

4 February 2016 (Website publicly available from Feb 18)

EVENT PROGRAM

After 3.11

Have you met the new Japan?

The Japan Foundation, Sydney presents *After 3.11: Have you met the new Japan?*, an event program exploring how Japan has changed since **The Great East Japan Earthquake** of 2011 through an **exhibition, demonstration, talks and film** from **March 1 to April 15, 2016**.

This year marks the 5th anniversary of the magnitude 9.0 quake which struck Japan on March 11, 2011, causing the nation's biggest tsunami in more than 1,000 years. The wave hit the northeastern Tōhoku region, destroying thousands of homes and sparking the explosion of a nuclear power plant in coastal Fukushima. The triple disaster of earthquake, tsunami and plant explosion is known in Japan as "**3.11**".

Five years on, the effects still echo in the physical, civil and artistic landscape. The *After 3.11* program shines a spotlight on some of these changes.

EXHIBITION

Icons of Time: Memories of the tsunami that struck Japan by **Tomohiro Muda**, is a photographic record of artefacts from the wake of the 2011 tsunami which tell the story of the social and physical changes wrought by the great wave. Showing at the Japan Foundation Gallery, March 1 – April 15 as part of **Art Month Sydney**.

DEMONSTRATION

On March 10, craftsman **Masanori Sue** demonstrates pottery wheel and ceramic painting techniques used for **Obori Soma ware**, a 300-year-old style of ceramics from the town of

Namie, Fukushima, which relies on clays that can only be found locally. Namie was home to 25 Obori Soma kilns until 3.11 when all were destroyed, forcing the local craftspeople to relocate to various other parts of Japan. **Takeshi Matsunaga**, also from a family of potters from Namie, will accompany Masanori and introduce the craft of Obori Soma.

TALKS

The three talks in this program offer expert insights into post-3.11 Japan from landscape architecture, civil society and artistic perspectives.

In **'AfterLandscapes: Designing in Uncertainty'** on March 18, landscape architecture researcher **Dr Marieluise Jonas** (RMIT University) looks at the challenges of rebuilding following total eradication of life, landscape and infrastructure, and explores strategies for creating resilient futures.

In **'The New Wave of Activist Culture in Post-3.11 Japan'** on April 1, **Dr Akihiro Ogawa** (Melbourne University) discusses the post-3.11 awakening of activist culture in Japan, highlighting connections with recent pro-democracy movements across Asia.

In **'3.11 in Literature and Film'** on April 15, **Tamaki Tokita** looks at artistic responses to 3.11 and discusses the changing relationship to the nuclear in Japan's creative sphere.

FILM

Tell the Prime Minister (2015; 109mins), is a grassroots documentary about the growth of the protest movement in Japan following 3.11. It screens on April 8 at University of Technology, Sydney, featuring a **Q&A with director Eiji Oguma**, a professor of policy management at Japan's Keio University.

Says Nao Endo, director of The Japan Foundation, Sydney: "Five years have passed since 3.11, and although it has all but disappeared from Australian media, in Japan the legacy remains strong. Disaster always brings change, and Japan is no exception. On this anniversary of Japan's biggest tragedy since World War II, we pay our respects to all affected by 3.11 and turn our thoughts to how Japan has changed since this event."

PROGRAM DETAILS

After 3.11: Have you met the new Japan?

[EXHIBITION]

March 1 – April 15 *Icons of Time* by Tomohiro Muda

Gallery Hours

Monday – Friday: 10am – 6pm

Selected Saturdays (March 19, April 9): 10am – 3pm

Closed Sundays & public holidays

Admission is free.

Opening Reception & Artist Talk

March 4, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Admission is free. RSVP essential.

[DEMONSTRATION]

March 10 **Obori Soma Ware: Rebuilding Kiln & Kin**
Masanori Sue (Ceramicist) & Takeshi Matsunaga (Speaker)

6:30pm – 7:30pm (doors open 6pm) @ The Japan Foundation, Sydney.

