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English translation by Tomomitsu Oshima



Tapestry for Peace

50 years after the military coup in Chile Works by local women on display in Nagano, Japan

To mark the 50th anniversary of the military coup in Chile, Oshima Hakko Museum of Poetry and Song in Kiyono, Matsushiro-cho, Nagano City, is holding a special exhibition of tapestries called "Arpilleras" hand-sewn by local women. The museum is calling for visitors to come to the exhibition, saying, *"These are works of art that express women's thoughts of peace"*. In Chile, Pinochet, a military man, staged a coup d'etat in September 1973 and imposed a military dictatorship until 1990. Under the military regime, democratic movements and leftists were suppressed by the military, and police killings and torture were frequent. Hakko Oshima (1910-2006), a poet from Matsushiro, was involved in supporting the Chilean people at the time.

The exhibition will feature 23 works depicting the repression of the Chilean people under the military regime, and their protest marches and other demonstrations in opposition to the regime. Although the subjects of the works are people suffering from the oppression, they are brightly coloured with blue, yellow, and other vivid fabrics, and the works are easy to relate to. The museum will also hold an exhibition of works by Pablo Neruda, a Nobel Prize-winning poet who died shortly after the military coup.

Sonoko Kobayashi, deputy director of the museum, appeals that "peace cannot be protected unless we try to protect it".

The exhibition will run through December 28, closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Admission is free. For inquiries, contact the museum at 026-278-1004.

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