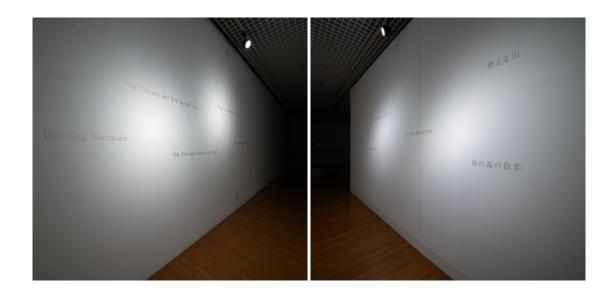
## 響き、森よりも深く遠くへ

長坂 有希:Living with Otherness をめぐって

中村 絵美



## Echoing to the Deeper and Farther Places than the Forest

An Essay on Aki Nagasaka: Living with Otherness

by Emi Nakamura



そして、海の深いところを流れ続ける海流がこれからも地球をめぐり続けますように。 (長坂有希《冬の森で見た夢》より)

ペカンペ(水の上にあるもの、アイヌ語で菱の意)が大繁茂して、沼の水面をすっかり三角状の葉で覆い尽くしていた。橋の上で立ち止まると、水平線近くまで伸びて大きくうねる馬蹄形のこの沼から湿地、陸へと続くエコトーンが一望できる。そして木立の向こうには、ガラス張りの三角形の建築物・ガラスのピラミッドが快晴を浴びながらそびえているのが見えた。

モエレ沼公園の夏である。

ガラスのピラミッドでは、2024年の夏季にかけ、長坂有希の個展「長坂有希: Living with Otherness」が開催された。長坂は2010年代後半から札幌、斜里、厚岸、苫小牧など、北海道各地で滞在と調査を行なってきたアーティストである。本展では、2020年から調査を続けた「北海道の生態系」を主題に、映像、音、朗読、そして彼女が見つけてきた様々な自然物をフロア全体に散りばめて構成したインスタレーションが発表された。

長坂の北海道滞在のきっかけや経緯は、キュレーターの服部浩之をゲストに招いた本展のギャラリートークで本人の口から語られている<sup>(i)</sup>。1990年代末から始まる長い海外暮らしから帰国した長坂は、特段の目的を設けずに2016年にさっぽろ天神山アートスタジオ(札幌市)に一ヶ月ほど滞在した。そして日常生活を通じて、北海道に対して国内では最も「ホーム的な居心地の良さ」を感じとり、18年に再び制作のため来道。同年、《カムイワッカへ、そして私たちの始まりへ》<sup>(ii)</sup>を発表。以降、当地でのフィールドワークの深度を増していく。私は、18年の滞在時には直接会うことはなかったが、ネイチャーガイド経験者として長坂の野外調査に関するささやかな助言者となっていた。また22年以降は、苫小牧などでの森歩きに数度、一緒している。これらの経験も踏まえて、ここからは本作に言及したい。

展示会場入口に、作家が執筆したテクストが印刷され配布されていた。それを手にして通路を進んでいくと、大広間に出る。暗い室内には灰白色のウレタンフォームでできた四角いブロックや円筒の水槽などが間隔をあけて置かれているのが見えた。目の前のブロック《冬の森で見た夢》には、1人女性が背筋を伸ばして座っていた。彼女の頭上には、20cm角程度かと思われる立方体の白いスピーカーが吊り下げられていた。会場内には同様のセットが4箇所に配置されている。

ひとまず私も別のブロック《雨の森の散歩》に腰を下ろした。頭上のスピーカーは指向性で、長坂の朗読が流されていた。音量は小さく、語りを聴くためには繊細な注意を要する。内容は先ほど手にとったテクストと同じようで、文字を目で追おうか少し悩んだが、この暗さでは難しい。代わりに目の前の床に、森の中で散策しながら作家が撮影したものか、スナップショット的な森の映像《無題(ミズナラ)》が流れているので眺めてみる。そうやって試行錯誤で朗読を体験していると、天井の別の方角から、何かが裂けるような乾いた音、なんとも形容し難い、無機質な音が響いて、私の耳に割り込んできた。

