

The Exchange of Science and Art in Tateyama Kurobe Geopark

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Kurobe City is one municipality that makes up Tateyama Kurobe Geopark, which joined the Japanese Geoparks Network in 2014. It not only conducts the spread and promotion of earth sciences, but also conducts promotional measures related to culture and industry with information pertaining to earth sciences and national geography as a basis.

Since 2014 the Kurobe City Art Musuem has held an exhibition with pieces centered on a “local” theme, which has allowed regional residents to reconsider their hometown with new points of view.

It was reported at a lecture that from 2016 Kurobe Art Museum has invited three artists to Kurobe City: an art museum curator, an artist, and a geological curator. They have conducted research and using the inspiration gained from the research, created pieces to be displayed at exhibitions.

The 2016 exhibition “Motoyuki Shitamichi: To Listen for Landscapes” is a new work with ((stones)) as the theme. With Kurobe’ s natural environment in the background, the artist Shitamichi discovers people unconsciously conducting creative acts, such as “giving value to things.” An installation was held using photographs and pebble tools.

The 2017 exhibition “Ai Sasaki: In Between Landscapes and Stories” is an exhibition with ((landscapes, memories, and stories)) as the theme. The artist created a group of work including geological phenomenon the artist recognized based on her research. In order to get closer to the landscapes, the artist also created paintings and sculptures that used the various landscapes remembered in stories.

The 2018 exhibition “Tatsuo Kawaguchi: Chi no Kōya” (tentative) will be an exhibition based on research of the ground in Kurobe City and its surrounding municipalities. Taking inspiration from this research, the artist will produce devices responding to the works of art and the earth.

The artist captures the phenomenon and creates new schema according to their own understanding and constructs (groups of) art. The art curator systematically organizes and displays those works of art and puts forward a new concept to the world. The earth sciences curator can present a viewpoint based on lithology and the earth’ s history, which is the source of the artist’ s inspiration, and can also help toward producing works. In this way, by producing a group of work with a scientific background, it is possible for the world to recognize a new point of view regarding earth sciences.

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