

The Challenge of the Question

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May 2019, when I headed to London, was an extraordinary holiday that included the day of the Coronation Day of the new Emperor, unlike the usual GW. The air tickets were more expensive than usual, and the cheap air ticket website made me close to fraud. It's a laughter story that I using often now. When I arrived in London, it's an unexpected cold summer, and I bought immediately ski wear for 10 pounds at market in the Deptford. However, there is no inconvenience in activities in London due to problems other than cold. This program celebrated its 5th anniversary, and I didn't feel the hardships I had heard in advance, but rather felt like this AIR program was starting to next stage. I did not feel the influence and confusion of Brexit that had been a concern. Still, I heard the hardships of Japanese artists living in London compared to before Brexit, and Ms. Theresa Mary May announced the resignation of the prime minister during my stay.

Then, I have been working on glass materials as the main axis until now, and I have been working mainly in specialized workshops. Among these activities, the main reason to join LYTE was to challenge this question, "Can I be an artist without a specialized workshop?" During my project in London and Tokyo, I thought a lot about my real interest by removing the limitations of technique and materials.

After returning to Japan, at the same time as the stay production at Youkobo Art Space, an exhibition "Ai mi Tagai" was held to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the LYTE program. Down stair that I and Daria were sharing studio, many London artists who have been involved in this project for the last five years have come to Japan for this exhibition and were working towards the exhibition. I listened to the memories of the writers of each year, and not only my own experience, but also through the last five years, I was able to touch the memories of various activities and had a very valuable experience. Staying at Youkobo was a stimulating time even in Japan, because I received various stimuli from artists from both countries who participated.

Lastly, Professor Graham Ellard who gave me a lot of advice during my stay in London, Ms. Kaori Homma and her families who went easy on me in London, and my studio mates who worked together and help me, all of Youkobo Art Space who support throughout LYTE2019 program, Prof. O JUN and Prof. Nobuyuki Fujiwara who advised me as advisors, and Daria Blum who supported me on the project for three months, I would like to express my sincere gratitude.

