

THE OCTOPUS

Please
send
Your
OCTOPUS





THE OCTOPUS



For the last 3 years myself and Photographer Jane Kelly have been researching and working on a project we have named **FOUND KOBE JAPAN**. The project involving an anonymous photographic album that was found dumped in a builders skip depicts a life lived in Japan in the 1920's and focuses on an International community who show strong connections with the people and culture of Japan.

Multiple layers of research have brought to our attention a Japanese octopus myth with a strong talismanic element. In the later part of the 19th Century, a whooping cough epidemic caused significant illness and deaths.

Japan has a strong connection to the sea and in the fight against the whooping cough a seven legged octopus was drawn on rice paper and held as a talisman, when a cure for the disease in the form of a vaccine came, the eighth leg was drawn in and the octopus image was placed in a fast flowing stream and sent to the ocean.

The fear and emotional strain in this time of the Covid Pandemic means that our hope and patience have been severely tested. However a positive factor has been the re-discovery of the natural world through walking, cycling and just being outside in the sunshine, with this in mind we hope that the re-discovery of the octopus myth may lighten our mood as we move into the winter months and await a cure.

We would like you to take part in our quest to spread the myth of the seven legged octopus. You could choose to use one of our octopus images, draw, paint, make a three dimensional model or movie of your own and then photograph yourself or friends with your octopus art work. You do not have to be in the photograph with the octopus but it would be more powerful if you were.

Our intentions are that the images will form a future exhibition and if shared widely enough span the globe. The octopus is both feared and revered and in Norse is known as The Kraken, whilst in Japanese folk lore it is called the Akkorokanui and is said to lurk in Hokkaido's Uchiura Bay growing to 108 feet in length. If it is a potent force for these distant Nations then it's symbol can be used to spread a bit of light and joy in these difficult times.

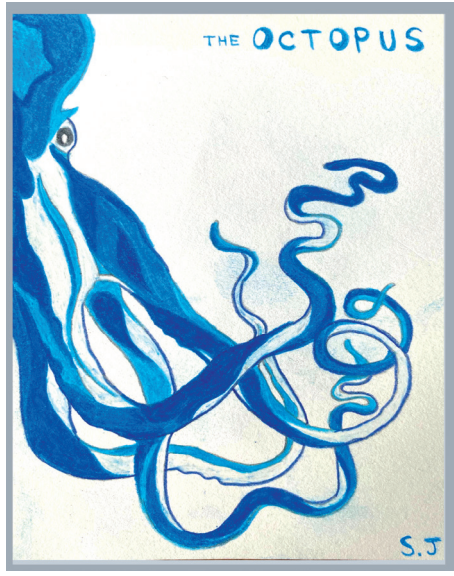
When the vaccine becomes available to us all or we have a positive therapy against the worst of the virus we can draw in the eighth leg and set it and ourselves free.

Please can you post your octopus images using social media and if possible display the artwork for others to see. If you wish to take part in **THE OCTOPUS** exhibition and for further information please contact us by email.

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Images featuring both projects can be seen on instagram [foundkobe](https://www.instagram.com/foundkobe)





We would like to thank the Shopkeepers and Farmer who held the octopus in the initial photographs.

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