

Introduction—The Acts of Creating Artworks

Artworks are created through various acts in which humans add materials or apply force to other materials, including painting on paper and fabric with brushes, and carving raw materials with chisels and axes. However, throughout human history, completed works have been valued above all else, and people have not paid much attention to how artists create them.

This value system changed after World War II. People recognized how fragile everything is, including their own lives, after witnessing mass destruction and carnage up close during the atomic bombings and the Holocaust. While their presence in the real world was threatened, their strong desire to feel their own presence increased.

At that time, artists rapidly began to value the creative process itself, or their acts of creation. This movement became popular mainly in the US, Europe, and Japan, all of which were deeply affected by World War II.

ANDO Eisaku is also an artist who values the process of creation. For him, it is not so important to preserve his works in the world forever. He believes that his works are part of the larger flows and changes of the world. From the point of view that values the act of creation, Ando can also be seen as a forerunner of the postwar art movement that values the creative process.

The work and the acts that create the work, the materials used as raw materials, and the bodies connected to these materials through their acts—all will be introduced based on the artists' careful consideration through trial and error.