



Shifting Mindset

2020
workshops + text installation (shiny silver vinyl text on matt grey wall)
text size variable
as a part of the project *After-Ripening & Corruption: Recovering the Viridity & Salmon Run* at TOKAS Hongo, Tokyo

The project *After-Ripening & Corruption* seeks to illuminate hidden aspects of language and cultural border-crossings in the lives of people on the move, through a series of workshops and social experiments conducted in various locations where I become a stranger.

In Stockholm during the COVID pandemic, I have been engaged in the current experiments *Recovering the Viridity & Salmon Run* to ruminate on the gaps between past and present as things change. There I project myself, who has been away from own mother tongue and influenced by various foreign cultures, onto the society that has lost its norms and is trying to adapt to unfamiliar circumstances.

ACCENT IN PERSPECTIVE

The phrase appear here is the analogy of my state as an exophone and emigrant and of the distance and emotions I realised (in the sense of both noticed and accomplished) when I returned to my former environment in Japan.

Like a dialect, your accent signifies where you are from. While moving from one place to another abroad, I picked not only local language but also values and perspectives when it reached to and resonated with myself, instead of trying hard to keep the way of living and thinking from my native land. The 'accent' I have acquired now is the reflection of the paths I took, not only my origin or where I am.

ACT TO DE-PREOCCUPY

In an online workshop with the calligrapher Ukyo Kamigori bridging Stockholm and Kyoto, we had a discussion based on the phrase; the acts of writing and teaching, experiences of losing normality through panic disorder and retinal detachment, the awakenings they brought, and how things and matters manifest themselves and how we interpret them.

How can we embody the phrase based on the changing self, reflection on the gaps between present and past, and the sense of being 'unpreoccupied' acquired along the way? Various approaches were made to depart from the usual, mature or 'ripened' to which one is accustomed.

LAYERS OF RESISTANCE & ABSORPTION

How he overcomes and accepts what can be considered as negative past and how openly he disclosed these stories touched me. I meditated on my experience from the workshop with him, and decided to write this phrase again myself: I wrote the phrase in Japanese with a white pigment marker on a white absorbent paper, and then overwrote the phrase in English with a purple water based marker. As a result, the phrase in English appeared with uneven lines, bleeding when the surface not covered with pigments.

For the exhibition at TOKAS Hongo in Tokyo, I converted the writing into vinyl text in shiny silver and placed on a grey wall in a dark space with video installation. The text emerges in the dark, reflecting the movement of the light from the projection



(left page) installation view of the whole text (right page, from top to bottom) the phrase written on an absorbent paper, first in Japanese in white pigment marker and then in English in purple water-based marker; the vinyl text not only reflect the light from the projection but also the uneven texture of the wall itself; installation view with a podium for another work

