographer, and Editor. \$25K-\$100K are required for travel, production (housing, food, equipment), post-production (sound mix, color correction) and distribution. Takesue hopes to expand her projects and collaborate with a creative team (Producer, Cinematographer, Sound Recordist and Editor). Larger scale documentaries with a crew require substantially more money, in the range of \$125K-\$250K. Become an essential partner of culturally relevant art that brings to light those who are marginalized and often over-looked; support Kimi Takesue's work.