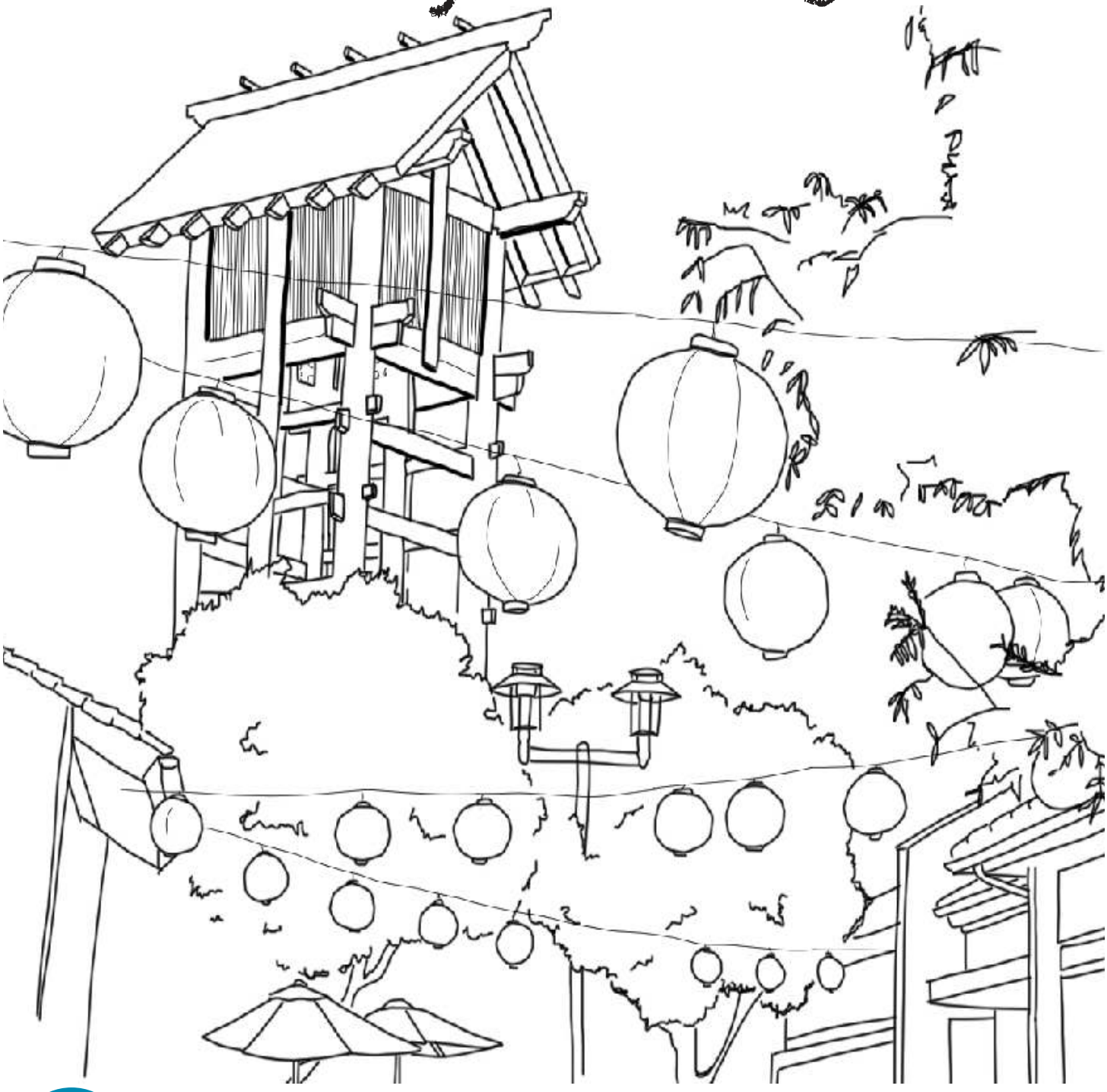
Staying Close to Home:

A Little Tokyo Coloring Book



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A Project of
Little Tokyo
Service Center

Erica Rawles | Creative Strategist

A note from the artist:

As we stay close to home during the Covid19 pandemic, I hope this coloring book provides you with a moment to relax and unwind. Whether Little Tokyo is your home, or right now, your home away from home, I hope the illustrations on these pages give you a small sense of comfort in an otherwise uncertain time. This coloring book serves as a love letter to Little Tokyo and the Little Tokyo Service Center--my last project as their Creative Strategist! I hope you enjoy coloring in these snapshots of Little Tokyo. A description of each illustration is located on the last page.

