

I hereby declare.

I set up a temporary artist-run space in Taga-gu shrine in Endonji Honmachi Shopping Street with hopes to create a place to engage in a dialogue with the people of Endonji Honmachi Shopping Street who cooperated towards "AICHI TRIENNALE 2019: Taming Y/Our Passion," as well as somewhere where people could share their true opinions with one another.

Here, I aim to come together with all people involved in the Aichi Triennale to engage in an on-going and active discussion. Artists exhibit works to create a platform for debate and discussion.

The joint artist statement issued by the participating artists of Aichi Triennale 2019 titled, "Regarding the Closure of the "After 'Freedom of Expression?'" Exhibit at Aichi Triennale 2019" had included the phrase, "we believe that the "After 'Freedom of Expression?'" exhibit should have been continued." Although the intention was to continue the exhibition while ensuring the safety of the audience and all related parties, I feared that it could be misread as, "the exhibition should have continued without succumbing to the threat of terrorism." When I told them that I wanted this phrase to be omitted, they responded that it was not possible as if such was the case there would be many artists who would potentially not sign the statement. I therefore did not sign, and instead decided to issue a new statement here.

Artists must express their attitude through the work, share their works with many people, and engage in debate and discussion. What kind of works are those that can be exhibited without succumbing to threats of terrorism? Is any form of decent debate possible under such circumstances?

I set up an artist-run space here, feeling the need for a place to exhibit and discuss artworks in a context beyond structures of binary opposition such as art and society, artist and artistic director, national and local municipalities, those opposed to and those in agreement with the exhibition. Although in a different form, it is a statement of intent that draws from the same philosophy as the many Triennale artists who decided to discontinue taking part in the exhibition.

The works exhibited here are those by people in agreement with this statement, and are works that have been curated and selected by Bontaro Dokuyama and the people of Endonji Honmachi Shopping Street. In order for it to be a platform for active discussion, I would like to create a place where various people both from Japan and overseas, including local citizens of Nagoya, can speak their mind freely. At the same time, I continue to welcome further proposals for works and programs for discussion.

**Bontaro DOKUYAMA**