

# Thanks for supporting Tohoku

June 17<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012 in Paris, France

“Activity report on Thanks for your support to Tohoku”

Regarding the artistic support activities held for the restoration of areas damaged by the Tohoku earthquake on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2011, SOAT has continued its activities via the warm support and cooperation of France, America and other countries around the world.

This worldwide connection was manifest in an India ink drawing workshop for children in Paris led by Emi Ichinoseki, an India ink drawing artist and member of SOAT Artists, from Sendai, Japan. We also held collaborative demonstration workshops with Ms. Ichinoseki and Paris-based Japanese musicians at Vincennes Woods, Cenuschi Museum and Monceau Park. This report will briefly outline those events.

【Emi Ichinoseki, report on activities in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> districts of Paris】



Koto performer Fumie Hihara, and Ms. Ichinoseki

June 17<sup>th</sup> 2012, 1-6pm - Workshop at Vincennes woods

A collaborative event with Emi Ichinoseki, an India ink drawing artist, and Ayuko Yonemura, a drummer. Participants: 10

June 18<sup>th</sup> 9-11am in the 3<sup>rd</sup> district of Paris, Chapon Kindergarten with Ms. Michelene  
25 Rue Chapon 75003 PARIS Participants: 20

6-8pm in the 3<sup>rd</sup> district of Paris, Vertus elementary school (association OUvertusRE)  
8 Rue Des Vertus 75003 PARIS

Participants: NPO parents and children

June 19<sup>th</sup> 9-11:30am, Vertus Elementary School with Ms. Vivian

Participants: 19 elementary school students (13 first graders and 6 fifth graders)

June 21<sup>st</sup> 4-5pm, Cenuschi Museum and Monceau Park in the 8<sup>th</sup> district of Paris

A collaborative event with Emi Ichinoseki, an India ink drawing artist, and Fumie Hihara, a koto player.

June 23<sup>rd</sup> 3:30pm -4:30pm, a collaborative event with Emi Ichinoseki, an India ink drawing artist, Rie Matsumoto, an accordion player and Nami Miyata, a harmonica player

Place: Marais



### 【SOAT-planned exhibitions in France】

“Atelier in Paris” - An India ink exhibition by Emi Ichinoseki, SOAT Garden ArtGallery, July 14<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> 2012.

“New works and the exhibition”

In June 2012, we held Indian ink classes at Chapon Kindergarten and Vertus Elementary School. We also held collaborative workshops with Paris-based Japanese musicians at Vincennes Woods, Cenuschi Museum and Monceau Park as a pledge of cultural exchange and solidarity with France.

Using water, Indian ink and paper, students experienced the calm of grinding a stick of Indian ink, learned to apply the ink to the paper, and the various ways of handling a brush.

The students in Paris were very interested in Indian ink. The smell of the ink sparked their imaginations. The smell of the Indian ink reminded them of olive oil, blooming flowers, freshly dug-up roots, or the smell of newly picked leaves. I was really touched by their surprise when they saw how an Indian ink drawing stands out against the white background like a 3D image when multiple layers of ink are applied or “stacked” over the same line. “This is like a magic,” they said.

At the Vincennes Woods workshop, the field was green as far as the eye can see; I felt the power of life as everyone drew with India ink while feeling the sun’s light, the wind and the earth.

As we went into an alley, a small garden appeared unexpectedly – a truly unusual space. Herbs and vegetables were growing there. I finished an Indian ink drawing under the tree accompanied by the live accordion and harmonica music of Japanese children’s songs.

At the Cenuschi Museum, participants enjoyed a demonstration of Indian ink drawing with live koto music, watched over by the Eternal Buddha, which was brought over from Japan.

During these experiences, I truly felt the prayers for the restoration of Tohoku of the people of France.

This solo exhibition and an Indian ink workshop at SOAT Garden ArtGallery was held to report on SOAT's activities, and to exhibit my new works. It was also held to express gratitude to the people in France who welcomed us, and also to people who gave to the support fund for children in disaster-struck areas in Japan's Tohoku region through SOAT last year.

I hope everyone feels the same wind I felt in Paris. I would like to thank Mizuki Nitadori and others who supported and provided us this precious experience in France.

Thank you,

Emi Ichinoseki, India ink drawing artist