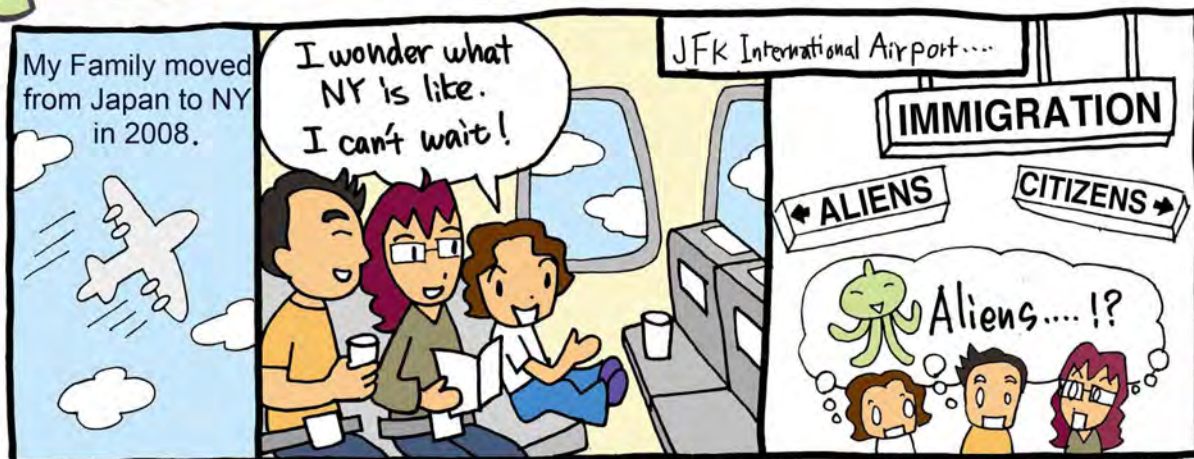


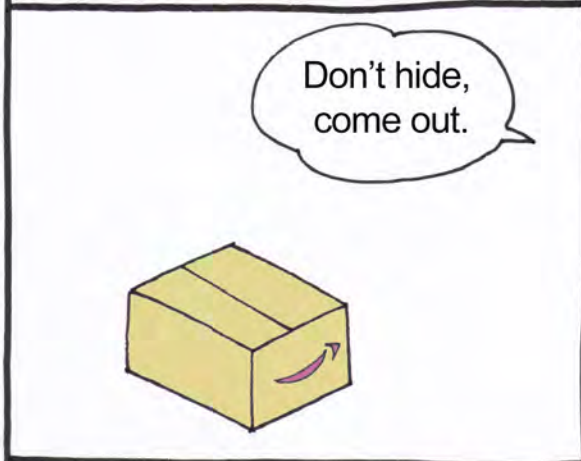
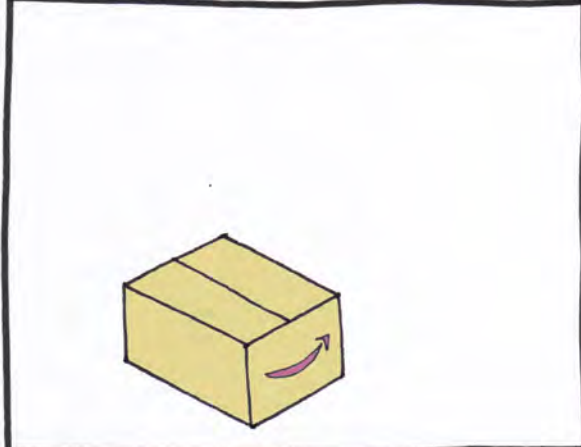
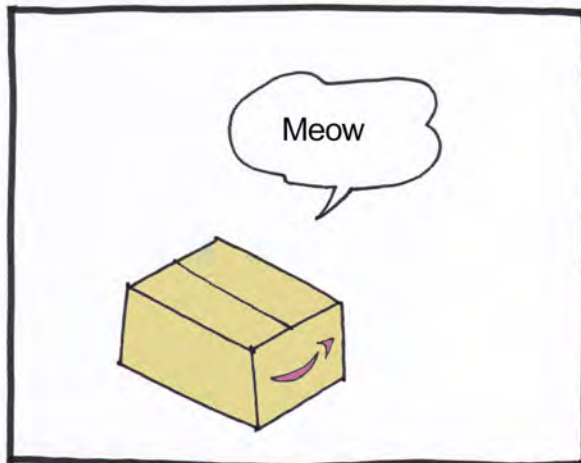
Participatory Public Art Project
Aliens in New York
The Annual Report 2016 Rica Takashima



THE STORY SO FAR...



