

BORDER

Shigeru Yoshida / photographer























































Concept sheet

On March 11, 2011, the Tohoku Earthquake, or the Great East Japan Earthquake, hit Japan, and in a moment, caused the loss of more than 20,000 precious lives due to the quake and the tsunami. The catastrophe has no small effect on me and changed my attitude towards my photogenic subjects.

Since ancient times, Japan has been ravaged by large natural disasters over and over. It may seem strange to foreigners, but we, Japanese people, never hate the sea, which is nevertheless the cause of the disasters. Despite the fact that the tsunami took the lives of our parents, brothers and sisters, or lovers, we never felt the resentment for the sea. Rather than that, the most Japanese people try to live together with the sea as long as we can.

There is the Buddhism thought, ‘山川草木悉皆成仏’, (sansen soumoku shikkai joubutsu), which is the idea of Buddhism, means everything regardless of a living thing or a non-living object has a spirit and we have believed and worshiped nature and spirits. This is Japanese customs rather than a religion.

We have believed in the spirit in Nature; large stones, huge trees or forests, seas and waterfalls etc. This is why we never hold a grudge Nature even under the disaster that we have suffered many times.

Based on them that I mentioned above, I'd like to show my works that is under the concept of this nature worship spirit.

Here are my works.

I want to represent ‘The Moment and The Eternity’ through the sea which we have been awed by. The Torii, which is seen in the picture, is a symbolic Shinto shrine gate and this marks the transition from the secular world to the sacred. From showing the boundaries, I want to represent a sense of animism that we have.

Through my work, I want to reconsider that Japanese people have lived with Nature with the feeling of awe. We have prayed and seen places of natural beauty as religious objects in the world of nature. When we overcome many difficulties from the Earthquake and face sacred places with gratitude and respect, I believe we will get new energy again.

The actual picture is printed by using the Fresco Giclee, which is a new archival technology in Japan that prevents pictures from fading soon. It also is a print with beautiful tone.

[<http://bigtree.maxs.jp/english/paper/FRESCO2012.3.7.pdf>]

