

CONFLICT TEXTILES



Stitching Memoryscape exhibition in Nagasaki

Nagasaki Prefectural Art Museum

29 August - 3 September, 2017

Associated Activity

Screening of the Film "Ware Nao Ikite Ari (I Am Still Alive)":

Listening to the voice of Sumako Fukuda, the A-bombed poet

Date: Saturday 2 September 2017, 2pm-3.30pm

Venue: Museum Hall, Nagasaki Prefectural Art Museum

Facilitated by: Yuki Tomozawa (Nagasaki University)

Co-Organized by: Nagasaki Testimonial Society; Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Survivors Council

With a comment by: Makoto Tokuyasu, Former Director at the Nagasaki Broadcasting Company

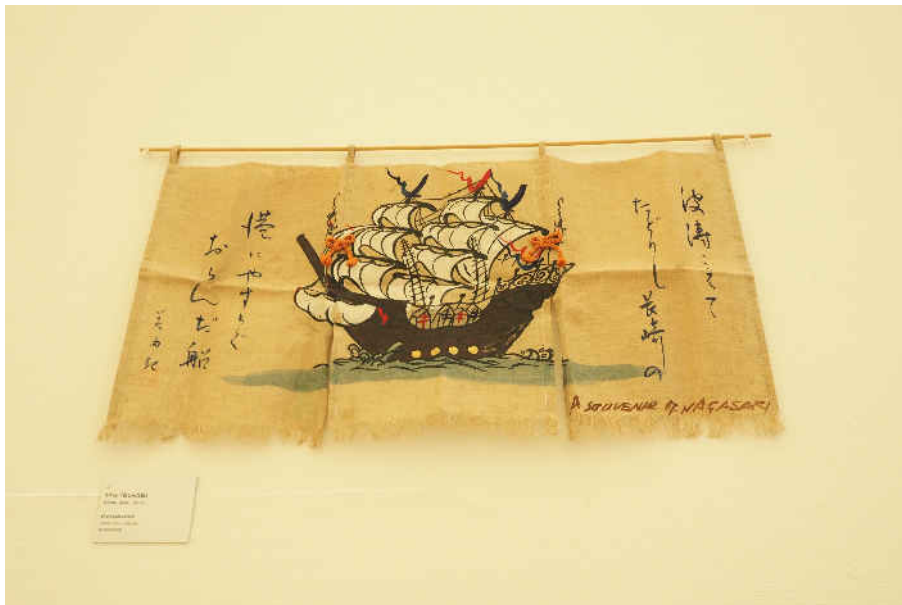
In its third and last venue in Nagasaki, the Stitching Memoryscape exhibition had on display handicrafts made by Sumako Fukuda (1922-1974), a poet and activist who went through the atomic bomb in Nagasaki: ginkgo nut dolls, wall hangings and door curtain. Suffering from illnesses caused by atomic-bomb radiation, Sumako worked on those pieces with her hands in order to inspire herself as well as to make a day-to-day living, the spirit of which echoes those of early Chilean arpilleristas who kept sewing their experiences at the height of political and economical repression.

The film "I Am Still Alive," screened on Saturday, the 2nd of September, was produced by Nagasaki Broadcasting Company in 1973. It focuses on everyday life of Sumako Fukuda, 28 years after the atomic bomb, portraying Suamko's struggle for life and indomitable will to keep writing. Sumako Fukuda died a year after the production of this film, at the age of 52.

The screening was followed by a talk given by the director of the film, Makoto Tokuyasu. More than 50 people came to this screening, including Sumako Fukuda's own relatives.



Makoto Tokuyasu (top-left), Director of "I Am Still Alive" (1973), talking about the film's production.



Door Curtain "Dutch Ship" by Sumako Fukuda.

Sumako Fukuda's ginkgo nut dolls, wall hangings and door curtain depict local history and cultures in Nagasaki. They were sold in souvenir shops and in anti-nuclear-weapon meetings. Sumako was advised and assisted by her sworn brother, her partner and his son, in the process of making her handicrafts.

Report and Photos by Tomoko Sakai
10 September 2017