

Hiroshima Day

No More Hibakusha Survivors Speak Out

(Japan/U.S. 1983, 55 min., color)

Directed by Martin Duckworth

Leipzig Film Festival

August 6, Mon 8:00 PM

"Hibakusha" is the Japanese name for the survivors and their descendants of the nuclear bomb attacks rained on the civilian population of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 and on Nagasaki three days later. Unlike other films about those dread events, NO MORE HIBAKUSHA contains few images of the physical destruction of the cities and its peoples. It focuses instead on how the lives of the survivors and their families, their children and their grandchildren continue to be affected by the events that took place forty years ago. Through interviews with the hibakusha we get a first hand account of what it is like to live on with radiation-associated illness and the next generations haunted by the fear that their children will be born physically deformed and/or mentally retarded. With the anxiety that implanted in their bodies are the hidden time-bombs of cancer and genetic birth defects, they live in a state of emotional and physical quarantine. Would you accept the risk of marrying into a hibakusha family?

The unofficial conspiracy of silence about this ongoing tragedy was, until recently, compounded by the unwritten Japanese social rule of displaying little emotion in public; the hibakusha suppressed their anguish and camouflaged their bitterness and their rage.

Why have the hibakusha made the decision to end the conspiracy of silence, to go public, as it were, to openly discuss their experience and share it with the world?

As public officials have openly discussed that a limited nuclear war with acceptable casualties is now a part of war-making policy and strategy, the hibakusha are committed to warning the people of the world of the dire consequences they face in the aftermath of such a war.

The genesis of this film was the decision of 80 hibakusha to participate in the June 12th, 1982 mass peace demonstration in New York City that coincided with the United Nations Second Special Session on Disarmament. And so, they come forth like ghosts from a nightmarish past to testify to their suffering and to warn humanity.

Canadian Filmmaker Martin Duckworth journeyed to Japan to interview several of the hibakusha who were preparing to leave for the mass demonstration in New York.

It is worth noting that the Reagan Administration hampered their efforts to obtain travel visas to attend the demonstrations and United Nations session on disarmament.

Among the hibakusha interviewed is Mrs. Tominaga, nearly seventy, almost blind and suffering from several radiation-related illnesses. We accompany her on a visit to a hibakusha friend who is too ill to attend the demonstration before which Mrs. Tominaga will deliver her simple but clear message. "No more war. Peace, peace, peace..." Another is Mr. Murata who was only five years old when the bomb was dropped. Treatment of his badly burned body by

Guest Speaker: Michael Tsukahara, a member of "Concerned Japanese-Americans" Organization.



They come forth, like ghosts from the past, to testify to their suffering and to warn humanity. They are the "hibakusha" of Hiroshima and Nagasaki — the survivors of the first nuclear attack in the history of mankind. They are willing to recall their most painful memories and describe the torment they endure, because they have heard some people say a limited nuclear war would be "acceptable." They know better.

doctors soon after the bomb was dropped was recorded by Japanese filmmakers. That particular footage appears in most documentary films about Hiroshima. Duckworth accompanied him on a routine visit to his doctor for a check-up on his radiation-associated illness. Until very recently, Mr. Murata hid the fact that he is a hibakusha. Now he speaks out with a quiet fury of the deaths in his family, about his memories of his young sisters who he saw die an agonizing death soon after the bomb dropped, of friends and relatives who lie immobile in hospital beds, impatiently awaiting their death. He cannot pardon those who singled out the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to be the human guinea pigs of nuclear warfare.

The full meaning of the term "acceptable casualties" in a limited nuclear war is explored in NO MORE HIBAKUSHA! "Acceptable! Acceptable to whom?"

The hibakusha's have been travelling around the world speaking with the film, which was produced by the National Film Board of Canada. The New Community Cinema had been told the hibakusha's would personally speak with the film in Huntington, but unfortunately and regrettably, no funds were able to be raised for their transportation from Paris to New York.

— Vic Skolnick

VARIETY: "One of the most moving and sensitive pictures shown at the Leipzig Film Festival."

New Community Cinema

423 Park Ave., Huntington, N.Y. • 516/423-7619

See Over

ATOMIC ARTIST

(U.S., 1983, 29 min., color)

A Film by Glenn Silber and Claudia Vianello

★★★ Premiere, London Film Festival

Atomic Artist is a film about a sculptor and his unique "atomic art."

It is a portrait of Tony Price, a painter and sculptor from New York who has lived and worked in New Mexico near the Los Alamos National Laboratory (the "birthplace of the atomic bomb") for 20 years.

