

Field Trip Project joined an art exhibition “*Sagami Kazekko Ten*”  
at JAM (Joshibi Art Museum) in Sagamihara, Kanagawa Prefecture

It has been a year and half since the Great East Japan Earthquake. Sagamihara City, Kanagawa Prefecture, started reconstruction support for the devastated areas in the early stages and has been continuing this work especially for its sister-city Ofunato, Iwate Prefecture. This exchange project between Onagawa and Sagamihara’s “*Sagami Kazekko Ten*” was held in the hope of a full reconstruction and also to give a little support to the devastated areas.

### *Onsite Report on the Field Trip Project*

Art exhibition “*Sagami Kazekko Ten*”  
at JAM (Joshibi Art Museum)

October 27 (Sat.) – October 29 (Mon.), 2012

We exhibited our work for three days. We had many visitors especially on weekends, including lots of families with children.

The visitors seemed happy to be free to actually touch and feel the artwork, and they enjoyed interacting with them.



### *Workshop*

October 27 (Sat.) and October 28 (Sun.), 2012

We went on field trips with students from art clubs from junior high schools in Sagamihara. We had two trips each day, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. We made a visit to another venue, Fuchinobe Park. Takeya and Kajiwara explained the background of this project and the purpose of the workshop. The students learned how people can be linked in communication via art on school bags.



Now off to the field trip with their favorite school bags. Besides our exhibit, the Joshibi Festival was held over the weekend, and the area was full of exhibits and stalls.

Although the students were shy about speaking to strangers in the beginning, they gradually yet actively started to talk to visitors. Wholeheartedly, they explained that the school bags made by Canadian artists, came from Onagawa town.

Since the venue was at the Joshibi University of Art and Design, visitors were highly interested in the art pieces, listened sincerely, and enjoyed the talk with the junior-high students.





We moved on with the school bags to Fuchinohe Park on a shuttle bus.

There were more than 20 thousand pieces of art made by elementary/ junior high school students exhibited in the park.

Carrying the school bags on their shoulder, our junior-high students talked to kids who came to see the exhibit. Eventually, they started playing together using the bags. As time went by, it seemed that the students and the bags had become one together.

They also marched around the university campus, wearing all their school bags.

It is a school bag that everyone has carried on their shoulders before. That is why we have a sense of attachment to the bag, and it fits us naturally.

It was quite a two days in which we could deepen our closeness with others while hoping for the recovery of the devastated areas.



### Feedbacks from junior high school students

- It was very fun to carry school bag again after a long time. I thought it was amazing that the art piece was made from a school bag.
- The school bag project was my first experience and was very good. I hope for the fast recovery of the devastated areas.
- It was awkward in the beginning but was fun to communicate with people I did not know and talk with them.
- I enjoyed speaking with various people.
- Each of the art pieces was surprisingly well-created. Some pieces had unique props, and it was fun to introduce them to visitors.
- I have never expected that I would give a talk about the art pieces myself while carrying the bags. But when I actually did it, I could understand the pieces much more than I thought.
- I felt very cleansed when I saw the art piece called “Nobody”. It was great to see so many ideas on school bags. I would love to see Nobody again.

### Talk Session

On Monday October 29, Takeya, Kajiwara, and the Principal Kobayashi had a talk session with instructors of schools in Sagamihara and students from the Joshibi University of Art and Design at JAM.

We talked about the current situation in Onagawa, and reported on this project and the connection between Sagamihara and the devastated areas in the future.

- At JAM, huge sharks were hanging on the wall with wishes for the best for east Japan. It stands for the hope for recovery and return of fish to the ocean.



- It is important to visit the site no matter what. We want people to come to the area.
- In the devastated areas, there is nowhere that kids can play. It is also quite difficult to build new things.
- We want to make art spaces in Onagawa.
- In sending this project out into the world, we hope we will not forget the disaster and also hope to make this project a catalyst to connect people.
- It is also significant that we have formed such a connection between Sagamihara, Onagawa and Toronto.
- “*Sagami Kazekko Ten*” is a place which allows you to express yourself through art. We will continue to improve our events while expanding the networks of local communities.
- Through the power of art, we hope to broaden the connections of various communities and people.



After the event, the school bag art pieces moved to Sauradai Elementary School to be exhibited for four days.

*Having the Field Trip Project in “Sagami Kazekko Ten” was a precious experience for us. Thank you so much, Takeya and Kajiwara!!*