

## AMA Museum, Taiwan

Author: AMA Museum

**OVERVIEW:** In 1992, the Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation (TWRP) initiated a survey of Taiwanese "comfort women" survivors and launched a campaign demanding reparations from the government of Japan. After a quarter century accompanying the *Ama* (Taiwanese for grandmother) and attending to their spiritual and physical wellbeing, including 12 years of construction planning, on December 10, 2016, TWRP officially opened the AMA Museum as a venue for documenting the stories and struggles of 59 former Taiwanese "comfort women" survivors. Taiwan witnessed the birth of a center for social education that focused attention for the first time on the activism of "comfort women" survivors, advancing contemporary women's empowerment and enforcing women's rights.

The AMA Museum is dedicated to the cause of women's rights and seek to transform trauma into resilience and find peace by mending the scars of history. In Exhibition Hall, the "Comfort Women" Permanent Exhibit and Women's Rights Exhibit introduce historic background on the "comfort women" system, accounts from Taiwanese "comfort women" survivors, related international campaigns on human rights and the women's rights movement. In Women's Power Space, artworks produced by Ama survivors in wellness workshops regularly held by TWRP from 1996 to 2012 are on display. The museum also rents out event space and maintains a library open to the public with approximately 400 titles on women's rights.

The resiliency of over 1,000 Taiwanese Ama is symbolized by the Song of the Reeds Walk, which employs more than a thousand transparent cylinders and 59 metal lamps projecting the names of "comfort women" survivors.

The adjacent AMA Café is a space of female empowerment offering women opportunities for employment and self-support. Fair trade coffee and museum souvenirs are available for purchase as well as products made with the artwork of AMA, created during the art therapy sessions.

Source: The program brochure of the 1<sup>st</sup> "comfort women" Museum conference, Tokyo, Japan in 2017