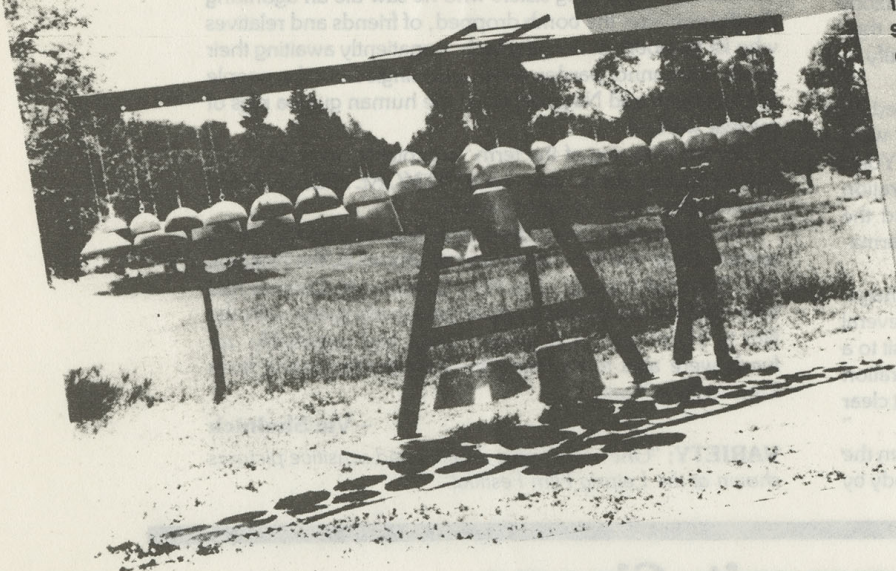
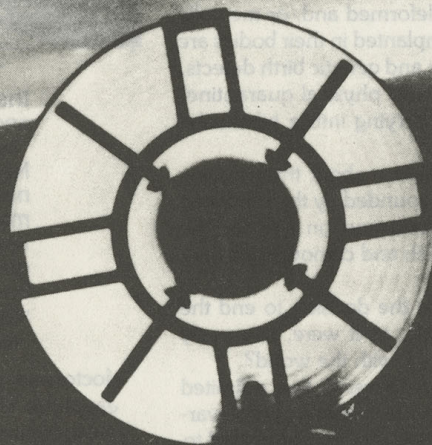
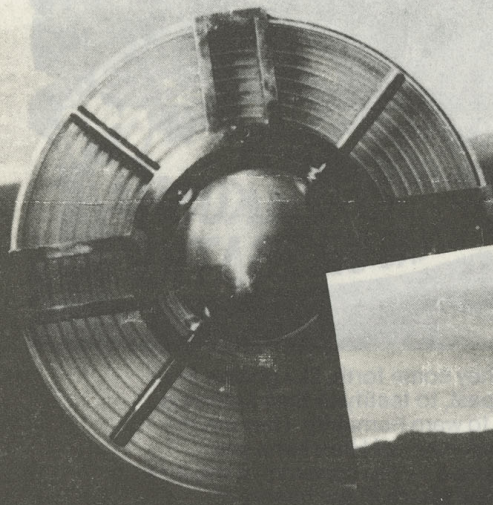
"An excellent documentary."
—The San Francisco Chronicle

The reason he has stayed is the relatively obscure salvage yard of the nuclear lab. The yard is, as Price calls it, "a mad scientist's scrapheap," filled with huge piles of exotic materials: plastics, glass, tall pipes, copper shavings, rare metals, mounds of wire, hemispheric bomb casings and prototypes of bombs.

For Tony Price these nuclear scraps become the source materials for his sculptures, as well as a catalyst for his artistic process, literally "beating swords into plowshares."

Atomic Artist shows graphically and beautifully some of Price's best work, and examines his personal artistic viewpoint. It is also a stimulating look at how one artist views his responsibility to keep people awake to the critical issues of their time.

Subject Areas: Aesthetics; Artistic Process; Artist and Society; Fine Arts/Sculpture; Nuclear Issues.



REMEMBER HIROSHIMA and NAGASAKI



No Nuclear Missiles in New York Harbor

A sweltering August day. You're on your way home from work, picking up your kids, or doing some last-minute shopping. Suddenly, sirens shriek. You want to run for cover, to protect your family and yourself, but where can you run? You know there is no escape from a nuclear blast.

Unbelievable? Not for the people living in the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On August 6 and 9—mornings just like today's—the United States dropped nuclear bombs on these cities, instantly killing 102,000 people, leveling the landscape, and planting seeds of cancer which are still taking their toll.