この音はすぐ止んだが、おかげで私は朗読の読解にこだわるのを諦めて、音のする方へ移動することにした。途中に、映像《無題(メム)》がある<sup>(ii)</sup>。水を張った円柱型の透明アクリルが置いてあり、その底部に合わせて水中を撮影した映像が丸くトリミングされて映されている。絶え間なく泡立つ水の中から一瞬、イワナかウグイか、川魚が現れ、こちらを鼻でつついてすぐ消えた。



無題(メム)粘土に映像 / Untitled (Mem), video on clay

入口から見て会場の右手に、先ほどの謎の音の出どころである天井スピーカーがあり、その近くの床に映像《無題(アカエゾマツ)》があった。少しいびつな立方体の土塊が、長方形を成すようにいくつも規則的に配置されていて、そこに森の映像が投影されている。北海道の固有樹種であるアカエゾマツをメインに、青葉の茂る木々をドローンで空撮した映像だ。幹を辿って樹上まで、一本の木をゆっくりと映し、カメラは木々の樹冠を超えて、その枝張りを真俯瞰で映し出していく。アカエゾマツは本来群生する性質があるのだが、撮影地は広葉樹の多い森のようだ。



無題(アカエゾマツ)粘土に映像/Untitled (Red Spruce Tree), video on clay

実際の森歩きとは異なる体験だとは思いつつ、はじめ朗読体験の難しさにやや困惑していた私は、会場を少しばかり歩き、各映像を通じて森や川を観察している気持ちになって、徐々に落ちついてきた。それで朗読《霧と火山とアカエゾマツ》に耳を傾け、改めてフロアに点在するブロックにも座り直したのち、会場の最奥に置かれた朗読《燃える山》、映像《無題(燃える山)》に辿り着いた。これも床に映像が投影されているが、今度は三角形に敷き詰められた白っぽい火山灰に、ぴったり同形の映像が投写されている。対になる朗読では、「燃える山」の357年前の噴火について語られていた。作家は、この噴火によって森が更地になり、そこに新たに種が運ばれ、300年以上かけて今私たちの見ている森になった、と語っている。

長坂は、フィールドワーカーとして近年北海道大学苫小牧研究林に繰り返し滞在してきた。そこは

樽前山噴火の火山灰の上に立地することが知られている。とすれば、この語りには、苫小牧・千歳にまたがる樽前山の1667年の大噴火と釧路湿原、十勝平野にまで及んだ火山灰災害という歴史が織り込まれているに違いない——本作で語られることはなかったが、この噴火は人々の生活を困窮させ、社会不安の増大と民族間の対立の激化を招いた。その帰結として、日本近世史上最大となる民族衝突が招かれてもいる(w)——。「燃える山」についての語りを踏まえれば、本作で繰り返し表される「森」とは、直接的にはこの噴火以後に再生された、広葉樹と針葉樹の共存する異種混交の森のこと——冷温帯と亜寒帯の境界に成立し、北方針広混交林と呼ばれる——を指すのだろう。確かにこの森は、作家が主題とした「北海道の生態系」の具体的な形としてふさわしい。



無題(燃える山)火山灰に映像/Untitled (Burning Mountain), video on volcanic ash

この「燃える山」の右手には普段は上階へつながる階段があるのだが、今回は階段を通行止めにしていた。中段のステップに指向性スピーカーが1つ置かれ、朗読《ミズナラと風の中の声》を聞く場所になっていた。階段に腰を下ろして耳を澄ます。が、朗読を遮って、また、形容し難いあの異質な音が聞こえた。階段から会場全体を見渡すと、広く暗い空間に丸、四角、三角の形が点在しているのが見えた。

後日、作家に会場で繰り返し流れていたあの不思議な響きの正体について確認したところ、本作のためにサウンド・アーティストのルイサ・プターマン(Luisa Puterman)を苫小牧研究林に招いて、森を共に散策し、協働で製作した音だったと聞いた。森の中に落葉していたホウの葉を繊細に握り潰す音がベースになっているという。

