



**Steven Nunoda, *Rosebery Single*, 2011**

Mixed media construction with sound loop of washing rice, 59 x 20.5 x 16.6 inches. Collection of the artist.

### Artist Statement

The work in this exhibition, *Rosebery Single*, memorializes the internment experiences of Nunoda's family. The structure at the top is a scale model of a single-family shack in the Rosebery camp in the Slocan Valley of British Columbia. The original was occupied by the Oya's; the artist's mother, Naomi, her parents and three sisters. The model is based on historical records, measurements of surviving internment shacks at the Nikkei Memorial Internment Centre in New Denver BC, and Naomi's recollections. Viewers who listen closely can hear an audio loop of her washing rice, recorded two years before her death. This is a sound of daily labour, care and family life. It has a particular rhythm that is as individual as a voice, but is familiar to anyone for whom rice is a staple.

*Rosebery Single*, is part of a larger project, *Ghostown*, in which Nunoda visually represents his ongoing research of the Japanese internment camps in British Columbia during World War II. Nunoda describes this as a sort of "pilgrimage" based on the first-hand accounts from his parents and grandparents, providing a focus for his subsequent research. In doing this research, Nunoda began to look inward at his own perceived identity as a Canadian artist as well as his background as Japanese Canadian. He realized that he viewed Japanese artistic culture from a Western perspective and as a result he was part of, in his words, a "cultural erosion" that arose from the wartime experiences of early Japanese Canadians. Nunoda's work reflects his new "connectedness" with his past.