

# PORIN TAIDEMUSEO | PORI ART MUSEUM



## EAST ASIAN VIDEO FRAMES: TOKYO

26 September 2014 – 18 January 2015



Curator: Minna Valjakka

Next stop: Tokyo. The three-year video project which started in January 2013 now explores Tokyo's contemporary art scene. A younger generation of contemporary artists are achieving international recognition, highlighted by two different video art works which will help us to look into current themes in Japanese everyday life in and outside of the capital.

After the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster in 2011, Japanese artists were shaken and puzzled - also about what art and artists could do. The first art work of this set, screened until 23 November, was created as a response. Chim↑Pom, an artist collective of six young Tokyoites, known for their unconventional art and exhibitions related to various social issues, decided to do their bit. In order to raise solidarity, Chim↑Pom travelled to the disaster area. One of the results, a video art work "KI-AI 100" (2011) was created in co-operation with the Soma city's youth. In the process, the shouting of improvised sentences one after another fostered a spirit of positive interaction and collaboration, in the vein of the short shouts (ki-ai) made in Japanese martial arts before or during the technique. The form is different, but the outcome of the "KI-AI 100" is similar: it startles the viewer, appals even, but also strengthens the fighting spirit to overcome the incomprehensible.

The second video art work of the autumn, screened from 25 November, captivates with a very different atmosphere. In his recent one-channel video art work "WAVY" (2014), MIYANAGA Akira (b. 1985), a young artist from Hokkaido but based in Kyoto, reveals the repetitions inherent to humanity, nature, society and urban life in various locations in Japan, including Tokyo. The origin of this conceptual art work derives from the multilayered interconnections of Japanese words that include homonym "NAMI" written in two different *kanji* (並 / 波) and meaning, for instance, a line or row of things/ people, or a wave. The similar notion of recurrence can be found in English word "WAVY". Relying on the visual poetry such as transparent layers, MIYANAGA leads and leaves us to think what being a human means in the changing scenes and acoustic worlds of Japanese society today.

In co-operation with: **Art collective Chim↑Pom** & **Artist MIYANAGA Akira**  
<http://chimpom.jp/>      <http://miyanagaakira.tumblr.com/>

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Additional information:

Pori Art Museum exhibition curator Pia Hovi-Assad tel. +358 44 701 1089 [pia.hovi-assad@pori.fi](mailto:pia.hovi-assad@pori.fi)  
Pori Art Museum, Eteläranta, 28100 Pori, Finland, tel. +358 2 621 1080 [www.poriartmuseum.fi](http://www.poriartmuseum.fi)  
Curator, Dr Minna Valjakka [minna.valjakka@helsinki.fi](mailto:minna.valjakka@helsinki.fi)