本展の大きな主題であった"Otherness"については、本展キュレーターである宮井和美の展示レビュー<sup>(い)</sup>によって、作中の朗読にも登場する「アーキア(古細菌)」に仮託されていることが示されている。アーキアは、自分にとっては異質なものであるミトコンドリア(の祖先)を自らの体内に取り込むことで、相互依存的な共生関係を確立させた原始的な生物である。この関係が、人間を含めた全ての生物の進化——全ての生命の繋がり——に深く関係しているという。長坂は、この進化説を含めたさまざまな学術的知見に依拠し、科学的な思考を取り入れた五つのテクストを執筆、朗読し、本展に用いた。

本稿で述べてきたとおり、本作による展示体験は決して朗読の意味内容にのみ比重を置いたものではなかった。実際の作品体験で最も象徴的に"Otherness"を体現していたのは、あのホウの葉の響きであろう。ただし、メムについて語られた《冬の森で見た夢》は、科学的知識と自然観察に支えられ

ていた他のテクストとは少し異なり、語りの途中にメムについての叙事詩的な散文が挿入されていた。 本稿冒頭で引用したのは、そのテクストの最終行である。

あらゆる循環が脅かされているこの時代に、不確かながらも持続的に森の中に湧き続け、「海の深いところ」にまで繋がっているマジカルな存在がメムである。こうした作家の詩的な語りは、私たちの科学的認識の枠組みだけでは充分に語り得ないもの、他者との見えない繋がりに、懸命に手を伸ばそうとしているように思う。

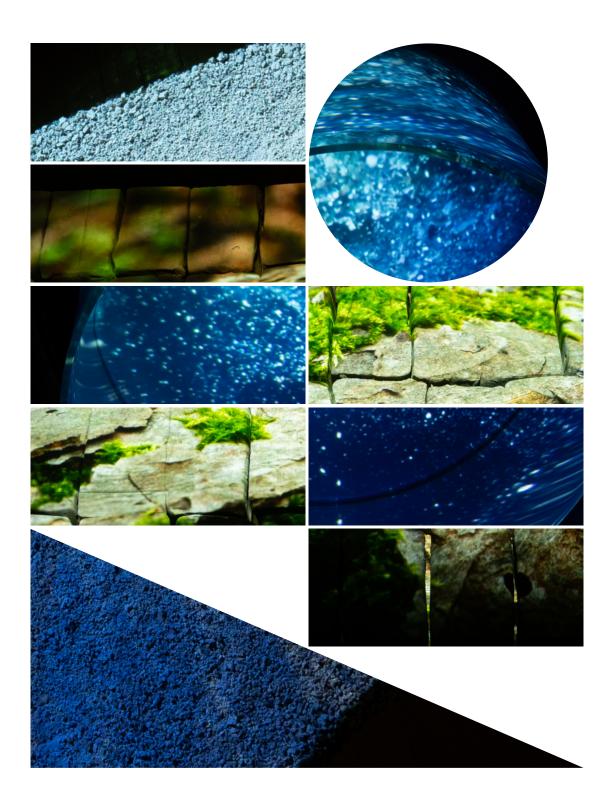
i 長坂有希・服部浩之「『長坂有希: Living with Otherness』ギャラリートーク1: 長坂有希×服部浩之」2024年7月20日、モエレ沼公園(YouTube)https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfQaCVO-OI4

ii 2018年10月6日~27日、於:CAI 02 (現CAIO3)。また、次の展示にも同作が出品された。 「藻類の時間軸-そして私たちの始まりへ」2021年7月13日~9月4日、於:北海道大学総合博物館。

iii メム (mem) はアイヌ語で湧水の意。

iv 1669年、和人の交易支配に抗議するため各地のアイヌがシャクシャインの呼びかけに応じ軍を編成、松前藩に対し一大軍事蜂起を起こした (シャクシャインの戦い)。従来はアイヌ集落間の狩場をめぐる対立が、松前藩の経済的社会的圧迫に抗する民族衝突へ発展したと考えられてきたが、研究が進んだ現在は樽前山噴火 (1667年) や有珠山噴火(1663年) による当時の自然環境の変動も戦いの一因とされている。

v 宮井和美「『わたし』と他者との揺れる境界線——長坂有希: Living with Otherness』」2024年8月19日、artscape(大日本印刷株式会社) https://artscape.jp/article/19375/



——May the mems continue to spring for many years to come.

