

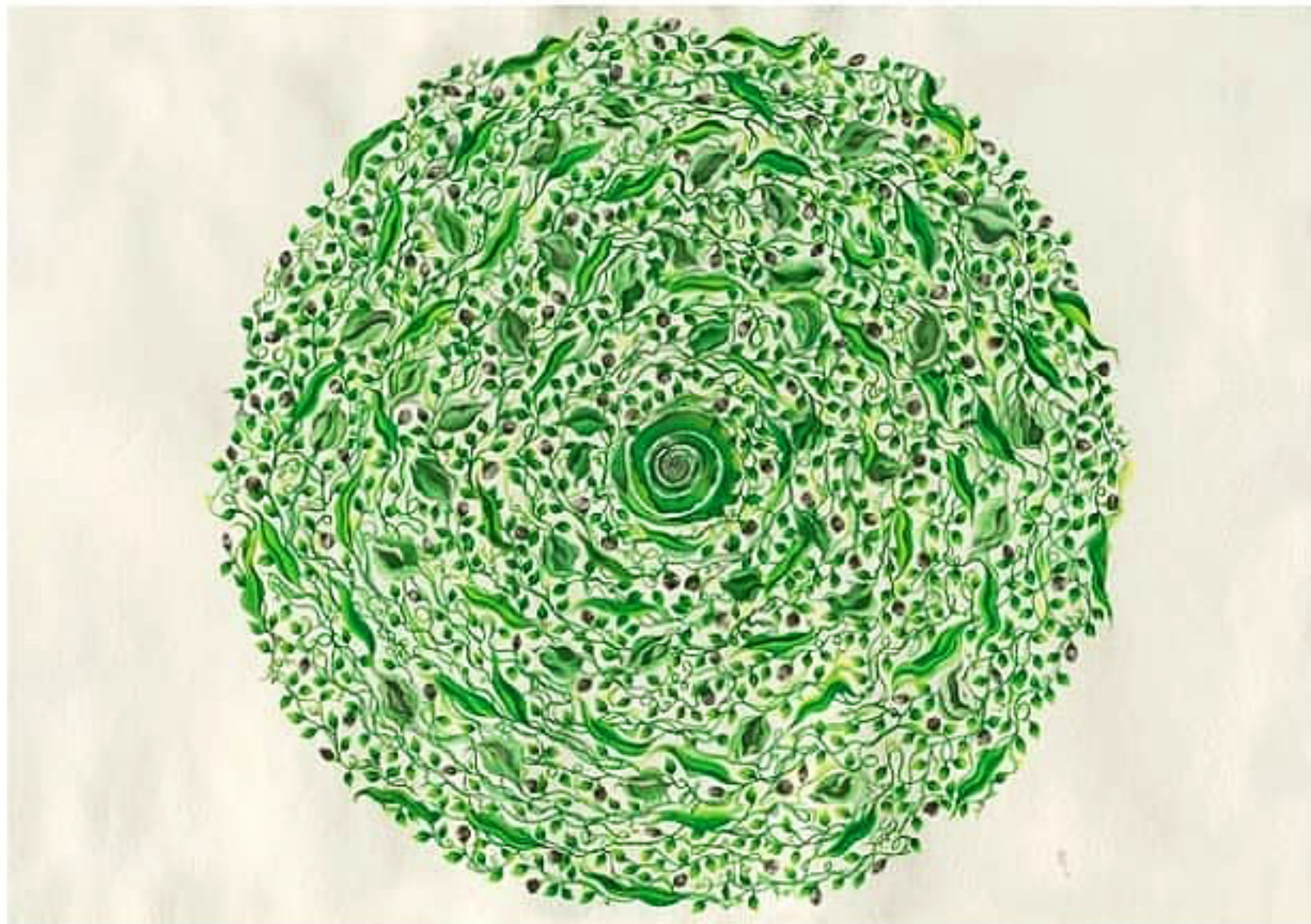
The New York Times

THE T LIST

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021

The New York Times The T List

Yuri Shimojo Remembers the Natural Disaster of Tohoku



Yuri Shimojo's "Vine" (2012), from her "Memento Mori" series. Courtesy of the artist

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Tomorrow, the Japanese artist [Yuri Shimojo](#)'s affecting show "[Memento Mori](#)" will make its U.S. debut at Praise Shadows Art Gallery, a new space in Brookline, Mass., that aims to exhibit emerging and midcareer artists, as well as mentor young artistic talent in the Boston area. For Shimojo, who splits her time between New York and Kyoto, Japan, and the gallery's owner, Yng-Ru Chen — who cut her teeth at MoMA PS 1, the Asia Society and Sotheby's — March 11 is heavy with meaning: It marks the 10th anniversary of Japan's deadly Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, which together claimed nearly 16,000 lives, and which inspired this body of work. When Shimojo heard news of the disaster in 2011, she was in her studio in New York and was struck by a report describing the *sakura*, or cherry blossom trees, blooming amid the wreckage. To soothe her grief, she began to paint their petals. "I started to see each one as a life," Shimojo says. The resulting work, "Sakura" (2011-13), a muted swirl of pastel pink, white and light gray, led to four others, each rendered in Japanese ink on Khadi paper and taking a circle as its form — an orb of burgundy, a spiral of forest green, an amalgam of blue dots that look almost like an iris — a gesture toward the cyclical nature of life. Those works are included in the exhibition along with a new site-specific installation, in which a single sakura petal, made from washi paper and suspended on a thread, hangs above a mound of salt and 108 glass petri dishes, each containing its own washi petal. A dazzling light projection, created by Maria Takeuchi, and contemplative soundscape, composed by Alec Fellman, will accompany the installation. "Memento Mori" is dedicated to the victims of the Tohoku disaster and of Covid-19, and is a reminder of nature's formidable power — as well as its resilience. "*Memento Mori*" will be on view from March 11 through April 18, 313A Harvard Street, Brookline, Mass., [praiseshadows.com](https://www.praiseshadows.com).

The New York Times

HOW WE LIVE NOW

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021

At Home

The New York Times

Listen to a **conversation** with the artist [Yuri Shimojo](#), whose series, “Memento Mori,” which is dedicated to the people who died during the [earthquake, tsunami](#) and resulting [Fukushima nuclear disaster](#) in Japan, will have its United States premiere at [Praise Shadows Art Gallery](#) in Brookline, Mass. On the 10th anniversary of the disaster, Ms. Shimojo will speak with Yng-Ru Chen, the founder of the gallery, and Gennifer Weisenfeld, a professor of art, art history and visual studies at Duke University, about resilience in times of crisis, including during the coronavirus pandemic. This event, which is presented by the [Duke University Alumni Association](#), is free. Registration is required.

When 8 p.m.

Where rsvp.duke.edu/d/cjqpbby
