



Mystery of being - Inner nature

The girl keeps on throwing stones into the river. It looks meaningless. But the viewer behind her tends to project their feelings on to the scene. The stone splashes into the river and soon after it's swallowed into the water, the water seems to go back to what it used to be as if nothing happened. Marjan says, " water symbolizes that life goes and changes, movement and change are the ruling principles of live." Although the water seems to go back to its original shape, when someone throws a stone into the water it did make a change for that moment. Live and human history seem to have been made, doing things like that continuously. Though it looks useless to throw a stone to see the possible change in water, haven't we been accepting that unconsciously, as if we were part of the scene? The exhibit that Marjan Laaper held after her three months staying in Sapporo was named "Toyohira River Girl". The Toyohira River was the river she passed every day when she went from her apartment to her studio. One day she happened to see a girl throwing stones into the river and filmed that scene. She showed the image as a multiple video projection. The title of the exhibit was named after this work. I wonder how her stay in Japan, with a completely different culture and language, made her feel? In her work there is something psychological. It shows anxiety about being and love for nature. Discord and harmony are combined into a mysterious illusion by using both video and electronics. Her works of earlier days use to choose people as a motif. They give the impression that human has some clumsy anxiety and insecurity. But her work in recent years, which has the motif of nature, shows a different impression. The mysterious feeling caused by the picture hasn't changed but the love for fauna, flora and nature can be seen. The anxiety of being and clumsiness seem to have been harmonized into one when it has taken in the element of nature. People who are unstable accept themselves as a part of nature, inner nature. The work of Marjan Laaper has been heading for the new possibility.

Hisashi Shibata