And may the deep currents continue to flow around Earth for many millenniums to come.

(from "Dreams in the Winter Forest" by Aki Nagasaka)

The *pekampe* (things that are above water, meaning water chestnut in the Ainu language) was in full bloom, completely covering the surface of the swamp with its triangular-shaped leaves. Stopping at the bridge, I could see the ecotone of this horseshoe-shaped swamp, which extended almost to the horizon and undulated greatly, leading from the swamp to the marsh and then to the land. Beyond the trees, I could see the Glass Pyramid, a triangular structure made of glass, soaring toward the clear sky.

It was summer in Moerenuma Park.

Aki Nagasaka's solo exhibition, Aki Nagasaka: Living with Otherness, was held at the Glass Pyramid during the summer of 2024. Nagasaka is an artist who has been conducting residencies and research in various places in Hokkaido since the late 2010s, including Sapporo, Shari, Akkeshi, and Tomakomai. This exhibition featured an installation themed around the "Ecologies of Hokkaido", which she had been researching since 2020. It consisted of videos, sounds, narrations, and various natural objects she had found, which were scattered throughout the floor.

Nagasaka explained the background and motivation for her stay in Hokkaido in the exhibition's gallery talk with the guest speaker and curator, Hiroyuki Hattori<sup>(i)</sup>. Returning to Japan after a long stay abroad that began at the end of the 1990s, Nagasaka stayed at the Sapporo Tenjinyama Art Studio in Sapporo, for about a month in 2016, without any specific purpose in mind. Through her daily life during the stay, she found Hokkaido to be the most "home-like and comfortable" place in Japan for her and came back to Hokkaido in 2018 to create works. In the same year, she presented *To the Kamuy-Wakka, To the Spring of Eukaryotes*<sup>(ii)</sup>. Since then, Nagasaka's fieldwork in Hokkaido has grown in depth. Although I did not meet her in person during her stay in 2018, I served as a modest advisor for her field research as a nature guide. Since 2022, I have also accompanied Nagasaka on several forest walks in Tomakomai and other places. Based on these experiences, I would like to talk about the work in the exhibition in this essay.

At the entrance of the exhibition hall, printed texts written by the artist were distributed. Taking



物語を聞く場所、スピーカー、ウレタンフォームブロック / Story Listening Corner: speaker, polyurethane foam block

the handout, I proceeded down a passageway to a large hall. In the dark space, I could see square, gray-ish-white polyurethane foam blocks and cylindrical water tanks placed apart. On the block in front of me, entitled *Dreams in the Winter Forest*, a woman was sitting with her back straight. A cubic white speaker, approximately 20 cm square, was suspended above her head. Similar sets of the block and speaker were placed in four locations in the hall.

I sat down on another block, entitled *Walking in the Rainy Forest*, for the time being. The overhead speaker was directional and playing Nagasaka's narration. The volume was low, and it required delicate attention to hear the narration. The content seemed to be the same as the printed text I had just picked up and I thought for a moment whether I should follow the words with my eyes, but it was difficult to do so in the dark. Instead, I looked at the video, *Untitled (Oak Tree)*, projected on the floor in front of me. It showed footage of a forest, which was probably taken by the artist while walking in the forest. As I was trying hard to listen to the narration, a dry, indescribable, inorganic sound—as if something was cracking—came from a different direction on the ceiling and interrupted my ears.



無題(ミズナラ)粘土に映像 / Untitled (Oak Tree), video on clay

The sound stopped immediately, but this caused me to give up on trying to grasp the narration and move to the direction of the sound. On the way, there was a video, *Untitled (Mem)* (iii). A clear acrylic cylinder filled with water was placed on the floor and a round-cropped underwater video was projected to match the bottom of the cylinder. A river fish, maybe a char or a Japanese dace, appeared for a moment out of the constantly bubbling spring water, sniffed at me, and quickly disappeared.

