



Sharing Memories on Micro-Monuments

Photographs as Image-Objects and New Narratives for the Atomic Age

Takashi Arai

Wednesday, June 27th • 7:00 pm



Since the March 11, 2011 killed more than 19,000 and created nuclear catastrophe, Takashi Arai has been contemplating monuments as a means of conveying collective memory. This lecture will elucidate how historical and contemporary daguerreotypes function as micro-monuments that offer alternative ways of memorializing public trauma. The world's first practical photographic technique, daguerreotype was invented in 1839 in France. Daguerreotype is a process of recording an image directly on a silver plate, thus a single piece of silver remains as an irreproducible photograph. Even though it was one of the first photo techniques, its vivid and clear images replicate details faithfully. It has been said that, upon seeing daguerreotype for the first time, people intuitively grasped photography as a living image of the body and soul of a person.

Takashi Arai has made daguerreotype his own personal medium, finding it a reliable device for storing memory that is far better than modern photography. Since 2010, when he first became interested in nuclear issues, Arai has used daguerreotype to document his encounters with a surviving crew member, and the salvaged hull of the fallout-contaminated Daigo Fukuryūmaru fishing boat. This project led him to photograph the subjects of Fukushima, Hiroshima, Nagasaki and nuclear testing sites in the United States. Arai's work has been exhibited around the world, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Mori Art Museum and the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo. In 2016, he received the 41st Kimura Ihei Award for his first monograph "MONUMENTS". His works are held in the various public collections such as the Musée Guimet, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. • www.TakashiArai.com •

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Location: 5-7-12 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 2nd Floor
See <http://luj.tokyo/maps> for map; Tel: 03-3225-0425

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