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Carlos Ayesta / Guillaume Bression

Retracing Our Steps – Fukushima Exclusion Zone 2011 – 2016

Texts by Christian Caujolle
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What does the Fukushima exclusion zone look like since the nuclear accident in 2011?

Since the tsunami and the nuclear disaster of March 2011, Carlos Ayesta and Guillaume Bression have made regular visits to the »no-man's-land« surrounding the stricken power station of Fukushima Daiichi. The result is five series of photographs which mix posed situations with a documentary approach. Those off-beat photos stimulate thought at the consequences of a nuclear accident on such a scale.

What remains in a region where 80,000 people were evacuated from one day to the next? What do the former residents think about going back to their ghost towns? For the last series, called Retracing our Steps, they asked former residents to come back to their shop or their school, to open the door of those places that were so ordinary before. In front of the camera, however, they are invited to act as if nothing had happened, and to behave normally. The normal and the strange intermingle in these almost surreal yet plausible photographs, the sequel of a historically important nuclear accident.

Project-Homepage
www.fukushima-nogozone.com

»The 1,000 square kilometers of land comprising the no-go zone around the Fukushima plant represent the most impressive—and most brutal—evidence of the nuclear accident. More than 80,000 people were forced to pack a few belongings and follow orders to evacuate, while others, fearful of radiation, left of their own volition, leaving behind ghost towns nearly devoid of light. Time has stood still.«

— from the text by Christian Caujolle

»This photographic work is our contribution to the narrative of a historic disaster. The accident is far from being over, both at the power station and among the nuclear refugees. And we hope to continue to testify to this sad but multifaceted chapter in the history of the Fukushima region.«

— from the introduction by Carlos Ayesta and Guillaume Bression

Carlos Ayesta was born in Caracas-Venezuela in 1985. Today, he is a freelance photographer specialized in architectural photography. A graduate of the ISAE and IFP School, **Guillaume Bression** completed his transition to photography in 2008 after specialized training in Paris. In 2009, he founded a photography collective with Carlos Ayesta focusing on subjects related to Fukushima. Carlos Ayesta and Guillaume Bression have collaborated on several artistic and documentary projects. Their work has been exhibited in several galleries and festivals in Europe.

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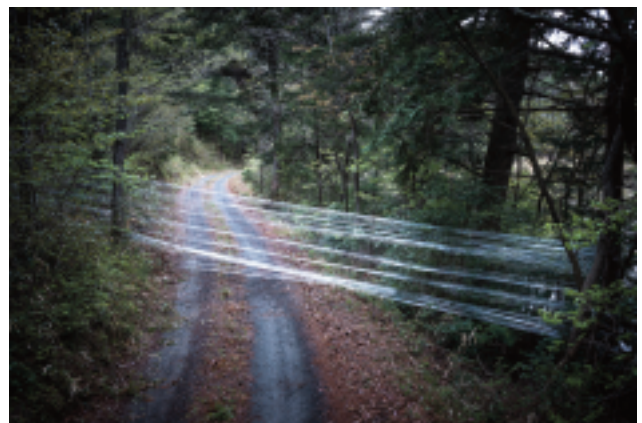
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