

**arte**SALES & Kami Productions present:

# THE GREAT WALL OF JAPAN

PROVISIONNAL DELIVERY: DECEMBER 2018

DIRECTED BY: MARIE LINTON

PRODUCED BY: KAMI PRODUCTIONS

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INTERNET, TV

DURATION: 52'

YEAR OF PRODUCTION: 2018



After the tsunami in March 2011, Japanese officials have decided to build a gigantic 15 meters high and 500 kilometers long wall. Is there no alternative for this Pacific archipelago at the junction between three tectonic plates? What is the environmental and human impact of this massive structure separating earth from ocean?

An emblem for the struggle against the elements, this dam is supposed to protect the Japanese from nature's wrath. But the human and environmental consequences are numerous and the locals are torn between cutting themselves off from the sea or stay vulnerable to the great waves.

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The 18.500 dead and missing of the March 11, 2011 tsunami as well as the unprecedented nuclear catastrophe of Fukushima have shown the limits of risk prevention. Six years later, the government still saw fit to barricade the country again. It will be the most imposing anti-tsunami protection in the world. It should be completed by the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo and cost 8 billion euros.



But this “Great Wall of Tohoku” has other costs: esthetically this fortification will disfigure the coasts, it will also be a great environmental problem. A wall this tall has to rest on foundations that will greatly upset the local balance and impede fishing. The wall embodies a binary vision that would oppose the sea to the earth and its inhabitants. And yet studies have shown that the two ecosystems are interdependent. This illusion of safety comes at the cost of the environmental balance.

This Great Wall of Japan was the object of a multitude of studies in universities throughout the world. **Resistance to the project is being organized locally.** If a dam can seem a more concrete and definite answer to tsunami risks, it still infringes on local cities and villages’ maritime identity. It cuts off the inhabitants from the sea.

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How do they react to this great dam along the coasts? How do communities attempt to rebuild themselves in opposition to or in symbiosis with the sea? This movie enables us to reflect upon the prevention of natural catastrophes and think about them more globally; we have to consider the environmental impact of these human constructions.

To conclude, it will try to answer the questions most people have about climate disruption:

Is it possible to protect ourselves from tsunamis?

How can we address an exceptional event that can only occur in hundreds of years?



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