

## Noritaka ABE

I was born in Akita prefecture. Akita is a snow country in winter, the blue sky and the blue sea turn to all gray. When the weather is stormy and the blizzard is raged, all you can hear is the haul of the wind. Your sight is taken away, and you can't see anything. There are few sunny days in winter and every day is gray. I felt like I was in a strange world neither in this world and nor in the next world. The suicide rate has been highest for long years in Akita.

After I left Akita, I've been living as a photographer in Tokyo longing for commercial photography. I almost lost my job due to the corona crisis. My world has been wrapped in gray again like winter in Akita. But thanks to that, I felt strangely relaxed. I felt a odd sense of release. Because I was free every day, I've read every artist's books such as Hirosih Sugimoto, Naoya Hatakeyama Lieko Shiga, and Takashi Murakami. I've also studied about art and history. I was so shocked after I learned about the hidden messages of contemporary art and photographs. And it totally changed the way I saw the world. Perhaps, the winter in Akita, where everything looked gray, was a very clear world.

There is a scene that I really like in Makoto Yukimura's anime called Planetes. The younger brother of the main character(Kyutaro) and a Russian astronaut is talking by the sea. When Yuri asks Kyutaro where he thinks is the boundary between space and earth, Kyutaro answers unclearly, like "100 km to 200 km in the upper thermosphere?". Yuri replies, " I feel there are no boundaries." This scene is forever stuck in my mind.

Anthropologist Ryunosuke Murakoshi said, "Nowadays, science can't define life or death. We can't clearly say that he was born or died at this moment."

His remarks make the gray world of Akita and the scene of Planetes connected.

Gray is the boundary between white and black. I think it is very natural that you feel death and life at the same time because there are no clear border. I am getting a feeling that the world is an incomprehensible, gradated object.

## Ausstellung

2023 - GEISAI#22 & Classic(TOKYO JAPAN)