

Photographs from Fukushima show the harrowing environmental cost and evoke the inhumanity of residents' displacement and risky return:

'FUKUSHIMA→CYMRU'



- Images taken by artist Lis Fields, some from within 7km of the catastrophic meltdown site at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant, Japan, together with detailed captions, give a unique glimpse of the scale of the disaster in an exhibition on Ynys Môn (Anglesey), Wales
- Super Furry Animals' Cian Ciaran reunites with member of his first ever band to create a new soundscape, with projected visuals by art collective ffloc

Lis Fields – 'FUKUSHIMA→CYMRU'

Launch: Sat 5 Aug, 12:00 – 5:00pm

Then daily until Thu 31 Aug, 10:30am-5pm

Prichard Jones Institute/Neuadd Prichard Jones, Newborough/Niwbwrch, Anglesey/Ynys Môn

Accidents do happen and the unquestionable cost of nuclear power is brought home in a selection of images and texts by artist **Lis Fields**, on exhibition at the **Prichard Jones Institute, Anglesey** between **Sat 5- Thu 31 August 2017**. The exhibition, titled '**FUKUSHIMA→CYMRU**' gives a striking sense of not only the destruction, abandonment and physical environmental cost, but also the temporary lives being led by the people displaced by the radiation now dominant in their homes and workplaces. It further cements links between campaigners in Wales and Fukushima, united by a desire to avoid future disasters.

Organised by **PAWB**, the campaign group seeking alternatives to nuclear power as Anglesey is threatened by the development of the Wylfa B nuclear installation, one of the group's high-profile supporters, **Super Furry Animals' Cian Ciaran** contributes with a unique, new piece of music in response to Lis' exhibition. Collaborating with friend and musician, **Meilyr Tomos**, a member of Cian's first ever band, the duo will fill the room with sound accompanied by a specially created film projection by the creative collective, '**ffloc**'.

It was March 2011 when an earthquake and tsunami triggered the nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan. This resulted in radioactive fallout contaminating at least 8% of the land surface of Japan and the evacuation of 164,865 people. North Wales is now the subject of

Hitachi's interest in developing new nuclear power, being unable to do so in Japan after a moratorium on nuclear power following in the disaster.

Fields' images are drawn from a 2016 study tour of Fukushima, organised by **Green Cross Switzerland**, the international environmental organisation founded by **Mikhail Gorbachev**. The name given to the photography collection, '*20 millisieverts per year*', refers to the maximum dose of ionising radiation originating from a nuclear power plant to which citizens of Fukushima can now be exposed in a year. In the rest of Japan and the rest of the world the maximum permitted non-occupational dose to a citizen is 1 millisievert per year, as recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP).

Fields says: *"Despite the great efforts to put right the wrong caused by Fukushima, my visit revealed that it is a total and ongoing catastrophe. The spiralling cost of remediation which includes wide-scale attempts to clear the widespread radioactive contamination, is just one of the things that Japan has to manage and come to terms with, yet the human and environmental costs can't be counted in money. After six years severe physical, psychological, social and economic consequences unfold for many people, particularly as pressure is now being put on people to return to areas which are still radioactively contaminated."*

That a disaster of the scale of Fukushima, coming just 25 years after the Chernobyl disaster, is likely to happen again is one cause for concern for residents on Anglesey facing the prospect of nuclear development in a coastal area. Not only is the proposed development site for Wylfa B a place of natural beauty and economic sensitivity in an area reliant on tourism, but the health and environmental risks foretold by catastrophic disasters and frequent 'near misses' at plants around the world are too great to pass on to future generations.

Super Furry Animals' Cian Ciaran, says: *"To not learn the lessons of Fukushima and numerous other nuclear incidents around the world and continue to use nuclear energy as a distraction from the opportunities for a healthy industry of renewable energy in coastal areas like Ynys Môn, is a national disgrace. Lis' photographs come from a place where they thought it could never happen to them and innocent people there are faced with playing roulette with their health, and that of their children, by returning to contaminated homes. We should all continue to ask questions of those in power, based on what has happened elsewhere, of who has our best interests at heart now and when things don't go to plan and in issues of health and job creation – nuclear offers less of everything."*

"This isn't a gift to Wales from Westminster and there's a reason why a new nuclear power station isn't being built in Dagenham or Woolwich, it evokes the disdain shown to the Welsh with the flooding of Capel Celyn back in '65. The idea that nuclear is green is spurious and any new nuclear plant would come online too late to make a difference to any oncoming environmental or energy crisis, while the costs connected with progressive, renewable investment are falling. There is no environmental, economic or moral justification for a new nuclear power plant anywhere in the world."

The operating company of the Fukushima [plant has since apologised for the handling](#) of the meltdown and former Japanese Prime Ministers, [Junichiro Kozumi](#) and [Naoto Kan](#) have abandoned their pro-nuclear stance while in office to campaign for the abandonment of nuclear power.

Many people in Fukushima are outraged by the loss of financial support from either the nuclear industry or the Japanese government, within a decade of the disaster happening, not accepting the increased risk to their health, and the even greater risk to the health of their children, who are much more sensitive to the effects of ionising radiation. A sense of betrayal by the government, and the many in the media and scientific and medical communities, who downplay the risks and support the policy of raising the radiation exposure threshold to 20 millisieverts per year, persists in the affected communities. Many people, in Japan and elsewhere, consider this to be a serious breach of human rights.

The exhibition texts include statements by some of these people who Lis met while on the tour, revealing some of the ways they are responding to the catastrophe.

For more information visit: www.lisfields.org

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For further information, images and interviews:

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