
Icons of Time

Memories of the Tsunami that Struck Japan

A photographic exhibition by Tomohiro Muda



The Japan Foundation, Sydney presents a series of photographs by Tomohiro Muda in an exhibition titled, *Icons of Time: Memories of the tsunami that struck Japan*. This exhibition commemorates five years since Japan's northeastern coast was hit by a powerful earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011. The exhibition will be shown at **The Japan Foundation Gallery, March 1 – April 15 2016** as part of **Art Month Sydney**. The exhibition also forms part of a broader event program by The Japan Foundation, Sydney titled, *After 3.11: Have you met the new Japan?*, exploring how Japan has changed since the disaster.

The *Icons of Time* image series is a **photographic record of artefacts** left behind in the wake of the tsunami. After the disaster, Muda set out on a mission to photograph and document the conditions of the affected areas. His first attempt three weeks after the event was unsuccessful due to the

overwhelming grief he experienced upon seeing the devastation. Around nine months later, he returned and photographed roughly 5000 items. The *Icons of Time* series features a selection of these pictures.

Photographer Tomohiro Muda says, “The objects featured in my works may appear to be mere debris, things abandoned by the tsunami, but they’re not. Each item belonged to someone and suggests the presence of someone who is no longer present. In this exhibition, these fragments tell stories of a post-tsunami landscape and allow us to imagine the activity in these areas before the tsunami.”

The **Opening Reception** will be held on **Friday, March 4**, featuring an artist talk by Tomohiro Muda and opening remarks by Rob McNeil, (Fire & Rescue NSW), leader of the Australia Task Force deployed to Japan in March 2011.

The Japan Foundation Gallery @ The Japan Foundation, Sydney

Hours

Monday – Friday: 10am – 6pm
Selected Saturdays (March 19, April 9): 10am – 3pm
Closed Sundays & public holidays

Admission is free.

This exhibition is a part of a broader event program titled. *After 3.11: Have you met the new Japan?*, featuring talks and a film screening. For the full program, please see below.

PROGRAM DETAILS

After 3.11: Have you met the new Japan?

[EXHIBITION]

March 1 – April 15	<i>Icons of Time</i> by Tomohiro Muda
March 4 6:30pm – 8pm	Opening Reception Opening remarks by photographer Tomohiro Muda and Rob McNeil (Fire & Rescue NSW)

[TALKS]

March 18	AfterLandscapes: Designing in Uncertainty Marieluise Jonas (RMIT University)
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April 1 **The Rise of Activism in Post-3.11 Japan: The New Wave of Activist Culture**
Akihiro Ogawa (Melbourne University)

April 15 **3.11 in Literature and Film**
Tamaki Tokita (University of Sydney)

6:30pm – 7:30pm (doors open 6pm) @ The Japan Foundation, Sydney.
Admission is free. Bookings essential (via website).

[FILM]

April 8 **Tell the Prime Minister** (2015 / 109 mins / Japanese with English subtitles)
Feat. Q&A with director Eiji Oguma

6:30pm (doors open 6pm) @ The University of Technology, Sydney

Venues:	[EXHIBITION & TALKS] The Japan Foundation, Sydney Level 4, Central Park (access via lifts) 28 Broadway Chippendale NSW 2008 [FILM] University of Technology, Sydney Bldg 2, Lecture theatre 3.02
Admission:	Admission is free. RSVP essential for events via website.
Enquiries:	reception@jpf.org.au / 02 8239 0055
Website/RSVP:	www.jpf.org.au

ABOUT TOMOHIRO MUDA



Tomohiro Muda is a professional photographer Tokyo-based Born in Nara prefecture in 1956. In 1980, graduated from Waseda University, and in 1982 began living in and photographing a Sherpa village in the Himalayas. Since his 1988 exhibition The Land of Sherpa, he has searched far and wide for the “primordial connection between humans, nature and space,” and a variety of other phenomena, releasing them in exhibitions and books. His works have been exhibited widely in Japan and abroad.

ABOUT ROB MCNEIL

Rob McNeil has been a member of Fire and Rescue NSW for 31 years and is currently Assistant Commissioner and Director of Regional Operations, Fire and Rescue NSW. Rob specialises in emergency management of hazardous materials. In 2011, he was elected to lead the Australian Task Force leader deployed to assist in rescue efforts following the Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami. He received an Australian Fire Service Medal in 2010 for his contributions to emergency management of hazardous materials incidents.

ABOUT 3.11

On March 11, 2011 a magnitude 9.0 earthquake hit eastern Japan, triggering a powerful tsunami. The wave hit the northeastern Tōhoku region, destroying thousands of homes, and sparked the explosion of a nuclear power plant in coastal Fukushima. The quake is known officially as The Great East Japan Earthquake. The triple disaster of earthquake, tsunami and plant explosion has become known in Japan as “3.11”, paralleling the immortalisation of the 9/11 attacks in western popular consciousness. 2016 marks the fifth anniversary of these events.

ABOUT THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, SYDNEY

The Japan Foundation, Sydney is the Australian arm of the Japan Foundation, which was established by the Japanese government to promote cultural and intellectual exchange between Japan and other nations. It runs a diverse range of programs and events, including exhibitions, talk events, grant programs and Japanese language courses for all levels from beginner to advanced. The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 with a global network of 22 offices in 21 countries. The Australian office was founded in 1978.



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For more information please see www.jpf.org.au or contact:

Margarett Cortez (02) 8239 0055 / margarett_cortez@jpf.org.au or

Jessica Chow (02) 8239 0055 / jessica_chow@jpf.org.au

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