

## Conversations with Midori Morrow: Art for Change

### Chapter One

#### The Earth Did Not Weep For Herself, Instead She Wept For Her Children

This installation titled *The Earth Did Not Weep For Herself, Instead, She Wept For Her Children* is an exploration of the concealment of information through abstraction and encoded meaning when depicting tragedy. The concealment of information stems from my search for documents describing my family's experiences in the atomic bombings. This information is extremely difficult to obtain even though it outlines the experiences of my ancestors. Simultaneously I have been doing research into photographic archives of war and seeing the redacted images and propaganda that comes with war documentation. I found a link between my use of abstraction



of the images themselves and the use of veils to intentionally place barriers between the viewer and information. Throughout the installation you must move your body through space to gain access to some information. The symbolism embedded throughout the installation contains immense meaning that has been concealed by both of these elements.



The earth remembers what happened to it and a record of what we have done with our time here lives within this layer of history. This idea runs parallel to my thinking of generational trauma and what gets embedded into our DNA and passed down through time. How do histories that seemingly repeat each other interlock? Both my own histories as well as others around the globe are experiencing similar histories. I have been asking myself, how do we prevent ourselves from forgetting the past so as to not repeat it in the future? And finally thinking about the resilience and strength of the materials I am using and how it reflects the resilience of people. There is repeated use of materials that must withstand an intense making process. For example mulberry paper is delicate and must not get wet or exposed to the sun, however it stands up to this photographic process of cyanotype that requires multiple exposures to water and in the screens is holding itself up by thin cut pieces of paper.



