

(不)可能な子供、01:朝子とモリガの場合 (Im)possible Baby, Case 01: Asako & Moriga

写真、ウェブ、映像、書籍・Photos, Website, Films, Book

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実在する同性カップルの一部の遺伝情報からできうる子どもの遺伝データを生成し、それをもとに「家族写真」を制作した作品。現在の科学技術ではまだ同性間の子どもを誕生させることは不可能だが、遺伝データを用いた推測ならば可能である。遺伝子解析サービス「23andMe」から得ることができるカップルの遺伝データをウェブの「(Im)possible Baby」シミュレーターへアップロードすると、できうる子どもとの遺伝情報が、外見や性格、病気のかかりやすさなどの情報リストになって出力される。遺伝子研究が進み、もはや同性間の子どもの誕生は夢物語ではなくなろうとしている。しかし、技術的には可能でも倫理的に許されるのか、という議論を通過しなければ実現は難しい。一体誰がどのように、その是非を決定するのか、科学技術に関する意思決定の機会を多くの人に解放するために、アートにはどのようなことができるのか模索する試みでもある。

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After taking genetic information from an actual same-sex couple to generate DNA data for the children they might have together, the results were used to produce "family photographs". Though a same-sex couple cannot conceive a child using current technology, it is possible to predict what kind of baby they would have, based on the genetic information. After obtaining the couple's DNA data from a genetic analysis service called "23andMe" and uploading it to the (Im)possible Baby Simulator, the device generated genetic profiles for their children, including characteristics such as appearance, personality, and susceptibility to illness. With advances in DNA research, having children may no longer be a fantasy for same-sex couples. But even if it becomes technically possible, there are ethical issues that must be addressed before the procedure can actually be used. Who is qualified to decide whether such a procedure is right or wrong? The work also explores how art can provide people with an opportunity to participate in decision-making processes that are related to scientific technology.



贈賞理由

審査会で議論になった作品である。ヒロ遺伝子操作の是非と、愛と、アートの役割という題材の強さ並びに現実との接縁や論文参照の努力は、いかにも優等生的で、ポリテイクカルコレクトネス（社会正義）的な手法をとった芸術の一例だ。家族写真としてのセンスは最大公約数的で、同性婚問題としてはこのみかみか解決点ではないだろう。本作を取り上げたテレビ番組には多大な訴求力があり、出演タレント自身も含めSNSで多くの人々が感涙した事実が確認できるが、構図としては、ゴーストライター騒動で話題になった人物が、嘘をつきながらも人々に感銘を与えたことと似る。つまり本作では、遺伝情報の解釈は作者の言うとおり占い程度、すなわちフィクションだが、SFを美術に仕立て問題提起を装いつつ、虚実ないまぜに人々を感動させるプロジェクトだとすれば、美術としては嫌悪感を抱かれかねない前述の指摘はすべて、むしろ称揚されるべき諸点へと反転する。この構造を評価した。（中ザワヒデキ）

Reason for Award

This work generated much discussions among the jury members. In addition to dealing with powerful subjects like the ethics of modifying the human genome, and the role of art and love, the artist's efforts to make a connection to reality and refer to related discourse made it an example of "highly learned", "politically correct" art. The sensibility the artist brought to the family photographs was a form of banality, and the solution the artist brought to the question of same-sex marriage was not always convincing. This work proved to be extremely appealing when it was showcased on a TV show, and many people, including the personalities on the show, were actually moved to tears, as borne out by their messages on social media. The work made a deep impression on many people as did the work by the individual involved in the recent ghost-writing scandal being famous in Japan. The latter's stirring work, however, was based on a falsehood. Both are actually very similar, though, as the artist interpreted genetic information based on a scientific report that amounts to little more than fortune-telling – i.e., a fiction. But given that the project, which presents the issue by changing science fiction into art and mixing fact with fiction, affected people on an emotional level, all of the aforementioned aspects that would normally inspire aversion in art instead created something that is deeply worthy of praise. We rate the structure of this work very highly. (NAKAZAWA Hideki)