Hiroshima Survivor to Speak at OU Art Museum

NORMAN, OKLA. – Hiroshima bomb survivor Takashi Tanemori will present a complimentary public lecture at the University of Oklahoma’s Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art in conjunction with the museum’s new exhibition, Beyond the Battlefield.

Tanemori’s talk will be held at 2 p.m., Tuesday, March 24, in the museum’s Sandy Bell Gallery, and a reception and book signing will follow. During his visit to campus, he also will speak in several classes and meet with faculty and students.

Elyssa Faison, associate professor of Japanese history and women’s and gender studies at OU, met Tanemori several years ago at a presentation at the Berkeley Center for Japanese studies. Faison was influential in bringing him to the OU campus.

“It is a privilege for us to be able to host Mr. Tanemori here at OU,” Faison said. “There are not many atomic bomb survivors still living today, and even fewer who are as active and willing to share their stories as he is. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most people in the OU community.”

Tanemori was a child at the time of the Hiroshima bombing, and he lost most of his family in the explosion. He moved to the United States at age 18 and worked as a farm laborer. When people discovered that he was
an atomic bomb survivor, he was hospitalized and used for medical experimentation. He later turned to Christianity and attended seminary to become a pastor. He currently resides in Berkeley, California.

Today Tanemori is an activist, lecturer, poet and artist. His artwork primarily depicts scenes of war and personal memories from the bombing. Several documentaries and short films about Hiroshima feature Tanemori and his story of survival. He is legally blind and is accompanied by an assistant and a service dog.

The OU College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of History, the Religious Studies Program, the College of International Studies’ Department of International Area Studies and the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art are sponsors of the event.

_Beyond the Battlefield: Depictions of War_ is on display at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art until May 10.

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is located in the OU Arts District on the corner of Elm Avenue and Boyd Street, at 555 Elm Ave., on the OU Norman campus. Admission to the museum is complimentary to all visitors, thanks to a generous gift from the OU Athletics Department. Information and accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling (405) 325-4938 or visiting [www.ou.edu/fjjma](http://www.ou.edu/fjjma).

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