Admission is free. Bookings essential (via website).

[TALKS]

March 18 **AfterLandscapes: Designing in Uncertainty**
Marieluise Jonas (RMIT University)

April 1 **The New Wave of Activist Culture in Post-3.11 Japan**
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) @ University of Technology Sydney (Bldg 2, Lecture theatre 3.02)

Admission is free. Bookings essential (via website).

Venues:**[EXHIBITION, DEMONSTRATION & 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 talks & film (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 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 MASANORI SUE

Masanori Sue was born in Namie, Fukushima. He trained in ceramics from an early age, graduating from a ceramic arts high school in Seto (a pottery-producing area in Aichi prefecture) before entering Minoru Craft studios as a potter. With experience at Minoru Craft behind him, Sue returned to Namie in 2000 and began working at Suetoku, his family’s Obori Soma kiln. After 3.11, Sue evacuated to Saitama prefecture, but concern about the Obori Soma tradition dying out led him to relocate to Fukushima’s Kooriyama City and open a new studio early this year.

ABOUT TAKESHI MATSUNAGA

Takeshi Matsunaga was born and raised in the town of Namie, Fukushima, and is the 4th-generation successor to the Matsunaga kiln. Prior to 3.11, he was eager to break family tradition and leave Namie, starting his own health care business with operations in China and Cambodia while studying at Japan’s Keio University, where he is currently a 4th-year student. But after 3.11, he returned to Fukushima and devoted himself to helping Namie’s craftspeople re-establish their kilns in new areas. Matsunaga now promotes traditional Obori Soma wares throughout Japan and overseas. In 2014, he was selected to attend the One Young World Japan

Summit, which offers leadership training for bright young talents.

ABOUT MARIELUISE JONAS



Dr Marieluise Jonas is a senior lecturer in landscape architecture in RMIT University's School of Architecture and Design. Marieluise earned her PhD at the University of Tokyo, where she researched informal gardening practices in dense urban conditions. Since 3.11, she has been involved with communities in tsunami-affected Tōhoku, and continues her affiliation with the University of Tokyo through urban research and post-disaster reconstruction projects. Her talk is based on her current book project, *AfterLandscape: Designing in Uncertainty—Post Disaster Futures Japan* [forthcoming, 2016], which seeks to document innovative rebuilding in Tōhoku.

ABOUT AKIHIRO OGAWA



Dr Akihiro Ogawa is Professor of Japanese Studies at University of Melbourne's Asia Institute. As a social anthropologist, his research interests include Japanese civil society, social movements, politics, peace, security, education and energy. Born in Japan, Ogawa earned his PhD in Anthropology in 2004 at Cornell University, and held positions at Harvard University and Stockholm University before coming to Australia in 2015. Ogawa's current project is a book manuscript titled, *New Energy Culture: Lessons for a Post-Fukushima Japan*.

ABOUT TAMAKI TOKITA



Tamaki Tokita is a postgraduate teaching fellow in Japanese Studies and Comparative Literature at University of Sydney. She recently submitted her PhD thesis on 3.11 literature, examining representations of the Japanese national character in Japanese, English and French literary responses to 3.11. Prior to her PhD, Tamaki worked on several research projects at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, and also has extensive experience as a Japanese-language translator. She is currently working on a book on 3.11 literature.

ABOUT EIJI OGUMA



Eiji Oguma's research covers national identity and nationalism, colonial policy, democracy thoughts and social movements of modern Japan from the view of historical sociology. His work has won numerous prestigious academic awards in Japan. Oguma has published widely in Japanese and several examples of his work have been translated into English, including the monographs, *The Boundaries of "Japanese" vol. 1: Okinawa 1868-1972* (2014) and *A Genealogy of Japanese Self-Images* (2002). Eiji Oguma is the director of the documentary film, *Tell the Prime Minister*. It is his first film.

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:

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