Tracing Water is a collaborative artwork of Sue Pedley, Kazuya Iwaki, and Tokyo Denki University Iwaki Lab., who work closely with the Aramachi Shinden community. Historically this community suffered shortage of water for centuries until the Kawanishi Dam was built in 1980. Our work draws on the local stories about water that circulate orally in the community.

It comprises outdoor site works and a spatial structure for a group exhibition at the Kinare Museum. The outdoor artworks take the form of many giant blue woven water molecules, clustered and suspended in six locations in and around the Aramachi Shinden. The locations are on a terrace and a park nearby and looking onto the Kawanishi Dam; a shrine, playground and pond in the Aramachi Shinden; and a nearby forest surrounded by rice fields. The sites trace memories of a river from the mountain to the ridge of the Shinano River.

The museum component is a 10 ft sq spatial construction incorporating mirrors, shelves, stones and a rotating 'water molecule' for the exhibition - the Hojoki Shiki in 2018, at the Echigo-Tsumari Satoyama Museum of Contemporary Art - Kinare. The stones on the shelves hold memories of water, each collected from the Minami-sawa River which flows from the mountain through the Aramachi Shinden to the Shinano River.

site 1   mountain
Earth and sand of this land were used for the construction of the dam, and the terraced topography was generated as a by-product of the dam construction.

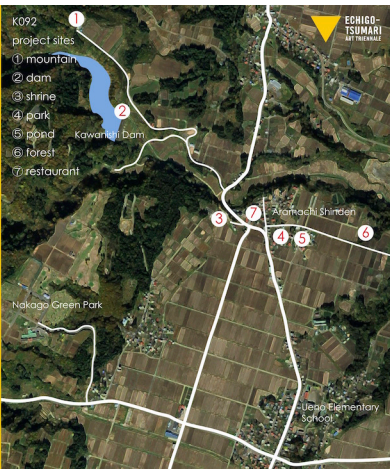**site 2   dam**
The Kawanishi dam was completed in 1980. In 1978, Sumo wrestler Yokozuna Kita-no-umi was invited and "Jigatame" (strengthen the land) ceremony was conducted on this land.

site 3   shrine
The Shin-mei shrine is located on the branch of the river which flows from the mountain. One branch flows through a green pipe suspended over the road.

site 4   park
This land used to be a pond providing water to rice fields of this area. After completion of the dam and land improvement, the pond lost its roll and was changed into the playground.

site 5   pond
During the Autumn harvest festival local residents carry the "Mikoshi" (mobile shrine) around this area. In the excitement of festival, people often dive into the pond.

site 6   forest
There used to be a crematory in the forest. At this point the river flow used for rice fields goes down the steep edge of the river terrace and returns to its natural flow.

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project sites
① mountain
② dam
③ shrine
④ park
⑤ pond
⑥ forest
⑦ restaurant

Kawanishi Dam

Aramachi Shinden

Nakago Green Park

Ueno Elementary School

ECHIGO-TSUMARI ART TRIENNALE