On August 6 and 9, we remember the victims of those blasts.

New York's Nuclear Nightmare

Today, New Yorkers face their own nuclear nightmare. Why? The Navy, the Port Authority and the city are planning to station a nuclear-armed fleet in New York Harbor, putting the nuclear threat right at our doorstep.

The fleet, called a "Surface Action Group," will have its home port in Stapleton, Staten Island, just a stone's throw from the Staten Island Ferry's Fort George terminal. In effect, in the heart of New York City.

These ships will be capable of carrying more than 300 nuclear-tipped "Tomahawk" cruise missiles, each one with the explosive power of 16 Hiroshima bombs. Imagine... 4800 potential Hiroshimas, with their "home" right here.

The Threat to Health, Safety, and Security

How does the Navyport affect our own health and safety? The Department of Defense admits to 30 nuclear weapons accidents since 1950. If that figure alone is not frightening enough, add in the U.S. Coast Guard's count of 609 major accidents in New York Harbor from 1976 to 1980. An accident, especially one involving a ship-board fire, could well release cancer-causing plutonium into the air. Tragically, the very weapons supposed to defend us will create deadly hazards for New York area residents.

These weapons won't defend us. Cruise missiles are offensive weapons, designed to be part of a nuclear first strike or an overseas military intervention. The Surface Action fleet as a whole is designed to involve America in Vietnam-type wars in the Middle East or Central America.

Cruise missiles and the Surface Action fleet undermine our security. President Reagan says that he's in favor of arms control agreements, *only if they can be verified*. Yet, cruise missiles are too small for accurate detection by satellite, and it is President Reagan who is putting these undetectable weapons here in New York.

These missiles are just the kind that make a mutually verifiable nuclear freeze agreement with the Soviet Union nearly impossible. Placed anywhere, they increase the risk of war. Instead of adding to our security, this fleet only escalates the present nuclear crisis.

How to Say "NO!" to the Navyport

New York City is already in the midst of its own crisis. It cannot house many of its people. It does not provide safe, efficient public transportation. Its health-care and educational systems are severely strained by the needs of its citizens.

Can we permit the Navy to move in and create yet another danger for our city? Should we spend hundreds of millions of dollars which could be far better used to create jobs, rebuild our city, and restore social services? **HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SAY "NO" TO A NUCLEAR NAVYPORT IN NEW YORK CITY:**

• JOIN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE NAVYPORT

Contact New York Mobilization for Survival at 135 W. 4th St., NYC 10012, telephone 673-1808.

• SUPPORT RESOLUTION 568

Resolution 568 for a Nuclear-Free Harbor is before the City Council. Sign the petition in support, and write to Council member Archie Spigner, Chairperson, Economic Development Committee, City Hall, NYC, NY 10007.

• WRITE TO MAYOR KOCH

To voice your protest, write to Mayor Koch, City Hall, New York, NY 10007.

• TELL THE PORT AUTHORITY HOW YOU FEEL

Write to Alan Sagner, Port Authority Chairperson, 1 World Trade Center, New York, NY 10007.

• JOIN IN THE CITYWIDE ACTIONS ON SEPT. 22

Saturday, September 22 will be a day of petitioning, voter registration, and education to let New Yorkers know about the Navyport plan and what we can do about it. **For information on how to get involved, call New York Mobilization for Survival at 673-1808, or stop in at 135 W. 4th.**

Some Suggested Reading

Hiroshima, by John Hersey

Hiroshima Diary, by Michihiko Hachiya

Death in Life, by Robert Jay Lifton

Children of the A-bomb, Arata Osada, editor

The Day Man Lost, The Pacific War Research Society

British Mission to Japan, 1946; the Effects of Atomic Bombs at
Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission; Report January 1-June 30, 1952

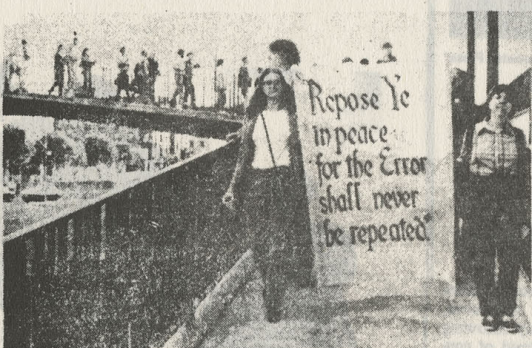
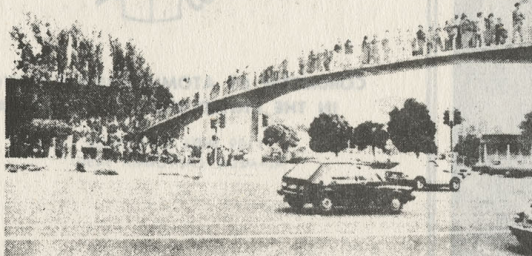
U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey; 1946 and 1947; U.S. Government
Printing Office