That thought led Rica to hold the "Aliens in New York" art project. The project got fiscal sponsorship in March 2013. However, Rica Takashima, the project artist, couldn't utilize the benefits to their maximum potential. She was struggling in the United States as an immigrant artist, while working on her projects and trying to understand the unfamiliar system. This is a touching Manga comic documentary of Rica and people around her, with love, tears and laughs...



By nature my body is not strong,
I had chronic cystitis and migraines
that were getting worse,
so I visited a clinic every two weeks.

Fatima
Clinic

You're
here again?

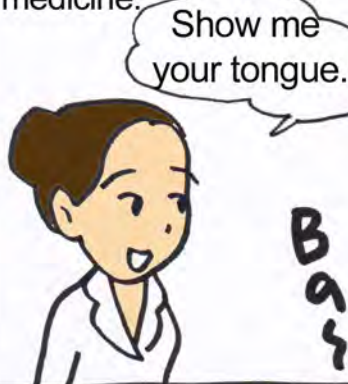
I'm here
again. . .

So I decided to slow down
activities in 2016.



I throw up
when I take
strong medicine.
I can't take it.
I can't do any
art project
outdoors . . .

I also visited a doctor of Eastern
medicine.



Show me
your tongue.

B a s

Avoid flour products,
dairy products,
and sugar.



Instead of
white rice,
eat brown
rice!

It was hard to recover . . .



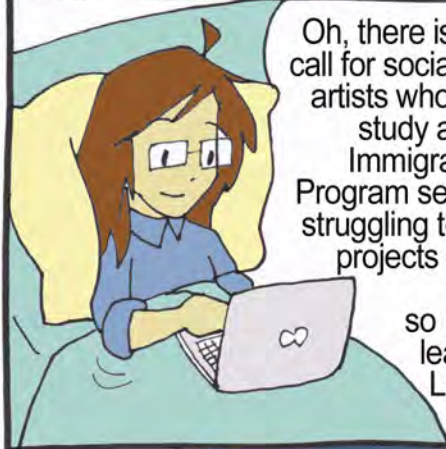
I really
sleeping in my bed all the
time...

Let's give up
this year.
I'll study to
participate
in lectures on
grant writing
and funding . . .



Since the direction
of my art projects
have changed
in three years,
let's recreate
the
website.

2013 → Immigrant Family
2015 → Diversity



Oh, there is an open
call for social practice
artists who wants to
study at NYFA's
Immigrant Artists
Program series. I am
struggling to fund art
projects for Social
Practice,
so I'd love to
learn more!
Let's apply.



Let's go ahead
with I can do
for now.

Even with the doctor's advice,
I didn't get any better ...



Rica Taka

I posted on FB
and asked friends
for help.

My migraine headaches are so bad
that I can't even drink water.



Here is a device to massage
the trigeminal nerve.



Always warm your body to
increase your body's
immunity!



Apparently, it is better to take
a prophylactic tablet every day
before getting a headache
instead of regular painkillers.

I tried all of them.
By the time May came...



I didn't wake up
from headaches
or nausea...



I didn't feel dizzy
while walking ...
Would it be
possible
to do art activities
outside?!

However, it was too late to raise
money for summer & autumn events.
There was no prospect of
holding any projects at all.

Women in Comics Group Art Show in May

Hi Rica!



Laura is
a founder
of the BxArts
Factory
Organization.

I have no idea what my plans are for
Aliens in NY this year.
Please let me know if you
know a good place somewhere.



Well then, just be a guest at our event.
There is a little budget.



Really?
Thanks!



Well,
see you
in June!

It was all decided in just a few minutes.

BxArts Factory June 26th 12-4pm Boogie on The Boulevard

Grand Concourse
from 161-167 St.
The Bronx



Since June is for LGBT
Pride Month, I held a WS
and a queer character
Peekaboo-kuns Show
for families.

