

“Life” ~ Unfinished ~

~ 2476 days of Airi's life, expressed in 2476 postcards ~
Until the day when the postcard for her final day is dated.
The Great East Japan Earthquake, March 11, 2011 —

The date she passed, 2011.3.11, could not be written. — Artist, Junichi Sugawara

When the massive earthquake struck, my daughter was on higher ground.
Unbelievably, the kindergarten teacher put the children on the school bus and departed.
At that moment, the tsunami warning was echoing loudly. The bus drove toward the sea.
The bus carrying my daughter was caught by the tsunami, leaving no escape.
A fire broke out in the distance and spread.
The bus was engulfed in flames, and the children perished in the fire.

My daughter was not born to become a lesson of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

— Mother, Mika Sato



Introduction—

The work represents 2476 days, the number of days that Airi has lived.

Airi, who died at the age of six.

From the day she was born to the day she died; she lived 2476 days.

On each postcard, Mika, her mother wrote the dates of all six years that Airi lived, one by one, from her birthday to the day before her death.

But for the last date, 2011.3.11, she could not yet write the date down.

Until the last date has been written, this work will remain unfinished.

The work will be completed only when we could realize that we have achieved a society where all adults can take appropriate leadership to truly protect the lives of children in the event of any unpredictable catastrophe.

Every life is precious. Not a single one should ever be lost in vain.

The photo shows the shoes she was wearing when she was found, and her crayons.

So that such a tragedy will never be repeated,

I will continue to appeal through the power of art—until the day this work is completed.

Artist Junichi Sugawara