Medical Effects of the Atomic Bomb in Japan, Ashley W. Oughterson,
editor

HOKUBEI MAINICHI

Wednesday, August 11, 1982

Pictorial Reportage of Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance Held in S.F. Japantown



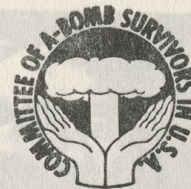
Candlelight procession crosses Webster St., bridge and enters Japan Center's Peace Plaza during the march from St. Mary's Cathedral to Japantown on Friday, Aug. 6.



On stage for the interfaith prayer service and program were, from left to right: Pia Moriarty, Commission on Social Justice, Catholic Archdiocese; Miriam Levy, Temple Emanu-el; Hiroshi Kashiwagi, poet/actor; Bishop Daniel Walsh, Catholic Archdiocese; Rev. Shozen Hosokawa and Genzan Enomoto, Sokoji Temple; Kanji Kuramoto, president, Committee of A-bomb survivors in the U.S.; and Rev. Nobu Hanaoka, Pine United Methodist Church and Friends of the Hibakusha.



Presentation of proclamation from Mayor Feinstein and the S.F. Board of Supervisors designating Aug. 6 as Hiroshima Remembrance Day and Aug. 9 as Nagasaki Remembrance Day. From left to right: Nancy Walker, S.F. Supervisor; Kanji Kuramoto, president, Committee of A-bomb Survivors in the U.S.; and Pam Tau, BAAND representative.



COMMITTEE OF ATOMIC BOMB SURVIVORS
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1109 SHELL GATE PLACE
ALAMEDA, CALIFORNIA 94501

6 San Francisco Chronicle

★★

Tues., August 10, 1982

VA Rules Ex-GI Got Cancer at A-Tests

Los Angeles

In a rare decision, the Veterans Administration has concluded that an Army corporal contracted cancer from radiation while he was on duty at a Nevada nuclear bomb test site in 1955, lawyers said yesterday.

The Board of Veterans Appeal ruled that the skin cancer James O'Connor, 46, detected 10 years ago resulted from his involvement in six nuclear tests at Desert Rock, Nev.

O'Connor, a former mechanic who has not worked for nearly 10 years because of his ailment, lives in Burbank with his wife, Bethann.

VA officials in Los Angeles will determine the amount of benefits O'Connor is entitled to based on the board's ruling and his financial losses.

"My husband is delighted that we've finally gotten at least some piece of good news," Mrs. O'Connor said yesterday. She said the couple had spent the last 10 years pursuing the disability claim and paid a monthly average of \$275 in medical bills.

United Press



Prayer offering by Rev. Shozen Hosokawa (l.) and Genzan Enomoto (r.) of the Sokoji Temple.



Among the audience of almost 1000 people were Kuniko Jenkins, hibakusha leader, second from right; her husband, Richard Jenkins, on her left; and her parents from Hiroshima, on her right.

(Photos by S. Onodera)



Associated Press

Atomic warfare 'is a deep sadness,' says optometrist Francis Mitsuo Tomosawa of Watsonville.

Japanese-American recalls the devastation of Hiroshima

By Alex Hulanicki
Examiner correspondent

WATSONVILLE — For Francis Mitsuo Tomosawa, today's remembrances of the bombing of Hiroshima are highly personal. Tomosawa, 52, was in Hiroshima at the hour the atomic bomb was dropped.

Now an optometrist in Watsonville, Tomosawa remembered looking up that day in 1945 to see two parachutes dropping from an American B-29, the brilliant light flash, the blast and, finally, the rising mushroom cloud.

Born in Hawaii, Tomosawa went to Japan as part of a tradition among Hawaiian nisei and was kept there after the outbreak of World War II. He had been living in Hiroshima since early 1941 with his mother and two older brothers.

Even though he was an American citizen, he was pressed into working at a military supply depot on the outskirts of Hiroshima, Tomosawa said.

Shortly after 8 a.m. on Aug. 6, 1945, the American bomber "Enola Gay" was coming in over Hiroshima. Tomosawa vividly remembers watching the bomb float down from the B-29, then running from the flash and being knocked unconscious.

Tomosawa, then 15 years old, was three miles from ground zero, the point where the bomb landed, and a mountain blocked the bomb blast from him.

