

PRESS
RELEASE

Geneva, September 19th, 2024

HIROSHIMA TRICYCLE

Sculpture of beloved tricycle found with fatally injured boy in Hiroshima on day of atomic bombing donated to International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum and City of Geneva by ICAN

The Geneva-based International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has donated a sculpture of a boy's tricycle that was found the day Hiroshima was bombed to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum and the City of Geneva.

Three-year-old Shinichi Tetsutani was riding his tricycle in Hiroshima when the United States exploded an atomic bomb above the city on 6 August 1945. Shinichi was found by his mother near his beloved tricycle suffering from severe burns and other injuries. He died that night.

Shinichi's two sisters had been trapped under their house and burned to death, so his parents could not face cremating him and decided to bury him with his tricycle in their garden. Forty years later, in 1985, his father moved his son's remains to the family gravesite and donated the tricycle to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

Shinichi's father, Nobuo Tetsutani, said: *"This should never happen to a child. Please work to create a peaceful world where children can play to their heart's content."*

The world's first nuclear attack, on 6 August 1945, killed an estimated 140,000 people in Hiroshima, including a large number of children. Many were burned to death, or killed or injured by debris from the blast. Others died later from radiation sickness. Many of the survivors are still suffering or, before they passed away, suffered, not only from their physical injuries, but also from cancer and chromosomal damage.

Melissa Parke, Executive Director of ICAN, said :

«It is a great honour to be able to donate this sculpture to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum. The Red Cross was one of the first international organizations to reach Hiroshima after the atomic bombing. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has always been clear that the inhumane impact of nuclear weapons means they should never be used again and, along with ICAN, supports their total elimination. Shinichi's tricycle is a reminder of those terrible events and serves to motivate us to make sure we never let such a thing happen again.»

The sculpture, entitled *Future Memory - Tricycle*, is a bronze artwork by Akira Fujimoto and Cannon Hersey. It was created from digitally scanned data of Shinichi's tricycle and made into a full-sized sculpture. Commissioned by ICAN, it was donated in honour of efforts by governments and civil society that culminated in the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which entered into force in 2021.

The artist, **Cannon Hersey**, said:

« The sculpture aspires to calcify an understanding of the atomic-bomb survivor's trauma. It memorializes that trauma in an artwork for the time when there are no more survivors to tell their story and to save us from the use of another atomic bomb, as they have done for the past 79 years. »

His collaborator, **Akira Fujimoto**, added:

« The memories of radiation exposure have been preserved through storytelling and photographs, as well as in various other ways. Future Memory offers a new experience through artworks made using modern technology. We hope that people will continue to connect this experience to the future as their own memory. »

Pascal Hufschmid, Executive Director of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum, said:

« Behind every conflict, past or present, there are always personal and unique stories that remind us of our shared humanity. The Hiroshima tricycle is above all the story of a little boy, Shinichi, and his family. We are deeply grateful and honoured to be able to perpetuate his memory, with care and respect, through this exceptional sculpture, now permanently installed at the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum in the heart of Geneva, the global centre of humanitarian action and multilateral diplomacy. »

Sami Kanaan, Executive Councillor of the City of Geneva with responsibility for culture and digital transition, said:

« This sculpture reminds us that all of us – citizens, governments, local authorities, international organizations and NGOs – must work tirelessly to make sure that the use of nuclear weapons will remain a thing of the past. The City of Geneva will continue to support efforts, such as the work of ICAN, to prevent the use of nuclear weapons and invites all cities to join the global call on governments, including the government of Switzerland, to ratify and implement the TPNW. »

Future Memory – Tricycle was made possible thanks to the support of the Tetsutani family. Along with all *Hibakusha* – the survivors of the atomic bombings – they wish for a peaceful world free from nuclear weapons. Shinichi's actual tricycle has been on display at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum since 1991. Treasured by the citizens of Hiroshima, it leaves a lasting impression on visitors from around the world and serves as a symbol of hope and resilience.

The sculpture was donated to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum and the City of Geneva by ICAN in partnership with 1Future/Future Memory project.

For further information or interview requests, contact:

Alistair Burnett, Head of Media, ICAN:

alistair@icanw.org/+41 78 238 71 79

Alice Baronnet, Public Relations, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum:

a.baronnet@redcrossmuseum.ch

Yannick Richter, Information Officer, Executive Council, City of Geneva:

yannick.richter@ville-ge.ch/+41 76 338 43 69

Please note that the **Tetsutani family does not want to be contacted by the media** at the present time. We request that the media respect their desire for privacy.

Editor's notes:

1. *Future Memory – Tricycle* is an artwork by Akira Fujimoto and Cannon Hersey. It was created from digitally scanned data of Shinichi's tricycle and made into a full-sized sculpture. It was digitized by Kosuke Nagata, designed by Yuichi Kodai, and produced by Taku Nishimae and Mari Ishiko, in partnership with the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, and with the support of Chugoku Shimbun and 1Future. Shinichi's tricycle was scanned at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum in April 2021. In May 2022, the bronze sculpture was cast at the Kunstgiesserei foundry in St. Gallen, Switzerland, following a year of extensive digital preparation by the artists and the foundry. The sculpture was delivered to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) in Geneva on 21 May 2022. On 19 September 2024, it has been donated to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum and the City of Geneva by ICAN.
2. Cannon Hersey is the grandson of John Hersey, the journalist who wrote "Hiroshima", the *New Yorker* article that drew the world's attention to what had happened in the city and was later published as a book. All global licensing fees for the article during the year of its publication were donated to the Red Cross in 1947 as a tribute to the organization's important work on the ground in Hiroshima.

About ICAN

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a coalition of non-governmental organizations in 100 countries promoting adherence to, and implementation of, the United Nations nuclear weapon ban treaty. This landmark global agreement was adopted in New York on 7 July 2017. In 2017, the campaign was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its "groundbreaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition" of nuclear weapons.

www.icanw.org

About 1Future/Future Memory project

1Future is a global platform that educates and empowers multi-generational and diverse audiences with stories of social change and innovation. Future Memory is a collaborative art project founded by Cannon Hersey and Akira Fujimoto that preserves the meaning of the memory of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and presents the memory of war and disaster as a new experience for the present and the future. It applies the latest technologies to create a sensory record of objects that convey human stories, helping to educate, inspire and empower people by embracing even our most painful past, and to promote healing through creativity. https://www.1future.jp/future_memory/

About the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum, based in Geneva, Switzerland, asks a central question: how does humanitarian action affect us all, here and now? In order to reflect on this question with our visitors, we invite artists and cultural partners to examine the issues, values and current situation of humanitarian action. We thus assert ourselves, in an open, agile and warm manner, as a place of memory, creation and debate.

www.redcrossmuseum.ch

About the City of Geneva

<https://www.geneve.ch/>