Erica Rawles
Creative Strategist / Embedded Artist
Little Tokyo Service Center

The Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) is a social service and community development organization committed to improving the lives of individuals and families through culturally sensitive social service care, strengthening neighborhoods through housing and community development, and promoting the rich heritage of our ethnic communities.

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Japanese Village Plaza, Little Tokyo
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Brian Kito, Fugetsudo
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Atomic Cafe [based on photograph by Mike Murase]
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Ramen from Suehiro Cafe
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In Living Culture, *Windows of Little Tokyo artwork by Jared Yamahata*
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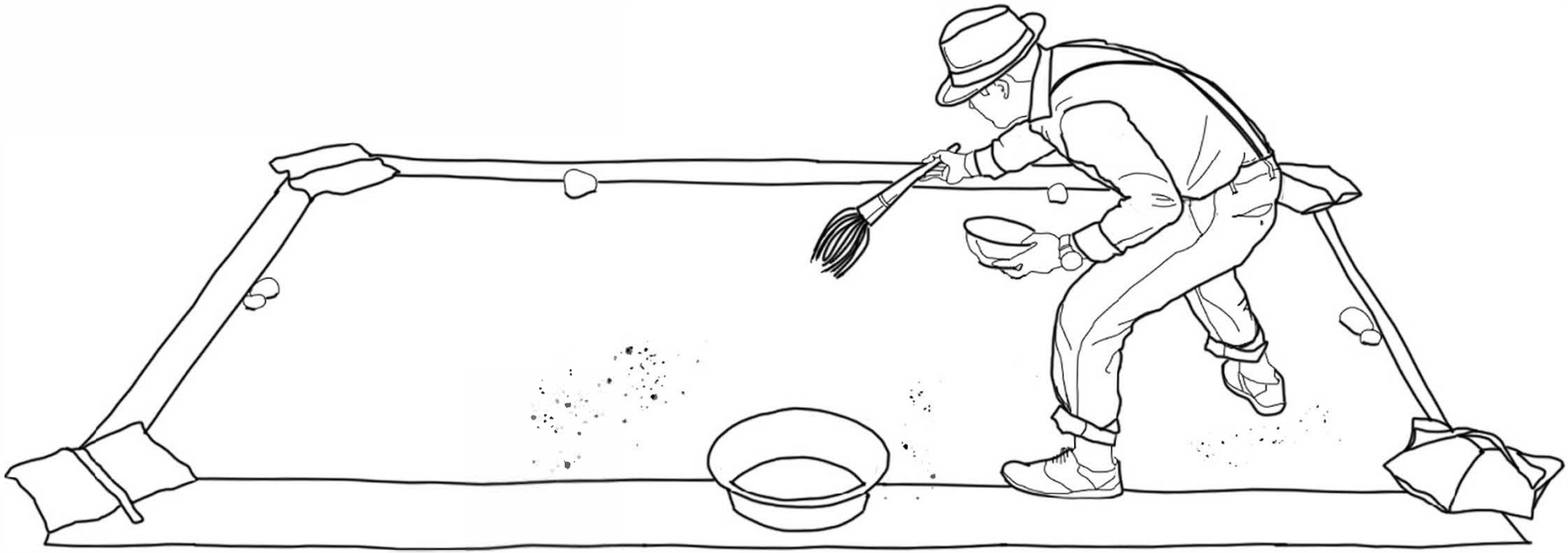
341 First Street North (FSN) Storefront
Erica Rawles | Creative Strategist



