

A man in a blue uniform and cap is walking from left to right in the foreground. Behind him is a dark metal fence. In the background, there are trees and a building, all softly lit with a greenish glow. The scene is set at night. Numerous lit candles are placed on the ground and on poles along the fence. Some candles have handwritten text on them. The overall atmosphere is somber and reflective.

Above the Ground

Peace is no longer peaceful in Hiroshima

岐阜市立長良中学校

平和

Produced by **Masato Suzuki** Directed by **Koichiro Matsuo**

Above the Ground

Above the Ground is documentary that challenges iconic disaster images of Hiroshima by using the method of visual ethnography to show that on this day there is no peace in the Peace Park. Produced by Masato Suzuki (Academic Researcher in Keio Institute) and Directed by Koichiro Matsuo (Professor at Teikyo University), the film has abandoned the historical analogy of Hiroshima city, and instead, selected pieces that fairly represent the various dimensions of contemporary Hiroshima.

This film project initially launched in summer 2015, which was granted by Japanese academic institution, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, and Keio University. In 2016, we have succeeded several exhibitions and symposia in Japan.



● Synopsis

In Hiroshima, contrary to local people's wish, violence and disturbance are shown up especially on August 6th. Protesters, demonstrators and religious groups occupied Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park entirely, taking advantage of that place for their campaigns. The heart of peace in Hiroshima is no longer at peace.

Even though media also regularly come to picture, they are obliged to capture precisely the peaceful images of Hiroshima. They just sit down in front of miserable or mourning people and organize grief reactions to integrate themselves into Hiroshima Peace Memorial Day. Most casual viewers of media will follow those artificial pieces, so that there this is a peace gap between media images and the actual situation in Hiroshima.

This gap is what represents Hiroshima culture 70 years after the bomb was dropped. The shots in *Above the Ground* reveal how this is happening and why this exists. To do so, we filmed using 15 cameras applying the methods of visual ethnography. These methods help viewers develop their spiritual and intellectual muscles to the point where they can acquire accurate knowledge of Hiroshima culture.

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● Information

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt6245082/?ref_=nv_sr_1

Trailer: <https://vimeopro.com/ethnography/atg>

Masato Suzuki (Producer):

Academic Researcher in Keio Institute and MFA course in Film and Television at Chapman University

Above the Ground:

52-minute documentary,

Eccles Center Theater (give address) WHEN: 4:30 pm, January 19th.

Contact:

Masato Suzuki (Producer)

7876 Rosina St, Long Beach, CA 90808.

714-325-4504

masato.s0312@gmail.com