



Marshallese Educational Initiative

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 2022

Contact: April L. Brown, Ph.D.
Cofounder and COO, MEI
albrown@mei.ngo
01-479-422-3284

MEI exhibits Marshallese youth paintings at Times Square in NYC, May 19-20; Event raises awareness of the twin existential threats of nuclear weapons and climate change

Marshallese Educational Initiative joins Reverse the Trend and other exhibitors on Times Square in NYC to raise awareness about the nuclear testing legacy and climate change. The exhibit consists of seven paintings by Marshallese youth from MEI's Youth Academy held this Spring and who are learning about the ongoing consequences of nuclear testing and the impact of climate change in the Marshall Islands. The United States detonated 67 nuclear bombs in the Marshall Islands from 1946-1958. Their biological, ecological, and cultural consequences are still ongoing. The Marshall Islands, made up of low-lying atolls in the North, Central Pacific, is also vulnerable to rising seas and other effects of climate change.

The event, *Amnesia Atómica NYC*, hosted by the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists and Times Square Arts, is a collective effort to address the nuclear threat and features Pedro Reyes' piece, *Zero Nukes*.

Marshallese youth artists are Marcina Langrine, Marino Morris, Faith Netwon, Thoper Runny, Neimony Netwon, and Chapel Capelle.

Benetick Kabua Maddison, MEI's Assistant Director and Project Specialist for Youth, Nuclear, and Climate issues, who is in NYC at the exhibit, shared: "These art pieces were created by Marshallese youth who are working with MEI to learn about our nation's history and the ongoing consequences of our shared nuclear legacy with the United States. I hope these beautiful pieces will encourage people to learn more about our nuclear and climate stories and help us achieve a nuclear-free and livable planet for all."

MEI has been raising awareness about the nuclear legacy and climate change since our founding in 2013. MEI hosted Nuclear Remembrance Day: Reflect. Honor. Educate. in 2014 on the 60th anniversary of the Castle Bravo detonation at the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, and in 2021 hosted a three-day conference in Springdale on the 75th anniversary of the first nuclear test on Bikini Atoll that featured a youth day, community commemoration, and a series of equity panels about nuclear production and climate change's impact on health.

Visit the exhibit page on the MEI website: www.mei.ngo/exhibit