



L. García-Nakata  
Navigating By Hand



Image: Lorraine García-Nakata. *Navigating*. 2015.

For immediate release

## Lorraine García-Nakata: A Retrospective, 1964-2015

### Exhibition Dates:

Sept 16 - Oct 25

### Artist Reception:

Sept 19, 2015 at 7PM

### Press Images &

### Artist Bio:

<http://bit.ly/1QygsR4>

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### GALERÍA DE LA RAZA

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Galería de la Raza is pleased to present *Navigating By Hand*, a retrospective exhibition featuring the work of prolific San Francisco artist **Lorraine García-Nakata**. Widely known for her exquisite large-scale pastel and charcoal figure drawings, García-Nakata's mastery of an array of mediums from cast acrylic sculpture to tin miniature paintings is evident in this wide-ranging survey of her work, dating from 1964 to present.

In contrast to the chronological focus retrospective exhibitions traditionally follow, *Navigating By Hand* maps distinct, albeit intertwined, trajectories. While García-Nakata's artistic maturation follows a linear path, she has produced visual representations of her personal history both contemporarily and as memoir. In her earliest works, we see Lorraine's childhood crayon drawings interpret colonialist 1950s schoolbook histories. In a later work, reflecting a time when the *quinceañera* had fallen from popular favor, we see a young Lorraine's coming-of-age celebrated at a high school formal. Imagery of the artist's family and visual reflections upon her career in arts administration stand as a testament to García-Nakata's dedication to both family and work. In depictions ranging from ethereal visions of indigenous ancestry to a ceremonial passing-on of contemporary Chican@ cultural traditions, we come to understand how various influences—from the beehive hair-do, to membership in the Royal Chicano Air Force, to the values that galvanized *El Movimiento*—have contributed to the Lorraine of the present, and perhaps even hint at her legacy to come.

The title of the exhibition, *Navigating by Hand*, draws attention to the intersections of Lorraine's personal history, creative processes, cultural and political influences, and gestures to the multiple mediums and artforms in which she works. The artist's life story on display, often depicted larger-than-life, invites us to witness seminal and everyday moments through her eyes, as guided by her own hand.