OITA GODO SHIMBUN INC., Japan newspaper by Akifumi Sato June 25, 2016



## translation

Marianne Greber is a photographer living in Vienna.

She participates in the exhibition "Auspicious Celebration of Lives" at Oita Prefectural Art Museum (Kotobuki-machi, Oita). She shows several photographic works and a video work on the topic of transgender people's life in Rio de Janeiro. Now she has worked in Oita creating a new work, shown to the public from June 26, 2016 in the exhibition.

The bar "Love Stick" in Miyako-machi (Oita city) has opened 28 years ago. Momoko Suzuki is the owner of this bar. Momoko-mama is a born transgender person. Except new year's day, Momoko-mama is working every day in her bar. Marianne-san went to her bar to talk with Momoko-mama every day during her stay. Marianne-san sincerely said: "Transgender people are neither men nor women. Human beings full of energy. However often they are discriminated, because they are a social minority."

Her work "THE LAST SUPPER" (2008, Rio de Janeiro), in reference to the masterpiece of Leonardo da Vinci, expresses the existence of transgender people in a beautiful painting.

Her new work "THE FIRST BREAKFAST", created in Oita in Umi-jigoku (called Sea Hell, Beppu), is a continuation of "THE LAST SUPPER".

This new work shows various people such as professor, cleaning woman, guard, transgender including Momoko-mama, representing the fulfilling of the respected roles of transgender people in society. In the video work applied to this photographic work, the sound of Kotos attends the short film, recorded at Miura Baien's residence (Aki-machi, Kunisaki).

Marianne-san expressed: "Transgender people are a mirror of society. I was surprised how open minded people are in Oita. The people's gentle heart is based on the rich surrounding nature."

Momoko-mama said with a smile: "We transgender people are not mysterious. We are ordinary human beings like you. Marianne-san understands this point deeply and is facing me".