

Basel Wish Trees & Hope (2015)

@ The Launchlab, Basel, Switzerland

With this highly conceptual subseries of his main group of works “Hope is always a good thing” the artist expands his experience in the field of installation art. In 2013 Fuku showed his Wish Trees for the first time with the 16th Line Gallery in Rostov-on-Don, Russia. There he installed the trees and waited for people to complete the work with their individual wishes. Participating in Comments to the Forgotten War at the Winzavod Center for Contemporary Art in Moscow in 2014/15 Naoki Fuku added a further element to the Wish Trees. He confronted the visitors with a huge video screen. They faced pictures of tragic events from the past which were combined with the image of a girl who produced a most intense smile. These visuals – extremely contrastive and still connected at the same time – were accompanied by a sad love song that underlined the feelings of war, love and faith which the video aimed to cause for the visitor. In the Basel show at launchlabs the artist combines the trees with selected objects from his main series. Visitors who are preparing a wish to attach to the tree might be highly influenced by the art objects surrounding them and even change their initial wish. This scenario will be in a positive and peaceful atmosphere which is created by the art, the audience and exceptional premises of launchlabs.

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