

## **GENERATION: THE ROOTS OF MAKING IN THE ASAWA-LANIER FAMILY**

Ruth's Table Gallery  
January 12 - March 31, 2023

### **PRESS RELEASE**



Aiko Lanier Cuneo, *Dancing Dots and Triangles*, 2021.

*“Learn something. Apply it. Pass it on so it is not forgotten.” - Ruth Asawa*

Ruth's Table is proud to present *Generation: The Roots of Making in the Asawa-Lanier Family*, a group exhibition that brings together four generations from a San Francisco family of makers. Inspired by our namesake, world-renowned artist Ruth Asawa, the exhibition serves as an opportunity to honor Asawa's life-long commitment to community-based art education and activism in the arts.

The word *generation* can have several meanings. A generation is a group of people born and living at the same time. It can also mean creating or making.

“The first generation, Ruth Asawa and Albert Lanier, showed by example how to make their home a place for the family to have the freedom to experiment. By encouraging their children to play with ideas and materials, Asawa and Lanier fostered a culture of creativity, experimentation, and lifelong learning. It was not unusual for their children and grandchildren to hear “Try it!” when they had an idea. Challenges were meant to spur solutions.

As a family, we saw that art can be made anywhere by anyone, whether in the garden, kitchen, classroom, and even in an artist's studio. In our house, it was common to find a bag of plaster next to the flour and sugar, pliers and screwdrivers in the kitchen, and plaster face-casting taking place on the kitchen table or the living room floor.” - Aiko Lanier Cuneo.

This exhibition brings together works in wire and lithography by Ruth Asawa; paintings, drawings, and birthday envelopes by Albert Lanier; paintings and a clay platter by Paul Lanier; textile, collage, and painting by Aiko Lanier Cuneo; origami portraits, paintings, and paper construction by Lilli Lanier; and paintings by Lucia Ruth Soriano. All of these artists have worked with one another on public commissions, as teaching artists in schools, and collaborated on pieces in this show.

The work exhibited in *Generation* spans 57 years from 1965 to 2022. Motifs including interwoven patterns of line; repetition; minimalism; and dynamic interactions between geometric shapes, color, and forms, appear in all artists' works creating inherent conversation and visual connections carried through varying media. Together, they form a story of four generations of a family that is joined not only in relationship, but by the curiosity and love of materials, color, and pattern.

“Timed to coincide with Ruth Asawa's birthday month, the exhibition also pays homage to the roots of Ruth's Table, an art center and gallery which was profoundly shaped by Asawa's values and continues to use the power of art to build a more connected, resilient, and inclusive community. *Generation* is a tribute to Ruth Asawa and is a testament that her values that live on through generations - in the Asawa-Lanier family, in her students, in communities and organizations, like Ruth's Table - that share her unwavering belief that creative engagement is essential and can impact the lives of people of all ages.” - Margarita Mukhsinova, Associate Director, Ruth's Table.

**Artists:**

Ruth Asawa, Albert Lanier, Aiko Lanier Cuneo, Lilli Lanier, Lucia Ruth Soriano, Paul Asawa Lanier

**Roots of Ruth's Table**

Established in 2009, Ruth's Table is named after an actual table, constructed by Ruth Asawa's husband architect Albert Lanier, at which Asawa created her own art and then donated to the organization, thus officially launching the start of the program. Today, Ruth's Table continues to strive to create social connections through creative engagement and build an environment where participatory arts are integral to life in our community.

Ruth's Table is a program of [Front Porch](#).

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### **Gallery Access Features**

Ruth's Table is committed to making our exhibition accessible to all visitors. The exhibition includes visual descriptions of each artwork, available in written and audio formats. Audio descriptions are available via QR codes on the wall labels. A comprehensive Braille guide and Braille labels are available for Deaf/Blind and visually impaired visitors. Exhibition materials are also available in large print. All related events have American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters, live captioning, and online components.

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Ruth's Table | 3160 21st Street, SF | [www.ruthstable.org](http://www.ruthstable.org)  
Gallery Hours: Tue - Fri 10am-5pm | Select Sat or by appointment

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