

## SAKI CHIKARAISHI - ARTIST STATEMENT

Install knitting in a town. It is my communication method with the world.

I discovered knitting with my piece, *ManGlobe (2004)*. What do people picture when they hear the words: yarn, knitting? Probably "warmth" and "softness" - just as I do. And that's why I used knitting in *ManGlobe*, which was an expression of communication with the world. This piece inspired me to pursue knitting as my medium, and I started creative activity with knitting.

So, what do I love about knitting?

As long as I have my needles and my yarn, I can keep working no matter where I am. Knitted fabric can fit the form of the object gently and envelop it.

Since *Traveliving Project (2009)*, I am having dialog with the world using these character. That is, wrap the things and people in the visited land or a town by my knitting. These yarn bombing works consist of the three main types. The first type is what knits with the yarn which I have extemporaneously. The second type is what wraps an object by my knitting with the motif which obtained the inspiration from the land. For example, by having held the koala in the Gold Coast, I got the inspiration, and wrapped various things by the knitted fabric of the koala motif in *Traveliving Project*.

And the third type is amigurumi started since 2014 . Amigurumi is the Japanese art of crocheting small stuffed animals or toys. I feel affinity for the act of wrapping something by my knitting and amigurumi. And I love imagining an inorganic thing as an organic thing since I was young. If the thing which built in a town is a living thing, what appearance is it? In the case of man, the personal history and way of life ooze as wrinkles or an expression. In the same way, I would like to make amigurumi which throws the background, history and a tale of an object into relief.

And in the future, amigurumi is due to develop into the work which communicates with the whole space as a member of space. Not only people and visible things but various things such as sound, a wind and particulates exist in a town or space. Amigurumi borne by the tale of an object communicates with the real world. A goal at present is connecting land, people, fantasy and actual , etc. centering on amigurumi, and conquering the whole space warmly.

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