

# WAYS OF NOT FORGETTING:

Japanese citizen scientists' artistic responses to the 2011 Fukushima disaster

© 2019

EIGHT YEARS AFTER "3/11," JAPAN IS STILL COMING TO TERMS WITH THE HUMAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND ECONOMIC DAMAGE WREAKED BY A DEADLY EARTHQUAKE, DEVASTATING TSUNAMI AND MULTIPLE MELTDOWNS AT THE FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI NUCLEAR POWER PLANT.



WHEREAS SOME OFFICIALS IN JAPAN CALL TO PUT THE MEMORIES OF THESE DISASTER TO REST ...

... VARIOUS GROUPS IN JAPANESE SOCIETY VOW NEVER TO FORGET WHAT HAPPENED.

THE LATTER INCLUDE LOCAL COMMUNITY RESIDENTS, WHO TO THIS DAY MONITOR RADIOACTIVITY IN THE AFFECTED AREAS AND COMMUNICATE ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS.

THESE CITIZEN SCIENTISTS, AS THEY ARE SOMETIMES CALLED, HAVE DEVELOPED THEIR OWN ARTISTIC RESPONSES TO THE FUKUSHIMA ACCIDENT ...

... IN THE FORM OF POSTERS, PAMPHLETS, BROCHURES, COMICS, AND THEATRICAL ART; ...

... WHICH CONVEY HOW RADIATION HAS PENETRATED THE EVERYDAY LIVES OF CITIZENS, ...

... AND URGE RESIDENTS TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES IN DEALING WITH THE EFFECTS OF RADIATION FROM THE DISASTER.

**To measure, to learn  
and to live.**  
Radiation Safety Guide for Families



What can we do in order to protect children from radioactivity

IN THIS CARTOON, WE BRING INTO FOCUS THESE ARTISTIC REPRESENTATIONS AND LINK THEM TO LONGER TRADITIONS OF JAPANESE ART CULTURE ...

IN HOMAGE TO THESE TRADITIONS, WE DEPLOY THE BURGEONING SCIENCE-ART FORMAT KNOWN AS THE CARTOON ABSTRACT, WHICH TRANSFORMS ACADEMIC RESEARCH INTO A VISUALLY APPEALING CARTOON STRIP.

OUR AIMS ARE TO:

1) ACKNOWLEDGE THE VALUE OF INTIMATE AND IMAGINATIVE KNOWLEDGE IN THE CONTEXT OF LONG-LASTING EXPOSURE TO RADIATION, AND ...

... 2) OPEN UP A DIALOGUE AMONG ARTISTS, CITIZENS, AND SCHOLARS WHO SHARE A NORMATIVE COMMITMENT TO NOT FORGETTING.

... INCLUDING MANGA...

...AND THE CUTENESS AESTHETIC KNOWN AS KAWAII.

( [HTTP://EXPLORE.TANDFONLINE.COM/PAGE/EST/CARTOON-ABSTRACTS](http://explore.tandfonline.com/page/est/cartoon-abstracts) ).

Keywords: Art, Cartoon abstract, Citizen science, Fukushima disaster, Japan, Radiation.