

Fukuoka Asian Art Museum
WINDS OF ARTIST IN RESIDENCE 2023

Fukuoka Landscape
— *through the traces and fragmented memories*

Artist Statement

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During my residency, I was exploring Fukuoka City by bicycle.

I came across a small storehouse with a gap between the storehouse and the wall next door, which had become the owner's material storage room. It was filled with many materials, which came in various shapes and lengths but were neatly arranged. The stockpile itself was made in a well-organized construction, and the wave boards and drains are quite neat. Outside, however, there is a rope running down from the roof and hanging in bundles from the pipes, which seems quite random. This kind of industrial arrangement with random objects is my impression of most of the houses in Fukuoka City. In Artist Cafe Fukuoka, there is also a gap of about 40 centimeters between the wall and ceiling. In my work *Crevices and Wall*, I have arranged various materials and household items in the gap in a regular manner, just like the scene I saw. Rope, drainpipe, faucet, and hose as daily objects do not play their usual roles here but become visual compositions in the white space.

Since I'm constantly on the move with my bike, I always pay special attention to signs on the road. Although both Japanese and Chinese use the same Chinese characters, the usage is not the same. Sometimes I would notice words with strong warnings, such as “禁止” and “断,” but I could not understand their meanings accurately, and this is the origin of the work 止まれ (*Tomare*). In this work, each letter of the title “止まれ” is reversed from left to right to show that I have a sense of familiarity with the words but cannot recognize the meaning. The work combines plastic wave sheets, tile facades, street spray paint, and store signs, a combination of media I picked up on the street.

If you enter the alleys of residential areas, you can see the walls of many houses made of concrete bricks. There are many different patterns of concrete bricks. Each house is also arranged differently, with matching outer walls and plants having their own unique composition and colors. Accompanied by the loud crows chirping from the sky from time to time, the concrete bricks have become a deep impression on me as I walk through the alleys of the houses, and this is the origin of the work *Bricks and Crow*.

When I walk, I pay attention to the ground. There are many interesting things on the ground or streets of Fukuoka City, such as various shapes of gutter covers, various arrangements of guide tiles, unknown stickers, construction marks … , etc. Sometimes I see abandoned cigarette butts on the corners, stuck in cracks of the gutter covers, or crevices on the ground. I have also found some holes in the concrete piers, which were filled with cigarette butts, and people seemed to have used these piers as ashtrays. *Drainage Cover and Cigarette Butt*, Braille Block Bench, and Ashtray in Fukuoka are inspired by things on the ground. I hope that these things on the ground, which people are accustomed to encounter or ignore, will be represented in an interesting way.

I collect these inspirations in the city. They are neither new-age technology nor something exotic but are just fragments of everyday scenes. Day after day, when I walk along the normal roads and stumble upon the discarded cans on the corners, which will probably be removed tomorrow, I can deeply feel that I am living in this city.