At the right side of the exhibition hall from the entrance, there was a ceiling speaker, where the mysterious sound I mentioned earlier came from, and a video, *Untitled (Red Spruce Tree)*, was projected on the floor near it. A number of slightly distorted cuboid clay blocks were arranged to form a rectangle, and a video of a forest was projected onto them. The footage was shot from the air by drone, mainly capturing the red spruce tree, an endemic tree species of Hokkaido, and surrounding trees with lush green foliage. The camera slowly followed the trunk of the red spruce tree up to the top and went beyond the canopy of the tree to show its branches from a true bird's eye view. The red spruce trees naturally grow in a cluster, but the forest where the video was shot seemed to be dominated by broadleaf trees.

I was a bit bewildered at first by the difficulty of grasping the narrations, thinking that it was a different experience from walking in the forest, but I gradually calmed down as I walked around the exhibition

hall for a bit and felt like I was observing the forest and the river through each video. After listening to the narration, Fog, Volcano, and the Red Spruce Tree, and sitting down again on the blocks scattered around the floor, I arrived at the narration, Burning Mountain, and the video, Untitled (Burning Mountain), placed at the far end of the hall. The video was also projected on the floor, but this time they were exactly shaped to fit on the whitish volcanic ash laid out in a triangle. The paired narration told of the eruption of the Burning Mountain 357 years ago. The artist said that this eruption cleared the forest, and that new seeds were carried into the bare land, and that over the next 300 years, it became the forest that we see today.



無題(燃える山)火山灰に映像/Untitled (Burning Mountain), video on volcanic ash

In recent years, Nagasaka has repeatedly stayed at the Tomakomai Experimental Forest, Hokkaido University, as an ethnographer. It is known that the site is located on the land covered by the volcanic ash that came from the eruption of Mount Tarumae. This narrative talks about the history of the large eruption of Mount Tarumae in 1667, which straddles the Tomakomai and Chitose areas, and the volcanic ash disaster that affected the Kushiro Marshlands and the Tokachi Plain.

Although it was not mentioned in the work, the eruption impoverished people's lives, leading to increased social unrest and intensified ethnic conflicts. As a result, the largest ethnic clash in Japan's early modern history happened<sup>(iv)</sup>. Based on the narrative of *Burning Mountain*, the "forest" that repeatedly appears in the work refers directly to the mixed-species forest of broadleaf trees and conifers that have regenerated since the eruption. It was established on the border between the cool temperate zone and the subarctic zone, and it is called the Northern mixed forest. Certainly, this forest is an appropriate, concrete example of the "Ecologies of Hokkaido" that the artist has taken as her subject.

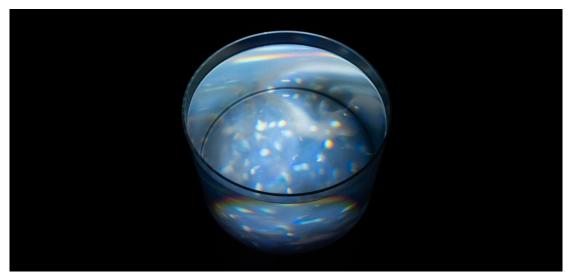
On the right side of the *Burning Mountain*, there is usually a staircase leading to the upper floor, but at the time, the staircase was intentionally closed. There was a directional speaker placed in the middle of the staircase, providing a place to listen to the narrative, *the Oak Tree and Voices in the Wind*. I sat down on the stairs and listened carefully. However, interrupting the narration, the indescribable, foreign sound echoed again. Looking over the entire hall from the stairs, I could see the circle, square, and triangle shapes, dotting the large, dark space.

Later, when I asked Nagasaka about the identity of the mysterious sound that was repeatedly played in the exhibition hall, she told me that it was a sound created in collaboration with the sound artist Luisa Puterman. The artist invited Puterman to the Tomakomai Experimental Forest, and they walked through the forest together. She said that the sound was created, based on the delicate crushing of Japanese big-leaf magnolia leaves that had fallen in the forest.

In a review of the exhibition<sup>(v)</sup>, the curator Kazumi Miyai, mentioned that the artist used an entity of "archaea", which appeared in one of the narratives in the work, to imply her thoughts on "Otherness", the main theme of the exhibition. Archaea are primitive organisms that have established an interdependent symbiotic relationship with (ancestors of) mitochondria, which are foreign to them, by incorporating them into their own bodies. This relationship, Nagasaka said, is deeply related to the evolution of all organisms—the connection of all life—including humans. She wrote the five texts that incorporated scientific thinking based on various academic findings, including the theory of evolution, narrated them and used them in this exhibition.

