

Eimi Tagore-Erwin

Title: *If you could be reborn, what would you like to become?*

Abstract: For this workshop, I would like to present the short film 'Utsusemi Crush!' by the Japanese socially engaged art duo Kyun-Chome, which was included as part of the inaugural cycle of Reborn-Art Festival in September 2017. Reborn-Art Festival is a new art festival for revitalization in Ishinomaki, one of the coastal communities hardest hit by the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. Kyun-Chome presented this piece at the festival after living in Ishinomaki for two months and asking local community members to take part in its production. Their participatory work harnessed local understandings and face-to-face interactions as a way of reflecting on the tragedy that has become living memory for the surviving community. Their work is a relevant example of recent socially engaged art practices developing in Japan, and provides insight into art practice as the socio-cultural work of processing the human experience of disaster.

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