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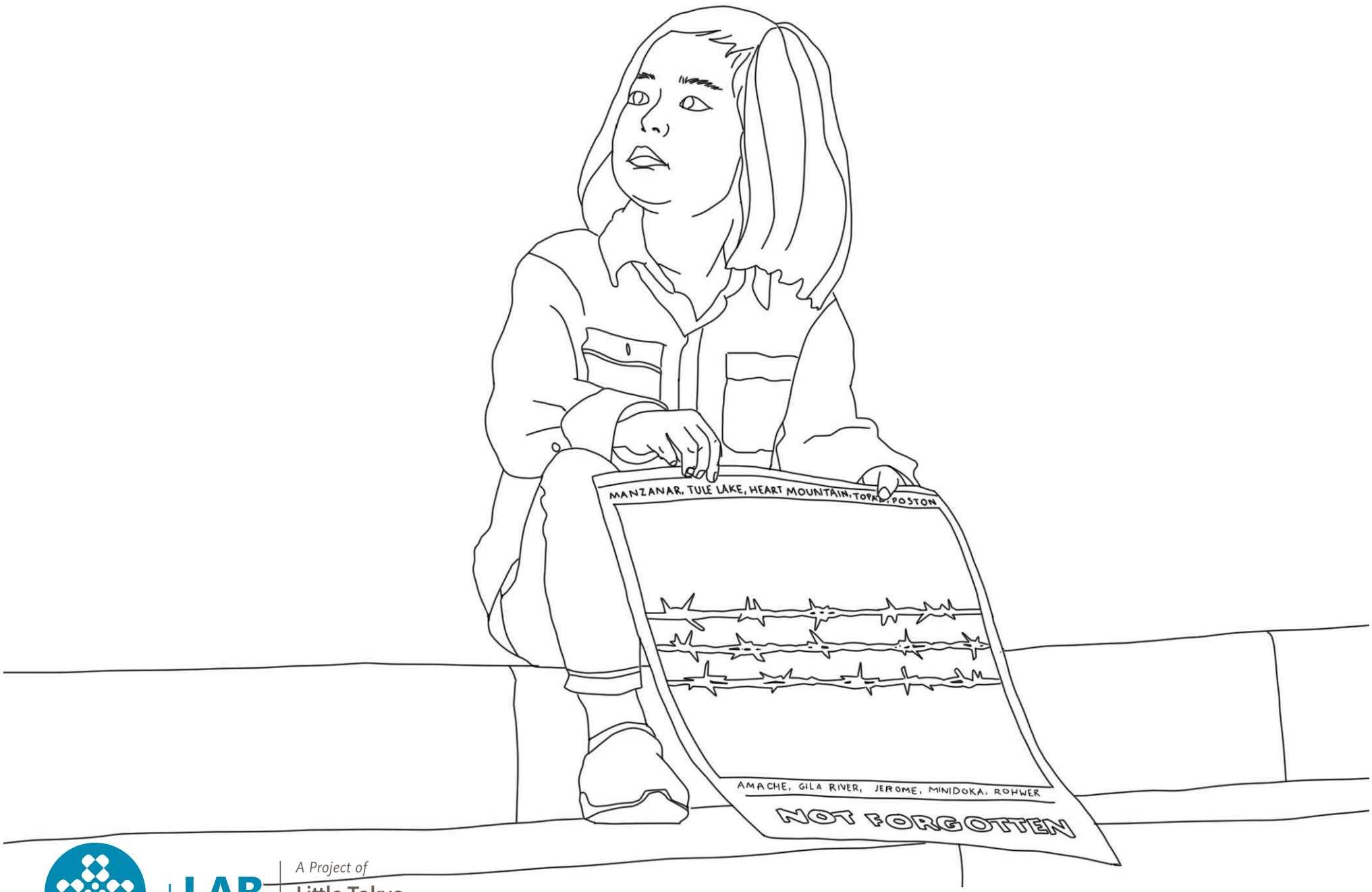
2018 +LAB Artist-in-Residence and Little Tokyo resident, Kuniharu Yoshida
Erica Rawles | Creative Strategist



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Meisa at the 2019 Solidarity Protest [based on photograph by David McNew]
Erica Rawles | Creative Strategist

Image Descriptions:

1. Japanese Village Plaza in Little Tokyo

2. Brian Kito, the third-generation owner of Fugetsudo, in the confectionery shop's kitchen. Fugetsudo opened in 1903, making it the oldest business in Little Tokyo.

3. The iconic Atomic Cafe--diner and punk rock venue located at 422 East First Street until it closed in 1989. This illustration is based on a photo-graph taken by Mike Murase in 1983: "A lot has been documented about Atomic Cafe, but it was an iconic hangout for local Japanese Americans and for "punks" from Hollywood and other places throughout the city. The American menu, and for the random clientele. Above all, Atomic Nancy made the place an iconic eatery," [quote from Murase in the second edition of the Takachizu zine].

4. *In Living Culture* is an artwork by Jared Yamahata that was selected for Sus-tainable Little Tokyo's Windows of Little Tokyo in 2018. Yamahata's piece was on display in the window of Cafe Dulce.

5. 341 First Street North (FSN) storefront was a collaborative and experimen-tal space designed to explore community control and self-determination in Little Tokyo and at First Street North. 341 FSN was owned and operated by the Little Tokyo Service Center with takeovers and activations by many community organizations, institutions, and community members.

6. A bowl of ramen from Suehiro Cafe--a legacy business that opened in Little

7. 2018 +LAB Artist-in-Residence and Little Tokyo resident, Kuniharu Yoshida, doing a live calligraphy performance [based on a photograph by Rudy Espinoza].

8. Meisa at the June, 2019 Solidarity Protest on the plaza of the Japanese American National Museum to oppose the White House's plans to use Fort Sill in Oklahoma as a detention center for immigrant children and Immigra-tion and Customs Enforcement's detention practices in general [based on a Getty Images photograph by David McNew].