

「系譜」

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私の出身地である長野県諏訪地方では、寅と申の年に御柱祭という祭が行なわれる。一説には千数百年続いているといわれ、日本三大奇祭のひとつに数えられている危険をともしなう祭だ。私は幼い頃からそれに触れてきた。諏訪地方のなかでも古い地区で生まれ、ゆえに祖父、祖母、父が深く関わってきたからだ。祭は地縁、血縁のつながりによって成立している。原風景ともいえる。

故人となった祖父と父のアルバムを開いた時、そのなかに遠い日の御柱祭を発見した。ふと、私が体験した祭りに彼らのそれが重なってゆく気がした。私の記憶と彼らのそれが溶け合ってゆく。境目はどこまでもあいまいとなり、おぼろげと化す。過去は写真に撮れないと思っていたが、そうではないことに気づいた。



1968年長野県生まれ。1988年東京工芸大学短期大学部写真技術科卒業後、新聞社にカメラマンとして入社。1991年独立。アジアを多く旅し作品を制作。2000-2002年渡米(N.Y.)。近年では自らの故郷である諏訪地域を独自の視点で制作を行っている。著書に『ASIAN JAPANESE』、『days new york』、『メモワール』、『kemonomichi』、『Silence of India』、『ニッポンの奇祭』、『見知らぬ記憶』、『写真で愉しむ 東京「水流」地形散歩』など多数。1997年『DAYS ASIA』で日本写真協会新人賞、2013年『遠くから来た舟』で第22回林忠彦賞を受賞。



“Genealogy”

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In my home, the Lake Suwa area of the Nagano prefecture, there is a festival called, Onbashira, which is held in the years of the Tiger and the Monkey. According to one assessment, this festival has been held for over a thousand years and is considered to be one of the three largest, strangest festivals in Japan. The festival, however, can also be dangerous.

I have experienced going to the Onbashira festival since I was young. I was born in an old area, even by the standards of the Lake Suwa region, and as a result, my grandfather, grandmother, and father held deep connections to the festival. It is through regional bonds and familial relationships that the festival is maintained, and it appears in some of my earliest memories.

After opening a photo album that featured my deceased grandfather and father, I discovered an Onbashira festival from long ago. Suddenly, I felt that my experiences of the festival overlapped with their experiences, and my memories merged with theirs. The borders between us became fuzzy and dim. Before, I thought that the past could not be captured by a picture, but now, I realize that this is not the case.



Born in the Nagano Prefecture in 1968 and began work as a cameraman for a newspaper company after graduating from the Photography Course at the Junior College Department of the Tokyo Polytechnic University. Began working independently in 1991, and traveled to many places in Asia to create work. In the United States (New York), worked from 2000-2002. In recent years, created works from an original perspective about his hometown of Lake Suwa. These works include: “ASIAN JAPANESE,” “days New York,” “Memoir,” “kemonomichi,” “Silence of India,” “Strange Festivals of Japan,” “Unfamiliar Memories,” “Enjoy Through Photographs—the ‘Water Current’ Walks of Tokyo’s Terrain,” and many others. Received the Best New Photographer Award from the Photographic Society of Japan for “DAYS ASIA” in 1997, and in 2013, won the 22nd Tadahiko Hayashi Award for “The Boat That Came From Far Away.”