Bloom Rainbow Flowers!

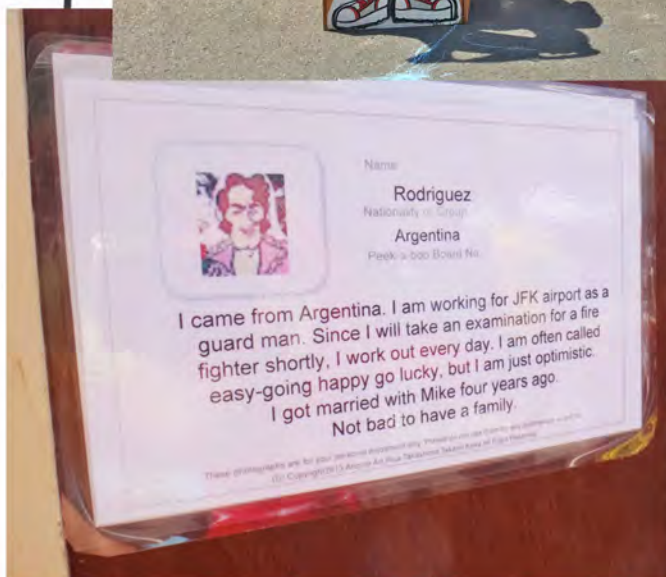
It was a very hot day,
so it seemed that the number of visitors
to the Boogie decreased.
Still 200 people participated with us!

Kids enjoyed
painting tires. This set of
tires will become a flowerpot.
(The project was
supported by
a Citizens Committee
of NYC grant.)



Photo by Lauren M. Click, The Bronx Museum of the Arts





Hey Rica, I've always thought it would be nice to have an exhibit of Peekaboo-kuns at a Japanese Festival in autumn at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) I work for, but are there Japanese characters?

Elizabeth,
One of the Members
of the BxArts
Factory.

Sure!

I will
contact you
later.

Meanwhile...



Yvonne Shortt



Hi Rica, why don't you apply for funding for a Queens Art Intervention, a social practice event. I think it fits you. May I please have your email for further communication?



takashimarica@hotmail.com



Hi, nice to meet you. I'm Yvonne, founder of RPGA Studio, a social practice nonprofit using art, education and technology. The theme of the next event is Recycle & Clean.



Hi,

I've never tried this theme so let's give it a shot.

Which place in Queens is the best for this event?

My space,
Astoria

RPGA Studio,
Long Island City

Diversity Plaza,
Jackson Heights

Corona Plaza,
103rd Street,
Roosevelt Ave.

Friendly
community?

Flushing, many small
business streets

Jamaica Arts Center

Yvonne,
other artists and I
went location hunting in
Queens for a day.
It was fun like
a school field trip.

Right sized
plaza?



Queens Art Intervention

Recycle More: Litter Less

Queens Art Intervention '16

Curated by Yvonne Shortt
Paid for by RPGA Studio



Free to Public! Ask staff!

1

Please write on comic bubble
your thoughts
on how to reduce
trash and recycle
more.

Maybe
I can separate
trash...

I can pick
up litter
too...



2

Put the
bubble on fun
Peekaboo-
sculpture.



3

Pic-Time!

Ask staff to take a pic
with your camera.



Smile~



4

Post and share the fun pic
to Social Network Sites

with
#QAI2016
for you
chance
to win \$100!



It was
fun!

Project is fiscally sponsored by New York Foundation for the Arts.

Yvonne and I often
worked together to make this flyer.
The pieces of advice she gave me were
precise and I was very grateful. I learned
many things such as American perspectives
and social practice from her.
Thanks Yvonne!

I made posters and
flyers to hand out
in English
and Spanish.



**Corona Plaza
Day One
Sep. 10, 1-4pm**

Recycle More!



"avoiding dropping papers on the ground and others, mothers telling their kids"



Peekaboo-sculptures were set in front of four supermarkets. People got a free reusable shopping bag and wrote their thoughts on recycling and cleaning on comic bubble sheets. Many people enjoyed the Peekaboo-photo shooting.



This is the original reusable bag made by RPGA Studio!



