

NAVIGATING WITH(OUT) INSTRUMENTS

poetry - micro essays - notes to self

traci kato-kiriyama

From the publisher:

With their second book, *Navigating With(out) Instruments*, traci kato-kiriyama uses her present—political unrest, family love and loss, her own cancer diagnosis—to bridge the traumas of the past generations with the hope of the future ones.

Often seamless, often with a loud bang, kato-kiriyama moves from genre to genre, from poetry to prose, essay to monologue to letters—framed by US colonialism and war mongering alongside the intimate navigation through memory, death, and transformation—to urge readers to protect and to share their legacies, both personal and communal, as a means of global survival.

“traci kato-kiriyama is our time’s flame bearer, warning us of past wrong turns and shining light immediately in front of us. She belongs to the circle of poets who release words to restore, galvanize, and goad. I will be picking up *Navigating With(out) Instruments* often to remind myself where we’ve been and to determine where we need to go. An essential addition to a 21st century library.”

Naomi Hirahara; author of the Mas Arai series & *Clark and Division*

“Not all books do something, but traci kato-kiriyama’s *Navigating With(out) Instruments* does because it envisions us. The book teaches me tiny, tender, and courageous ways I can transform now and next time on my own way to getting free next to everyone else getting free.”

Sara Borjas; author of *Heart Like a Window, Mouth Like a Cliff*

“Like Ishmael Reed, traci kato-kiriyama believes *writin’ is fightin’* and she pulls no punches in this incandescent offering. traci is one of our most necessary voices, fighting cancer, dislocation and marginalization, death in the family and death in life, articulating community against a fierce headwind. Hitting a multiplicity of registers, traci speaks the names of resistance.”

Sesshu Foster; author of *City of the Future*

Host tkk & NWI for EVENTS

- ◆ Book Party *in your city!*
- ◆ Reading + Book Signing
- ◆ Host tkk for a Private Salon
- ◆ Customized In-Conversation Events

WORKSHOPS

- ◆ Reading + Writing Workshop
on various themes tied to NWI
- ◆ Talk & Workshop *feat.*
veteran organizer Kathy Masaoka
- ◆ Tea & Letter Writing Workshop
feat. zine maker Mya Worrell

**and any variety of
APPEARANCES INTERVIEWS PODCASTS
on themes tied to NWI**

traci kato-kiriyama (they+she)

is an award-winning multi-, inter-, and transdisciplinary artist, recognized for their work as a writer, performer, theatre deviser, cultural producer, and community organizer.

Their recognition & support includes the Art Matters Foundation; the CA State Senate Breaking Silence Award; ONE Archives Pride Publics; and the NEFA National Theatre Project for [TALES OF CLAMOR](#) and [PULLproject Ensemble](#).

tkk’s writing, commentary and work appears in numerous media and print publications (incl. NPR; PBS; Elle.com; Entropy; Chaparral Canyon Press; Tia Chucha Press; Bamboo Ridge Press; Heyday Books; Temple UP).

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List Price: \$15.95

Poetry

5.25" x 8" (20.3 x 13.3cm)

262 pages

Writ Large Projects

ISBN 9781951628000

Writ Large Projects includes Writ Large Press – established in 2007 – publishing unique and stunning books & sharing stories to build networked communities of readers, writers, and indie publishers from groups who have often been overlooked, marginalized, and silenced.



traciakemi.com

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NAVIGATING WITH(OUT) INSTRUMENTS

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traci kato-kiriyama / tkk / (they + she)

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From the author:

Navigating With(out) Instruments is a journey of several years—queer body diving into love, an aging body searching beyond loss, a surviving body dancing through(dis)ease—navigating through a context of **Death Moments**, past / ever-present tensions of war and violence, trauma and ideation, memory excavation...and the continuum of what keeps me sane and on a continual path of gratitude + healing and fighting forward—our relations, communities, proactive solidarity, collective resistance...our places, process, art, and ultimately what I live and die for again and again—our peoples, our love. - tkk

More praise for **Navigating With(out) Instruments** is available at traciakemi.com from:

F. Douglas Brown - D'Lo - Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo - Muriel Leung - Umi Hsu - Rocío Carlos MILCK - Beau Sia - Keiko Agena - Ashaki Jackson - Mike Sonksen - Yumi Sakugawa - Angela Peñaredondo - Allan Aquino - Dorothy Randall Gray - Faith Santilla - Surrija Rami El-Etreby - Naomi Ko - Zora Satchell - Jenny Yang - Dr. Curtiss Takada Rooks - Terry Wolverton - Khaty Xiong - Mistuye Yamada and many more...

