

**HANASHIRO, IKUKO, OKINAWA**

**Praying-Fleeting Visions**

Poster Session

I am an artist, holding exhibitions of pictures and fabrics in Okinawa and overseas. The basis of my artwork is the cross-breeding or mixture of the Okinawan religious faith and the U.S. occupation of Okinawa.

I grew up in Okinawa City adjoining the huge U.S. military bases, and was overwhelmed by its presence. Deep in my heart, I had nurtured uncomfortable feelings toward the faith.

In the late 1990's, while I was burning incense at my family Finukan or Kitchen God, I felt strong spiritual healing. Recently, I notice I have developed an identical image toward "Okinawa Holy Space and the U.S. military fences." Both are ordinarily inaccessible, yet places of fertility, awe, and retaliation. These conflicting images of mine have helped me create a new art form. My hope is to think together of exploring newer images and art forms from relationships between indigenous faith and military occupation.