



The 2nd Okuaga International Art Festa

第2回奥阿賀アートフェスタ



A rich cultural exchange through the great outdoors and creative activities that take on new challenges

Our focus is on "building a rich, captivating countryside," and in recent years a large number of foreigners have visited Toyomi, being attracted by this. Last year, the first Okuaga International Art Festa was held featuring exhibits by professional artists from around Japan and people from the local community. This year, the festival was held for a second time with the added themes of the region's history of growing rice in difficult circumstances and its concern for the providence of nature. Venue No. 1, Re-creation of an Old Rice Field, was an area with narrow paths between rice fields and swampy ground, not the kind of place that could easily be turned into an event venue. Preparing the venue was extremely difficult, and was only achieved due to the strong will of the festival director and the cooperation of the overseas participants. A bear hibernation den was found within the venue, and tadpoles were released into the recreated rice field, much to the enjoyment of everyone concerned.

As for Venue No. 2, The Rice Field of Life, the four extra WWOOFers who were due to come to Japan could not participate due to the global

coronavirus pandemic, as a result of which it was turned into a venue for workshops only. However, children had a great time painting small boats in a relaxing and unrestrained environment, bringing joy to everyone involved. As well, on the final day there was a talk show at Venue No. 1, where, following opening remarks by the director, six guests shared their heartfelt opinions, sparking exchanges about bygone days.

At first it was feared that the entire event would have to be cancelled due to the spread of the coronavirus, but given the clean air of the natural setting a world away from the "Three Cs," it seemed to have been organized as a safe, secure, enjoyable art festival with a strongly international flavor.

Next year's festival will have as its theme stone circle making. Participants will use art to create things while considering what the ancient Jomon people thought and prayed about as they went about their work. At NPO Cosmo Yumebutai, we will continue to think about developing and ensuring the continuation of new initiatives. (Koichi Mori/NPO Cosmo Yumebutai)

新たな挑戦を続ける、大自然と創作活動を通じた豊かな交流

「魅力ある豊かな田舎づくり」に取り組んでいるが、近年これに魅かれて豊実に来訪する外国人が多い。国内のプロ作家や地域の人たちからの出展を得て、昨年第1回を開催した。

今回は、地域の困難な米作りの歴史や自然の摂理を大切に地域の特性などを新たなテーマに加え開催した。第1会場の「昔の田圃再現」エリアは、田んぼの畔や沢超えの難所でイベント会場にできるような場所ではなかった。会場づくりは難航を極めたが、理事長の強い意志と外国人の協力などで完成した。会場内に熊の冬眠穴が発見され、再現した田んぼにはオクマジックンを放し、その様を皆で楽しんだ。

また、第二会場の「いのちの田んぼ」は世界的なウイルスの流行で、新たにウーファーとして来日予定だった4人が参加できず、もっぱらワークショップ会場となってしまった。が、子どもたちはのびのびと

自由に小舟にペンキを塗って人騒がし、来場者も一緒に楽しんだ。

さらに、最終日には第1会場でトークショーが行われ、理事長の挨拶に続いて6名のゲストの皆さんがホットな感想を述べて、往時をしのぶ明るい交流の場となった。

当初は新型コロナウイルスの感染拡大で開催すら危ぶまれたが、「3密」とは程遠い大自然のきれいな空気のもと、安心、安全な国際色豊かな楽しいアート展として認知されたようだ。開催直前の地元紙の掲載で来場者も急増し、主催者側としても安堵した。来年は、ストーンサークルづくりを主題とする。古代縄文人がどんな思いで、どんな祈りを込めて作業を進めたのかに思いをはせ、アートを駆使して創造する。NPO法人コスモ夢舞台としては、新しい労力の開発と後継への願いも込めていく。

(NPO法人 コスモ夢舞台 森紘一)

Date

18 May ~ 28 June 2020

Venue

Re-creation of an Old Rice Field/ The Rice Field of Life (Okuaga, Niigata)

Participants

Kentaro Sato, Yoshio Osada, Yoshihiro Suga, Yumiko Endo, Atsushi Nihei, Molly, Orin, Sandra, Zander

日程

2020年5月18日～6月28日

会場

第1会場「昔の田圃再現」
第2会場「いのちの田んぼ」(新潟県、奥阿賀)

参加者

佐藤賢太郎、長田良夫、菅敬浩、遠藤由美子、二瓶厚、モーリィ、オーリン、サンドラ、ザンダー