

高杉記子 写真展「Fukushima Samurai」

Noriko Takasugi: Fukushima Samurai

By Noriko Takasugi

◆展覧会の概要・テーマ紹介等◆

日本では、7回目の3.11を迎えました。

写真家・高杉記子は、2011年以降、福島県の海沿いの地域に数百年も続く、相馬野馬追に関わる人々と時間をともにしながら、日本人としての自分のルーツや日常生活を重ね、土地に根ざした文化がいかに人々の誇りを育み、失うことのできないアイデンティティになっていったのかをたずねてきました。

『Fukushima Samurai』のポートレートの侍たちのほとんどは、2011年3月以前、福島第一原発の20km圏内に住んでいた人々です。そこに住むことはもうできないもの※、日中に入るとは許されていたふるさとの土地のお一人おひとりにとって大切な場所で、それぞれのストーリーを伺い、しっかりと大地に立ってもらい、時間をかけて撮影をしています。

「これは、津波と原発の影響を受けた人々を被災者としてではなく、1000年続いていると言われる相馬野馬追の侍として、そして同じ時代に日常を送っていた日本人とそのアイデンティティとしてとらえた長期的なプロジェクトである。同時に、土地と人間、伝統と近代技術との現在における関係をも表している。

失ってもまだそこにあるもの。何かをあきらめて選んだもの。私の生活は、私自身が日々何が大切かを選んだものの累積であり、紡がれてきたものだ。いつのまにか、同じ時代を生きる彼らの姿は私自身のセルフポートレートになっていった。」（アーティストステートメントより抜粋）

※2016年7月12日、小高区では、5年4カ月にわたる政府の避難指示が解除され、住民たちは戻ることが可能に。しかし実際に戻った住民は少なく、若者はほとんど戻っていない。

◆アーティスト略歴◆

1974年生。現在、東京在住。東京、福島をベースに活動中。雑誌編集者などを経て、写真家活動を開始。早稲田大学 人間科学部 人間健康科学科 臨床心理学専攻 卒業。ロンドン芸術大学大学院 MA Photojournalism & Documentary Photography at London College of Communication 卒業。

日本で考え続けた自分自身のアイデンティティとともに、幼少期の米国生活、2 回の英国留学、各国を旅する中でのアイデンティティについての意識が、写真活動における主なモチベーションやテーマ。特にポートレート作品を通じた表現に取り組んでいる。

『Fukushima Samurai』は、ケ・ブランリー美術館（フランス・パリ）の Photoquai ビエンナーレ 2015 の招待作家や、Asian Woman Photographers Showcase 2014 の展示作家（マレーシア）等選ばれ、コニカミノルタフォトプレミオ 2014 で入賞（東京）、Photolucida Critical Mass 2013 のスカラシップ受賞&ファイナリストに選ばれるなど、各国で高い評価を得てきた。

また草間彌生を撮影した作品は、ポートレートのアワードで名高い Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2015（ロンドン）の約 40 人の展示作家に選ばれている。これまでの作品は、Harper's BAZAAR、The Sunday Telegraph、Independent、Le Monde、TIME、Wired.com などの新聞、雑誌、ネットメディア、日本でも朝日新聞や PHaT PHOTO など掲載多数。

○Exhibition Summary

Seven years has passed since 3.11 hit Japan. Since 2011, photographer Noriko Takasugi has spent time with the people involved in Soma Nomaioi, a tradition passed on for hundreds of years in the coastal areas of Fukushima Prefecture. She has inquired how a local culture has shaped people's pride and created an identity that cannot be lost, while reflecting upon her own roots and everyday life as a Japanese person who live the same era with them.

Most of the samurai warriors portrayed in Fukushima Samurai had been living within a 20km radius from Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant before March 2011. Although they could no longer live there,* Noriko Takasugi travel with each and everyone portrayed in these photographs to visit places in their hometown that were of significance to them, which they were allowed to visit during the daytime, listened to their stories, asked them to stand firmly on the land and took time in taking these photographs.

"This is a long-term project that portrays the people affected by the tsunami and the nuclear incident not as victims of a disaster, but as samurai warriors in Soma Nomaioi, a tradition going back a thousand years, and explores their identity as fellow Japanese

people living in the same era as myself. At the same time, it represents the current relationship between the land and the people as well as between tradition and modern technology.

What continues to live on when something is lost? What choices do we make and what sacrifices? My life is a tapestry and an accumulation of the decisions I make everyday about what is important for me. Before I knew it, the photographs of these people became self-portraits of myself.” (Excerpt from the artist’s statement)

*As of July 12, 2016, the evacuation order issued by the government that had been in place for five years and four months was lifted for Odaka District, and it became possible for residents to return to their homes. However, few residents actually moved back and most of the young people have not returned.

○Artist profile

Born in 1974 and currently living in Tokyo. Noriko Takasugi is based in Tokyo and Fukushima for her photography. With a BA in clinical psychology from Waseda University and an MA in photojournalism and documentary photography from the London College of Communication, she entered the world of photography after working as a magazine editor. Her major motivation and theme in photography is her awareness of her identity in Japan as well as her identity overseas which she discovered through her experience living in the US as a young child, studying abroad twice in the UK and travelling to various countries. Her main choice of expression is portraits.

Noriko Takasugi’s work has been highly acclaimed in many countries. She was invited to present her Fukushima Samurai series at Photoquai 2015 held at the musée du quai Branly in Paris, France, as well as the Asian Women Photographers’ Showcase 2014 held in Malaysia. She has also received an award at Konica Minolta Photo Premio 2014, and both won a scholarship award and was a finalist at Photolucida’s Critical Mass 2013. In addition, her work portraying Yayoi Kusama allowed her to become one of the forty photographers selected for the Taylor Wessing Photographic

Portrait Prize 2015 exhibition in London, which is famous for its prestigious portrait awards. Her work has appeared in many newspapers, magazines and internet media, both in Japan and abroad, including Harper's Bazaar, The Sunday Telegraph, Independent, Le Monde, Time, Wired.com, The Asahi Shimbun and PHaT PHOTO.

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