

Joy Kogawa
#1418, 25 The Esplanade
Toronto, On, M5E 1W5

Lisa Cherry
% 1904-3230 Yonge St
Toronto, On., M4N 3P6

September, 2021

Dear Lisa,

Growing up during World War II, as a Canadian child of Japanese ancestry, I was seen as the 'enemy,' guilty by association with Japan, the country of my parents' birth. The Japanese Canadian community was uprooted from the west coast, our properties confiscated, and we were flung across the country with the injunction that we were not to know one another. The glances of strangers, the slightly curled lip, the faintest flare of the nostril were unspoken signals that shuddered through my soul during the delicate stages of identity formation.

Artists Against Racism is a far-reaching initiative to transform the psychic damages of racism.

Thank you Lisa for your strong and dedicated light. I wish that AAR had existed years earlier.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy Kogawa".

Joy Kogawa