Thematic Categories

Asian American; Queer
POC; Femme; Feminist; Nikkei

Intersectional Solidarity work;
Radical Love;

Community Organizing

Yellder (versus Melder);
Gen X; Sansei-Yonsei

Death (Moments);
Disease/Illness; Cancer;
Mental/Emotional/
Spiritual Wellness;
Collective Care

Los Angeles; Little Tokyo; Place;
Community Development

Art; Activism;
art + community;
Creative life and process

Ethnic Studies; Urban Studies;
Feminist Studies

FUN FACTS

- ▶ tkk's work and their book *Navigating With(out) Instruments* are being taught in contemporary literatures & cultures, contemporary poetry, Asian American Studies, and Ethnic Studies courses; and senior writing seminars on experimental poetry and creative writing (incl UCLA; CSUN; Colorado College; USC; Smith College).
- ▶ traci is an Audie Award nominee and AudioFile winner for her work as an audiobook performer, with titles including *The Memory Police*; *Temple Alley Summer*; *The Fervor*; *Intimacies*; *The Swimmers*; *The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World*; *Fred Korematsu Speaks Up!*; and *Marie Kondo's Kurashi at Home*.
- ▶ The OxyArts exhibition – "*Voice a Wild Dream: Moments in Asian American Art and Activism, 1968-2022*" – borrows its title from a poem in tkk's *Navigating With(out) Instruments*.
<https://oxyarts.oxy.edu/exhibitions/voice-wild-dream-moments-asian-american-art-and-activism-1968-2022>
- ▶ Several of tkk's pieces from *Navigating With(out) Instruments* are being featured throughout the 2022-2023 exhibition – "*Japanese American Resisters + Resilience During WWII*" – at the Wing Luke Museum in Seattle.
<https://www.wingluke.org/exhibit-japanese-american-resisters-resilience-during-world-war-ii>

- ▶ As a creative / educator – tkk has facilitated, directed, and taught to thousands of artists, activists, writers, students of all ages throughout the globe with workshops in the arenas of experimental creative writing, poetry, collaborative storytelling, ensemble building, theatre devising & performance. Their talks cover themes and issues including art & activism, solidarity work for the long-haul, mental health and collective care, arts organizing & cultural production / co-creating art + community space – (to name a few of tkk's hosts: UH Manoa; Pitzer College; Pomona College; Hammer Museum; Asian Arts Initiative in Philly; Asian Arts Freedom School in Toronto; KYCC; SIPA; KRC-NAKASEC; Okaeri; SEACA; Asian Youth Center; Khmer Girls in Action; Sakura Foundation; International Women's Writing Guild).

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OFFERINGS from traci kato-kiriyama

Navigating With(out) Instruments reading / talk / workshop

When a Book Takes a Long Time to Make Itself: a reading & talk on the long process of co-creating a book alongside a busy creative & community life, illness, and a heavy series of psychological blocks

- tkk reads selections of poetry and prose while sharing their process on the development of *Navigating With(out) Instruments* a book of poetry, micro essays, and notes to self, community & world.
- This combination reading + talk can be expanded to a workshop that includes facilitation of writing exercises and prompts throughout, including some of the forms utilized in NWI.
- themes & categories: mental health; death; illness/cancer; violence; memory excavation; queer; Asian American; family community; friendship and solidarity; activism, art & creative process; self-determination and success.

talk / reading

a big life: permission to never stop experimenting in creative form while having heavy commitments to activist, organizing, and deep solidarity work that tax you and inspire & ground you at the same time

- "Let traci be traci" was the recent request from a university for a talk tkk gave to students on their complex and sometimes arduous yet always growing, long journey as an artist, activist, community organizer, educator, and cultural producer.
- tkk will read and share a few selections of work throughout their talk on building time for creative, professional practice in a multitude of disciplines (theatre devising; literary arts incl. poetry; acting; performance art; multimedia work; public installation; multidisciplinary curation; voice work and audiobook narration; etc.) while maintaining deep and long haul commitments with organizations including Tuesday Night Project, Nikkei Progressives, Vigilant Love, Okaeri LGBTQ+ Network, the Why We Can't Wait Coalition, and the National Nikkei Reparations Coalition.
- tkk will share openly about times of burnout; mistakes and lessons learned; their ideals of self-determination and challenges to external concepts of "success"; holding and co-creating ways for rest, reflection, recalibration, organic ritual, movement, ecstatic joy/laughter/breaking bread, connection to land & belonging to each other, and ultimately, toward immense gratitude and collective badassery.

talk / panel / workshop

art+community, one word: a talk and conversation on 25 years of creative community building with Tuesday Night Project

- traci kato-kiriyama is the Director/Founder of Tuesday Night Project and Co-creator of Tuesday Night Cafe - at 24+ years in existence, is the longest-running Asian American public arts series in the nation. tkk will reflect on the history of TNP's programs, partnerships, and TNC as its central force - part performance & art space, part neighborhood revitalization project, and all ways a cultural entry point into a now extremely gentrified community.
- tkk will engage with the audience on their curiosities and questions around arts activism, Little Tokyo as a cultural hub amidst gentrification, building spaces and relationships for the long haul, how People are each other's greatest resources, & so on.
- Can include a guest speaker or two to form a panel (w/ present or past TNP staff and/or performer).

Special In-Conversation with tkk + Kathy Masaoka

Join tkk and veteran organizer Kathy Masaoka as they navigate through the themes of the book and talk story in relation to political organizing; artistic practice grounded in community; and their 20+ year history of friendship, close collaboration, and intergenerational solidarity work (incl. organizations like NCRR, Nikkei Progressives, and Vigilant Love).

A Tea & Letter Writing Practice with tkk + Mya Worrell

Through reflective zine and letter-writing exercises facilitated by tkk & zine maker Mya, participants will be served tea and read curated letters and write their own: to themselves, their community, and beyond. We can tailor this to your community or a thematic category — we've facilitated this workshop for Queer Nikkei and general audiences. Just inquire with us!

Coming soon...

a reflection circle on cultural activism and art+community building workshop with tkk & Sean Miura
a reading and workshop on art and cultural solidarity work with tkk & Taz Ahmed

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