

What "HitoTeMa" is

When shaking hands, clay is placed between two hands.

Thus shaped piece of clay which is a trace of the handshake is then baked.

HitoTeMa is named for following meanings.

"Hito" means "a piece of" and "tema" means "time" or "labor". So "Hito-Tema" firstly means (you can make it) "with just a piece of labor". But also "Hito" means "human beings". "Te" means "Hands". "Ma" means "between". So "Hito-te-ma" also means "between two hands of human beings".

You may think that "HitoTeMa" is an act of peace. I hope so too. But the space in which there are large number of "HitoTeMa" will feel strange. Perhaps "HitoTeMa" is not presenting only the positive aspect of human beings.

The handshake is a symbol of good relations between people. But in some cases, the relationship of people also could strengthen the wickedness of human beings.

Now I'm collecting the many HitoTeMa, enough to fill a room. I want to do the installation with large number of "HitoTeMa" by the various human relationships. I hope that it's a beautiful scene.

After the exhibition "HitoTeMa" are baked.

In this way I will continue to collect the traces of the handshake all over the world.



starting situation

For about three months since the earthquake in 2011, the people of Katsurao- Village which is located within 20km from Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, had been taking refuge from the radioactivity to Yanaidu-town which is a hot spring village where there are lots of hot spring inns. People in the Katsurao-Village left Yanaidu-town, and moved to the temporary housing constructed in the Miharu-town.

"HitoTeMa" event was held as farewell with the participation by people of Katsurao-Village and Yanaidu-town. "HitoTeMa" were burnt later and presented to the people.

When "HitoTeMa" event is held, spare forms of traces of handshakes are also made by the participants and kept by me in case of baking failure. Thus, a large number of pieces of traces of the handshake will be gathered.