"I WILL USE FEWER PLASTIC BAGS"

Diversity Plaza
Day Two
Sep. 17, 1-4pm

Litter Less!

I translated "I will recycle" through Google, wrote the phrase in English and Spanish on the comicbubble and put on the Peekaboo board. At the site, people came and wanted to help me to write their own languages. There were Hindi, Spanish, Bengal, Hebrew, Serbia, Tibet, Filipino, Portuguese, Taiwanese and etc. and there were 11 languages in total. Once someone participated in the Peekaboo, he/she brought his/her friends so it kept me really busy. The main participants of Peekaboo-arts were families, but adults were the majority of participants at this time.

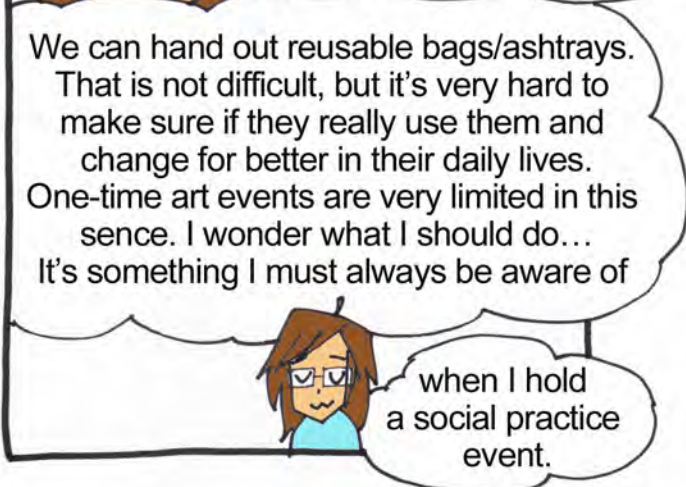
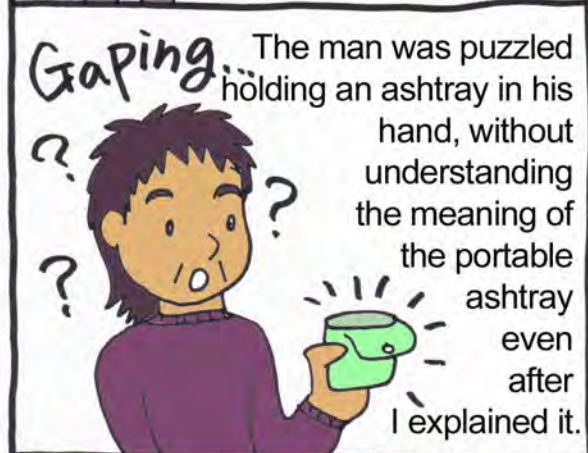
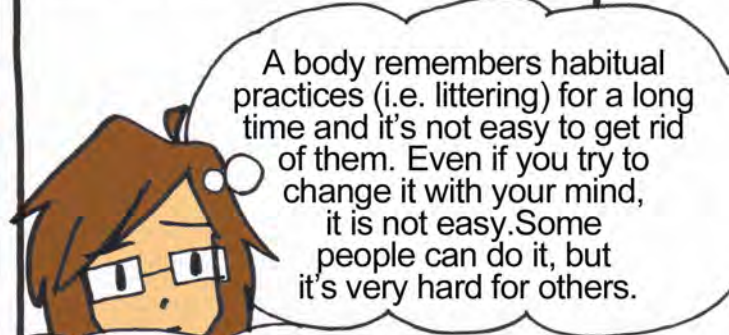
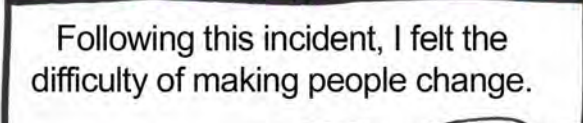


I used a Polaroid camera and gave away a photo print on site for their commitment to "Litter Less"



There were a lot of people littering cigarette butts. I asked them to participate in my art project and distributed portable ashtrays.





Meanwhile, Pokemon Go, the game, became very popular from just after it was released in July. I also tried it.



This game will not progress unless I'm walking.

I usually take a bus or train.

Now, I walk.

Let's walk to the next station ...



