

Stairwell

I do not live in this world alone, but in a thousand worlds (Let the night open your ears)

Yasunari Kawabata's unsent letter to Hatsuyo Itō transcribed with ink on soluble paper and presented in a single glass bottle with a silver stopper.

Materials: Water, ink, paper, glass, silver

Edition: Bespoke version in ongoing series.

Date of artwork: 2023

Date of series: 2016

Text used in the creation of the artwork:

Have you looked at the letter I sent on October 27th? I haven't heard back from you, and so every single day I worry and fret and cannot be still. Has my letter failed to reach your hands, did the monks find out and scold you, would you get in trouble for responding, or perhaps you have fallen ill, and when I think that you might have really fallen ill I cannot even sleep at night. Anyway, please make it so you can come to Tokyo soon. I miss you, I miss you, and if I do not see you soon I cannot do a thing. I wrote about the particulars in the letter I sent on the 27th, but about that thing, whenever is good for you is fine. I'll do it as you tell me to. Please write something back about whatever you'd like. It's just, when you're on a trip by yourself it makes me worry and I feel helpless, so please stop. I will make sure to go greet you. So if you can get on a train somehow, that would be nice. If you're worried about what would happen after you come to Tokyo, I'll do whatever you wish there, too. I won't make you do anything you don't want to. Don't worry about your father. I'll take responsibility for the Taiwan issue too. I'll even come back to the country.

Honestly, I have a mountain's worth of things I want to talk to you about. Even after I upon coming back to this country, when I was in Tokyo for awhile, I thought about many ways to unknot myself, but it's too sudden and I could not do as I pleased. So please have patience with me about it. No matter what anyone says, believe in me. I will understand whatever it is you may feel. Please write to me. I worry so much about how you are doing that not getting a letter makes me want to weep. I will definitely come around the tenth. It's fine if they know, as long as you can ride the train to Sa [word not specified]. It will be all right. I will take care of all the things that people say about you that are bad. Please

don't worry about your father. Are you sick? If you're sick please just send a postcard saying you are sick. Please write whatever you want.

Yasunari

Sendai-sama