Although his home, about the same distance from the blast, was destroyed, Tomosawa survived with minor injuries. With one of today's nuclear weapons, he said, "Three miles would be too close."

Although he wasn't physically hurt, Tomosawa remembered, "For weeks I was in a state of shock. I didn't have any capacity to think. I was just caring for people in a hospital near my home."

Because of "the moaning and dying," Tomosawa could not sleep for weeks. Medical treatment was taken at best, he said, with a Vaseline-like jelly serving as the only burn medicine because there were no medical supplies available. Most supplies had been destroyed in the main hospital at ground zero.

There were no pain relievers, Tomosawa said. Of the city's 40 hospitals, only three were functional. Only 30 doctors of the 300 in the city survived. Perhaps only 100 to 200 nurses out of 1,800 were still alive, Tomosawa recalled.

Only when American occupying forces came to Hiroshima three weeks later did the city receive badly needed medical supplies, said Tomosawa.

Aside from the medical problems, the survivors at Hiroshima were ostracized by other Japanese, said Tomosawa, and to a certain extent the stigma still exists today. Knowing little about nuclear warfare, Japanese were afraid of contracting radiation sickness from the bomb victims.

"War brings out the ugly side of people," said Tomosawa. "We become selfish. Now, here in the U.S., you can't expect people to come and help when a bomb is dropped."

Survival in an atomic blast is partly a matter of luck, he explained. His mother, he remembered, missed a streetcar headed downtown just moments before the bomb was dropped at 8:15 a.m. Everyone on the streetcar was killed instantly.

His mother, with her back turned to the blast and carrying a parasol, still received a burn to the back of her neck where her skin was exposed to the brilliant bomb flash.

"She was spared her life," said Tomosawa. "There were many instances of people being lucky or unlucky."

Tomosawa himself has not suffered any adverse effects from the bomb, nor, as far as he can tell, have his children. But the emotional scars of that day and its aftermath stay with him, and he has joined other survivors of Hiroshima in speaking out against nuclear armaments.

Tomosawa, slight in build and somewhat shy, said, "I have a deep sadness — not a hatred per se — when a country uses devastation in killing hundreds of thousands of people to settle things."

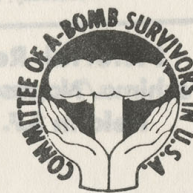
Tomosawa has been involved in demonstrations against nuclear armament throughout the state, and has appeared in court to protest the arrest of demonstrators, including testimony he gave last April over arrests at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory.

In that testimony, Tomosawa recalled being thrown 20 feet by the bomb blast and turning to see flames shooting from the rubble of the city.

"As I walked home," he said, "I saw only two people, a young mother and a baby. The mother was bleeding and her clothes were torn, and the baby had a huge, open wound. You could see through her cheek to the inside of her mouth."

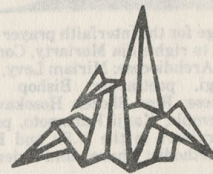
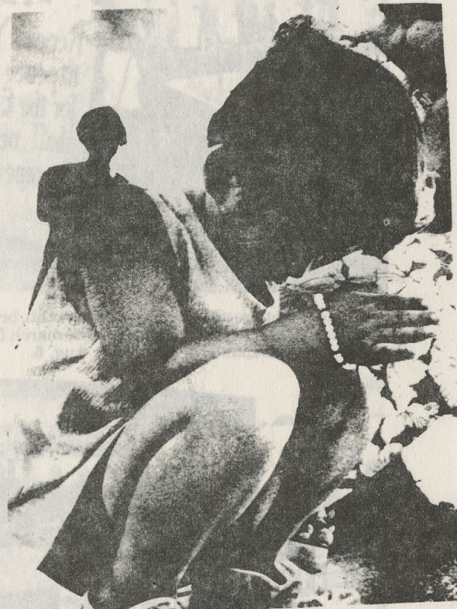
Tomosawa also remembered walking into the city several days later to see "thousands of bodies floating on the river. Thousands of people were dead on the street and some of their heads and bodies were not together."

If there were another nuclear blast, explained Tomosawa, it would be worse. "There would be nothing to leave for my children and even their children. There would be no earth."



COMMITTEE OF ATOMIC BOMB SURVIVORS
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Help America's Own
ATOMIC BOMB SURVIVORS
of Hiroshima & Nagasaki

YES! I want to help the survivors.

Here's my contribution of \$15 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$500 _____ Other _____

☐ Please send me the CABS pamphlet containing background information about the survivors. I am enclosing \$1.50 to defray expenses.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____