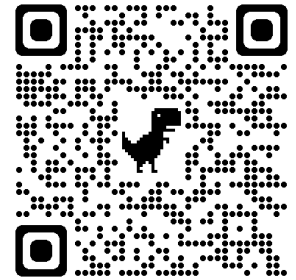


# Artist expresses his world as vision fades



<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/videos/20231218103538116/>

A Japanese painter is refusing to let fading eyesight interfere with his life's work. Instead of making concessions, he's exploring new modes of creativity. Here's his story.

Ogawa Yutaka has been painting for two decades. He has almost no vision in his right eye and very little remaining in his left eye. His hearing is getting worse too.

Even though I have difficulty seeing, I can still paint. I hope that people who see what I've done will be cheered up and encouraged.

Ogawa was bullied as a child because of his visual impairment. He began drawing at the age of three. Art became his safe place. He developed a style that expresses his inner life. Feelings of inferiority and discrimination included. Ogawa created this emotional work in college. It won a prize at an exhibition and was highly praised.

I can forget negativity when I paint. My soul is cleansed, and I feel positive.

Deteriorating eyesight won't allow him to paint in the same way, so he's exploring new modes of expression.

I want to create works that only I can make.

Over the summer, Ogawa relocated from his family's home to a nursing facility. He decided to make the move now before his parents pass away.

At first, living without my parents was hard, but by doing so, I understood the hardships they've faced.

Of course, he still visits his mother, and she enjoys watching him paint.

Being on my own can feel lonely.

Nevertheless, at the age of 44, he realizes the importance of getting used to it.

I was a burden to my mother because I have disabilities. I hope to keep painting and show her that I can live independently.

Art is his life, as he expresses the art of living.

Source: (NHK World News)

**Now discuss the questions with a partner.**

1. If you had a disability, would you continue your hobby? What hobby? How? If not, why not?
2. Have you heard of any other artists with disabilities?
3. How does Ogawa's art make you feel?
4. What challenges do you Ogawa may have in his daily life?
5. Do you have something that let's you forget negativity and feel positive? What do you do or where do you go?