

# PORIN TAIDEMUSEO | PORI ART MUSEUM



## EAST ASIAN VIDEO FRAMES: TOKYO

13 June – 14 September 2014



Curator: Minna Valjakka

For 2014, the three-year video project “East Asian Video Frames” which started in January 2013, focuses on the contemporary art scene in Tokyo exploring it through the varying perspectives of artists and art forms. The documentary “281\_Anti Nuke” made by Adrian Storey (a.k.a. Uchujin) for VICE Japan will continue the examination of art emerging outside of the art institutions, in the public spaces of Tokyo.

Despite that during recent years, legislation regarding public space and its usage has gradually tightened in Tokyo, numerous international and local creators have left their marks in the areas popular among young people, such as Shibuya, Shinjuku, Ebisu and Harajuku, where especially tags and stickers are prominent. Many stickers are skillfully created and some even express varying comments, but seldom do they take a stand on any political or social issues. An obvious exception are the stickers made by local street artist, 281\_Anti Nuke. His works also caught the attention of a British photographer and filmmaker, Adrian Storey, who has lived in Tokyo for eight years. After 281\_Anti Nuke saw a video collage introducing his own artworks online, created by Storey, he decided to contact the filmmaker. From this started a privileged friendship that has made this documentary possible.

In March 2011, the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster profoundly shocked many Japanese artists. The questions of what art and artists could do, and what kind of art could be meaningful, became salient. 281\_Anti Nuke, who had not created street art before, was utterly disappointed with the way the government and the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), handled the problems caused by the disaster. In addition, he was surprised how quickly the local people seemed to forget what had happened. Consequently, 281\_Anti Nuke felt that through street art he could express his perceptions and concerns. The main aim of 281\_Anti Nuke is still to remind people that the issues raised by the disaster are not yet solved and that there could be alternative options for energy production instead of nuclear power. Since spring 2011, 281\_Anti Nuke has actively continued with his art despite some harshly negative feedback.

In co-operation with: Uchujin/Adrian Storey for VICE Japan

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