

東京新陳代謝

Tokyo Transitions

変わるもの、変わらないもの。

日々ゆれる東京のストーリー。

*Things that change, things that don't:
the story of Tokyo, a city in daily flux*



What would constitute a typical Tokyo landscape? I've been thinking about this a lot for several years now. I think it began when I had increased opportunities to visit other towns and cities on business. In Kagoshima for example, Sakurajima volcano gives off smoke plumes on a daily basis. And in Hita, one never tires of the moods of the Mikumagawa River, which change according to the time of day and the weather. When I go back to Tokyo after seeing such inspiring sights, the initial question pops up again.

It's been ten years since I went to New York for the first time in a decade, and although many of the shops and restaurants I used to like had gone and there were lots of unfamiliar places, the city seemed pretty much unchanged. I soon realized that

にやってきた人間だ。40年以上住んでいるから、東京が自分の街と言ってもそろそろ大丈夫かなと思う。もう愛着のある風景ができていい頃だ。いちばん長く住んでいる街は渋谷なので、渋谷で愛着のある風景を思い浮かべてみる。ゆるやかに湾曲した建物が優美だった渋谷区役所は建て替え中。いろいろ刺激的なカルチャーを教えてくれた渋谷パルコは、つい先日、建て替えのために閉店した。大好きなロシア料理店があった駅前ビルも建て替え工事中。前に東横線の渋谷駅があったあたりは駅舎がなくなって、歩道橋の上から山手線のホームが見える。東京は建物ごと変わってしまう街だ。それが新陳代謝だということはわかるけれど、すべての工事が終了して落ち着いた東京は、いったいつ出現するのだろうか。

誰かに「東京らしい風景って何ですか？」と尋ねられたら、いまのぼくには「クレーン」という答えしかない。



岡本 仁

編集者。マガジンハウスにて『ブルーラス』『リラックス』『クワンネル』などの雑誌編集に携わった後、2009年にランドスケーププロダクツへ転職。現在『暮しの手帖』や『&Premium』でエッセイを連載中。

写真・文：岡本 仁

Text and Photograph by Hitoshi Okamoto

ただいま工事中。

Currently under construction

this was because the buildings were the same. The buildings I used to head for on foot were all still there. There seems to be repeated renewal, but the scene is a familiar one. This creates a sense of security and attachment. No doubt New York is still the same, ten years on.

I was born and raised in a mining town in Hokkaido. I was one of those people who wants to get out as soon as possible and left for Tokyo. I've lived in Tokyo for over forty years, so I think the time is nigh when I can safely call it my town. It's high time I had city sights I'm attached to. The area I've lived in for the longest is Shibuya, so I'll think about my favorite Shibuya scenes. The elegant old Shibuya City Office with its gentle curvature is under reconstruction. Shibuya PARCO, which introduced me to various exciting forms of culture, closed just the other day for reconstruction. A building in front of the station which had a Russian restaurant I loved is also being rebuilt. The old Shibuya Tokyu Toyoko line station building has gone underground, and you can see the Yamanote line platforms from the pedestrian bridge. Tokyo is a place that changes its buildings as well as everything else. I understand that this is the nature of renewal, but I truly wonder when all the construction work will be over and a more composed and settled Tokyo will emerge.

If someone asked me to tell them a typical Tokyo scene, "cranes" would be my only response today.

Hitoshi Okamoto

Editor. After working as an editor at Magazine House on titles like *BRUTUS*, *relax* and *ku:nel*, he moved to Landscape Products. His series of essays currently appears in *Kurashi no techo* and *&Premium*.

信濃八太郎

イラストレーター。1974年生まれ。日本大学芸術学部演劇学科舞台装置コース卒業。同大在学中より美術学科の安西水丸ゼミにて学ぶ。パレットクラブスクール、朝日カルチャーセンター安西水丸塾、コムイラストレーターズ・スタジオ修了。東京イラストレーターズソサエティ所属。



Hattaro Shinano

Illustrator. Born in 1974. Shinano graduated from the Theatre Department (Stage Design course) of Nihon University College of Art. While a student, he started attending Mizumaru Anzai's seminar in Nihon University's Fine Arts Department. He completed courses at Palette Club School, Asahi Culture Center's Mizumaru Anzai school, and Com Illustrators Studio. He is a member of Tokyo Illustrators Society.

私の珍プレー - 好プレー

My Odd Plays and Fine Plays



After attending the ceremony for the second anniversary of Mizumaru Anzai's death, I stopped into a bar and ordered Mr. Anzai's favorite cocktail.

"A gimlet. Make it sweet."



"The Long Goodbye," right?"

Huh?!



"The Raymond Chandler book. Am I wrong?"



The bartender startled me. I thought he was talking about Mr. Anzai.

"It's good."