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MY HOME IS NOT YOUR HOME

23 July – 3 September, 2022

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*A House for a Tree* 2019-2022, 11min. 30sec.

No one could tell me what this house I encountered in Hue, Vietnam was or what it was used for. Perhaps, it exists for the tree since it does not have its roof. Is it a house for someone, or what is a house anyways? If humans are essentially a part of nature, it may have been natural for humans to conform to (or be close to) nature in the past while living in caves and sheltering from rain under trees and so on.

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*The Luminous Tree* 2021-2022, 5min. 45sec.

It was the summer of 2021 when I was cooped up at home in Japan all the time due to the self-isolation request. My father, who lives on the same property, asked me, "I am planning to remove the tree in front of the entrance because it is dead and about to fall. Do you want to use it for something?" I felt a little uneasy about chopping up and throwing away the tree which still retained its shape, then I dreamt of an image in which this (dead) tree can be "a light of hope" for me and my family amidst the seemingly never-ending pandemic.

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*Riverside Huts* 2019-2022, 3min. 58sec.

Scattered along a trifling river in the outskirts of Hue, these huts are illuminated at night. Buried in the rural landscape during the daytime, those huts come to life at night, illuminating with light and letting us know where they are. It could be understood as a metaphor for our individual existence. The time spent waiting for dark, hoping for the lights to come on, was one of the happiest moments of my stay in Vietnam.

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*The Dream House* 2018-2022, 14min. 42sec.

In order to avoid Hue's rainy season, our family decided to stay in Ho Chi Minh City for two weeks. I came to think of a story told by my young Vietnamese friends that they would go to Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Da Nang, Japan or South Korea after graduating from their universities. TV and the internet have helped spread alluring images of cities and their light and shadows. Young people go to cities and reconcile their own dreams with realities. It is no different in Japan or Vietnam. And the garbage from real life is the grime of the city and a realistic representation of life.

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*Humming in the rain* 2022, 7min. 15sec.

Illuminating at night, shopping malls look like modern-day castles. One day, I felt a sense of helplessness and loneliness while I was pushing a shopping cart back to where it was supposed to belong after having loaded up food in my car. And I thought it was the kind of thing that would look funny to a third party. I was thinking about the actions of humans, who can only live in a contradicting system, and their consequences. Of course it can be said that it is because of us humans, but is it really?

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*Junka* 2019-2022, 11min. 44sec.

In Vietnam, where Chinese influence remains strong, Hue is written in Chinese characters (hanzi) as "順化" (a city that is a combination of "順州", Shunzhou/Son La province and "化州", Huazhou/Thanh Hóa province). "順化" which means "to acclimate" in Japanese, made me think of the city's history and kind of resonated with my stay in Vietnam as a foreigner. Thus, as if I were packing (documenting) my time in Hue before I left for Japan, I decided to meander around the city of Hue with friends while taking the neon sign saying "順化" with us.

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