

Fukagawa is a traditional working-class neighbourhood in Tokyo, where the old and the new cohabit while maintaining its affable peculiar atmosphere. The work is for a group show organised by Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, focused on its relationship to this area where the museum itself locates.

Reflecting my experiences elsewhere, my observation of city-scape and exchange in the area grew into “map of thoughts” in mirror-writing on their windows. There I enquired into how we mark and cross boundaries in various societies.

EYES OF THE FOREIGN LOCAL My seemingly contradictory position as a Japanese being a stranger in Tokyo questions the notions of inside-outside, native-alien, and old-new. My local guides were “assumed strangers” with foreign roots, who study, work, and/or live in the area.

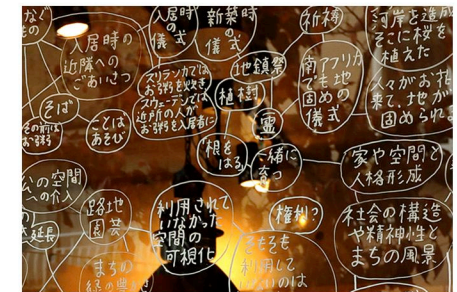
TOLERANCE AND TRESPASS Native craftsmen for generations, nuclear families in newly-built tower blocks, the young fancying traditional ambience anew, and foreigners reinventing shop properties. Encounters with casual “trespassings” of positively-nosy attitude and street gardenings everywhere. Do they reflect its unique mentality of tolerance to the fluid and closeness to the others?

THINKING PASSAGE, INTERVENING MIRROR “Map of thoughts” developed through a dialogue with the area, and it organically grew on the shop windows. Through an act of drawing diagrams in reversed letters from inside and thinking openly, I tried to intervene in the thoughts and relation of the public directly on site: the diagrams evolved through the rich exchange with those inside and outside of the shops.

The installed locations are relevant to the subjects of each diagrams, scattered around the street essential for the local everyday life as well as the path to the museum from a nearest station. The content of diagrams overlaps each other, and their passages allow themselves to be a single textile:

- a traditional confectioner: custom, hereditary, and foreignness
- a rice storage: what remains and disappears, proximity in society
- the cleaners: craftsmanship, sharing and accessibility
- a second-hand bookshop: curiosity and possibilities, what blinds us
- an umbrella maker: the marginal, circularity and complementarity
- a real estate agency: moving, trespass and gentrification
- a café: everyday life of Edo and Tokyo, globalisation and belonging
- an Indian restaurant: migrating culture, local & ethnic communities

(left page) a cleaner ironing behind the “map of thoughts” (right page, chronologically) window-drawing locations in the neighbourhood; mirror-writing as a process and an act; diagrams on moving-in customs and use of public space on the window of real estate agency; an audience reflecting on the work outside of the shop; the shopfront of a traditional Japanese confectionery shop with the window-drawing



Inverse Perspective

2017

act + drawing installation (pigment marker on glass)

Fukagawa, Tokyo, Japan / part of *MOT Satellite Connecting Scapes* at Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo