

**Personal Codes - Virtual Cube in the Kitchen**  
(Fragments of thoughts on my paintings at 4WPS, 2021)  
Michiko Itatani

I spent much time with Alberto Giacometti's "Le Cube" (1933-4) at the Guggenheim Museum. I was intrigued and puzzled; it inspired my inquiry into hidden dimensions.

**"Tesseract"**

**In geometry, the tesseract is the four-dimensional analogue of the cube; the tesseract is to the cube as the cube is to the square. Just as the surface of the cube consists of six square faces, the hypersurface of the tesseract consists of eight cubical cells. The tesseract is one of the six convex regular 4-polytopes.**

There was a rather large stone in the middle of the kitchen of the 400-year-old house my father grew up in. People would sit on it sometimes; they would place things on it temporarily but usually it was there quietly alone. We all accepted its presence; it was just a part of the kitchen. There were other things made of stone on the kitchen dirt floor, such as the Kamado or stove to cook on and large stepping stones to get up to the wooden and tatami floor. We would leave our shoes and geta on these stones or nearby. So, the large stone with the unknown purpose was not alone. I saw similar arrangements on the dirt floors in various old houses. The sizes varied, but as for shape, it's safe to say it was a cube.

As a child, waking up in the middle of the night, the first thing I'd see was the starry sky way above everything. It demanded its presence, and reminded me that I was a tiny part in it. I have thought about many things my parents hid from us as we grew up. They wanted us to start fresh without any burden. But the mysterious stone was always there. Memory is complicated.

The Planet Earth allowed humans to develop this complex culture. Now we are changing the planet. Is it possible for humanity to learn "restraining"? Restraining from possessing more, doing more, moving faster and progressing faster. Select what we want, rather than want everything as much as possible. Slow down!

**"Blackbox"**

**The abstract concept of a black box system - its internal functioning is "opaque" (black). Almost anything which processes information/intelligence might be referred to as a black box: a transistor, an algorithm, or the human brain.**

Can the black box of the human brain come up with the solution for the problems humanity has created on the Earth? Now, more than ever, we need creative and imaginative thinking. We need to go beyond "unthinkable" if you love the Earth and Earthlings.

This body of work is about my childhood in which I found enigmas near and far. The unattainable desire to know the unknowable is still my main theme. This is also a part of my systematic investigation about human existence in the larger context of the universe, or multiverse.