



**School:** Bath School of Art

**Researcher:** Stephen Vaughan

**Project Title:** *Zassho-Cascadia*

**UOA:** 32: Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory

## 300-Word Statement

*Zassho-Cascadia* is the culmination of a long-term research enquiry that uses photography to consider seismic histories and rupture probabilities in the tectonic subduction zones of Japan and the Pacific Northwest. It presents the experience, memory and anticipation of catastrophic earthquakes and tsunami in the context of deep time and scientific exploration.

This research involved a number of collaborative, interdisciplinary dialogues with world-leading earth scientists, earthquake historians and organisations at the forefront of geoscientific exploration. These dialogues provided critical insight and the exchange of ideas, and have facilitated access to unique contexts, materials and expertise.

The purpose of this research is to consider geo-scientific and historical knowledge and to respond to this knowledge through original long-form photographic narrative. The final publication recontextualises Vaughan's direct experience and documentation of the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and presents those earlier research findings with new insight – not as an isolated spectacle of disaster, but within the broader context of scientific knowledge, international historical perspectives and anticipation of a future disaster in America.

*Zassho-Cascadia* includes multiple photographic series – from the crater of Mount St Helens Volcano to the world's largest deep-ocean scientific drilling ship during the Nankai Trough Seismogenic Zone Experiment. It bears witness to the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, juxtaposing that evidence with the invisible threat of an equivalent disaster in America. Observations of the Quinault Indian Nation's village of Taholah, as it prepares to relocate to higher ground, are presented in parallel with tsunami stratigraphy and dendrochronology evidence of the last Cascadia Earthquake. The project also documents the corresponding evidence of this history, in the Morioka-han Zassho book in Japan.

*Zassho-Cascadia* is a c.300-page monograph (forthcoming, Loose Joints Publishing, 2021). It includes essays by Harold Tobin (Professor of Earth and Space Sciences, University of Washington) and Dr Eugenie Shinkle (University of Westminster).