

Description of project Gogasha --- Echigo Tsumari Triennale 2015

Fiona Wong is one of the participating artist of the Echigo Tsumari Art Triennale 2015. The work is a response to an abandoned hut in the middle of rice field in Tsunan area near Nagano. The house was built by a father, who believe nature can nurture the grow up of children. Names of his son and daughter was embedded at the side of the house. His daughter was passed away at early age, and the owner Mr Sekiguchi had a serious stroke later. The house was empty ever since.

The small hut was carefully designed with great ventilation. Windows of various sizes and shapes were scattered around the hut to create natural and soft lighting. The artist uses porcelain in various means to response to the aesthetic of light in Japanese culture. The paper of Japanese Shoji was replaced by porcelain, revealing the beauty of material itself. All the light works in the hut is also a tribute to pay to the love of father to their children in the world.

Statement

Mr Sekiguchi Tomokazu built a small hut at Tsunan by himself in 1988, intending to retreat from the hustle and bustle of urban life and allowing his son and daughter to grow up with the natural world. The family of four spent a lot of happy time in this hut. But life has its own plans and what Mr Sekiguchi had tried to achieve did not last. The hut became deserted.

In March this year, the hut was still half buried in snow. Thanks to the work of a number of volunteers, its face began to reappear in front of us. The three-storey hut stands in the middle of a paddy field and from it we have the view of the distant mountain ranges. The ground floor is made of concrete and a charcoal fire can be lit to warm the upper storeys. The middle floor comprises a hallway and a living room with windows of various size on the four sides, allowing light to form picturesque patterns in the room. On the upper floor is found a cozy bedroom, with the walls on the north and south sides lined with bookcases.

The hut has a gable roof in which two windows are opened for viewing the stars. There are countless stars in the sky, just like the sand in a river. Hence the name Gogasha, the kanji of which means "a hut at the eternal river".

With neither sophisticated design nor luxurious refurbishment, the hut has walked through many days and years. It is a tumbledown hut on the outside, but the light it once embraced has never died out. I have tried to rekindle that light with the art of ceramics.

Formerly a home built on intimate relationships, the hut is now a space to show artworks to visitors. Sometimes, things just take a surprising turn.

Porcelain comes from the earth. We need the right formula and firing at high temperature to achieve the vitrification and the final translucence of porcelain. Light diffusing through porcelain is a perfect duet played by nature and human civilisation.

Light brings out the essence of the beauty of porcelain. The porcelain also brings to us the light of the seasons in a completely new form.

I would like to pay tribute to the eternal love of a father with the warm and gentle light of porcelain.





