

From the Curator:

I have been intrigued and inspired by the illuminated manuscript concept of Spark+Echo Arts. Having lived in Japan for 10 years, I wanted to invite Japanese creatives into the process. With little general cultural saturation of biblical background and imagery I decided to connect to a more general relevant theme of finding hope within the brokenness. Japan was hugely affected by the events of March 11th. Fukushima and Tohoku in particular continue to be places where recovery is ongoing. How do artists respond in the aftermath and what does the Bible have to say about disaster, fear, suffering and hope?

All three artists have considered their identity as “Japanese” artists post March 11th in addition to how the Bible could relate to God’s bridging of the gap created by brokenness and sin: what should be questioned and how hope can be found even in the middle of the most painful and confusing circumstances.

Personally, each of the works in this series remind me of the Japanese tradition of Kintsukuroi (Kintsugi). In Kintsukuroi, broken pottery — rather than being discarded — is delicately restored, the cracks filled in with gold resulting in what was/is broken becoming more beautiful than before. I find that Japanese artists responding to the Bible through the prism of the disaster have significantly beautiful and important insights to share.

- *Rachel Carvosso*