Before, it was hard to walk just 10 min from my apartment to the station. Now, I can walk 3 km, or even 5 km. I can recover my health faster, even if I don't feel good.



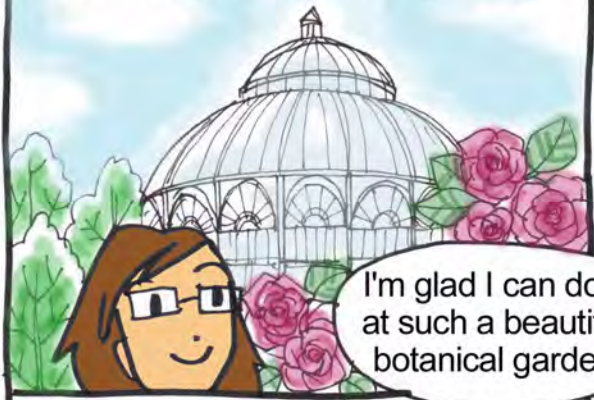
Then...

NYBG: We'd like to display your Japanese Peekaboo-kuns at the Chrysanthemum (Kiku) Festival in NYBG in autumn. Please send a quote.

Elizabeth introduced me. I'm so Happy!



I visited NYBG for location hunting.



I'm glad I can do it at such a beautiful botanical garden.

Speaking of characters of Japanese culture, Ninja and Samurai are popular.



Our Peekaboo-kun characters are often from local folk crafts and regions. They are unique. It's a good opportunity to explain to people these characters and to help them know more about Japanese culture.



NYBG: We also want you to create a new original Peekaboo-character of Chrysanthemums.



Okay I will do my best!

New York Botanical Garden

October 15 & 16 10am-6pm



An explanation label about the character is put on the back of each Peekaboo-kun. A lot of people read them enthusiastically.

Volunteer students from the City College of New York (CUNY) 's Japanese Culture Club, helped for community service. Beforehand, I asked them to research the cultural background of these characters and regions to be able to explain to visitors at NYBG.

Thank you everyone!



The staffs wore Yukatas, one of Japan's traditional clothes. Some staffs were excited to wear it for the first time.



This is a new Mum character. I made it heartily for Elizabeth who gave me this opportunity. It was popular because it was for pairs, so there was a line.



Thank you very much for your volunteering help, David Centeno, Monica Chang, Emily Yip, Raymond Leung, and Sumika Tamaki.

At NYBG, I had to spend time standing, explaining and watching for safety all day long outside. It was hard, but I did it.



Thanks to my friends for the pieces of advice to regain my health so far,



and thanks for this!

Even though I had no idea or budget until May, I was able to hold events and WSs with the networks of friends and communities.



There is one thing I have to say...

Elizabeth who introduced me to NYBG, passed away suddenly.



She had been encouraging me from the first time I came to NY.

I enjoyed your comics. When will your new work come out? I'll buy it!

Thank you!



I think it would be nice if there were lots of Peekaboo-kuns on Perennial Garden Way in NYBG. I'll propose it in a meeting.



So I made the Mum Peekaboo-kun energetic, colorful and fun while remembering Elizabeth.



I believe Elizabeth in heaven will be pleased.



Sob Sob...

Don't cry,
I'll cry too!



Anyway... although the number of days held we held the event were small, many people participated in it. I really appreciate everyone's supports.



What will you do next year?

Well,

- Working with more than five organizations
- Working with more than ten artists
- Increase the number of days of a project. Goal: 20days
- Building network with schools.



Then develop projects that are more inclusive. In addition to wooden made regular Peekaboo-kuns, I'd like to make new ones with lightw eight material for more safety. It'll be easier to participate from small children to older people.



You must succeed in getting funding.

Yes!
I'll do my best this year.



Through your art, I believe people will able to discover the value of other poeple's culture and their self-worth!



Liberty Island Ferry →

Well, it's time for the ferry to go. See you.

Bye!

Thank you~



The following story of this comic report will depend on your support! Stay tuned! Thank you!



Thanks again my donors and contributors! : Megan Saltzman, LOUIS PAYNE, ERIN SUBRAMANIAN, Mariko Takegawa, Ashley Matarama, YOKO LACASSE, Yasushi Yamashita, IVAN VELEZ, Koka T., M.M. and Anonymous.