As I have described in this essay, the experience of the exhibition was by no means solely focused on the semantic content of the narratives. The most symbolic embodiment of "Otherness" in the actual experience of the work was the sound of the Japanese big-leaf magnolia leaves. However, *Dreams in the Winter Forest*, which talked about *mem*, differed slightly from the other texts that were based on scientific knowledge and natural observation. It had epic poetry about *mem* inserted in the middle of the narrative. The quote at the beginning of this essay is the last part of that text.

In our time when all cycles are threatened, *mem* is a magical entity that continues to spring up in the forest, precariously but persistently, and is even connected to "the deep currents". The poetic narratives of the artist demonstrate her earnest attempt to reach out to the invisible connections with others, something that cannot be adequately spoken about within the framework of our scientific perception alone.



無題(メム)粘土に映像/Untitled (Mem), video on clay

i Aki Nagasaka and Hiroyuki Hattori, "'Aki Nagasaka: Living with Otherness' Gallery Talk 1: Aki Nagasaka x Hiroyuki Hattori," July 20, 2024, Moerenuma Park
(YouTube) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfQaCV0-OI4

ii October 6–27, 2018, at CAI 02 (now CAI 03). The work was also exhibited in the exhibition, *To Our Beginnings: Time Traveling through Algae*, July 13–September 4, 2021, at the Hokkaido University Museum.

iii Mem means water spring in the Ainu langugage.

iv In 1669, Ainu from all over the island organized a military uprising against the Matsumae clan in response to the call of the Shakushain to protest the trading domination of the Japanese people (the Shakushain's War). It had been thought in the past that the conflict between Ainu villages over hunting grounds developed into an ethnic clash against the economic and social oppression of the Matsumae clan, but current advanced research has suggested that changes in the natural environment due to the eruptions of Mount Tarumae (1667) and Mount Usu (1663) were also a factor in the war.

v Kazumi Miyai, "The Swaying Boundary between 'I' and Others: 'Aki Nagasaka: Living with Otherness'", August 19, 2024, artscape (Dai Nippon Printing Co., Ltd.) https://artscape.jp/article/19375/



## 中村絵美

美術家/北海道大学大学院博士課程在籍

1988年北海道生まれ、秋田県在住。ネイチャーガイド、郷土史編纂といった北海道内で携わった仕事を通じて獲得した独自の視点によって、さまざまな場所を歩き、作品イメージを組み立てている。近年の出品に「VOCA展2024 現代美術の展望―新しい平面の作家たち―」(上野の森美術館)がある。研究は、北海道の戦後写真を対象とする。調査協力として、「札幌国際芸術祭2020」キュレトリアルアドバイザーなど。

Imaginary Landscapes 07 展覧会 長坂 有希: Living with Otherness

2024年7月20日 - 8月25日 モエレ沼公園内ガラスのピラミッド

アーティズト 長坂 有希キュレーター 宮井 和美

記録写真テキスト英語翻訳英語校正レイアウトデザイン東野 正次郎

## Emi Nakamura

Artist / Ph.D. Candidate, Graduate School of Humanities and Human Sciences, Hokkaido University

Born 1988 in Hokkaido, Japan and lives in Akita, Japan. She walks around various places and conceptualizes images of her works, using her unique perspective she acquired through her work experiences as a nature guide and editor of local histories of Japan. Her recent exhibitions include *VOCA 2024: The Vision of Contemporary Art* (2024, the Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo). Her research focuses on post-war period photography in Hokkaido. Her research collaborations include serving as a curatorial advisor for the Sapporo International Art Festival 2020.

Imaginary Landscapes 07 Exhibition Aki Nagasaka: Living with Otherness

2024.07.20 - 08.25 Glass Pyramid at Moerenuma Park

Artist Aki Nagasaka
Curator Kazumi Miyai

Photo Yoshisato Komaki
Text Emi Nakamura
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