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Misako Ishimura [00:00:11] What fishing to me is, the part of my life. And then, also, I really feel, I am living in this, on this earth, right now, through, you know, activity of fishing. And then, it is a really kind of a solid enough feeling to connect to this, this moment. And I really love it.

Misako Ishimura [00:00:46] I had a chance to go out fishing because of my husband's friend. And they, they gave me a birthday present; two nights and three days, fishing. And I liked it, but I really didn't know how much I like it. My husband really went to, you know, like a fishing, right that moment, he throw away all his lure fishing equipment, and then he started to fly fishing. And I was go along with him. But then one day, near the [unintelligible] I was alone with my pole, and then I just tied a new fly. And then wondering, you know, maybe start to fishing. And then I caught one small Brook Trout. And it was so beautiful that I want to see all those beautiful creatures from the Ice Age. They are really wonderful. So I started to fishing, really fly fishing. Yeah. So the fish called me to, into this world.

Misako Ishimura [00:01:58] I fish for, yeah, trout. Because they have a tailwater. And also, I fish for the Small Mouth Bass in small, like, streams there. But I started to fishing, in the East Coast. I live there more than 30 years, and Catskill water is my home water. And I still go back to there. I like their water.

Misako Ishimura [00:02:31] Yes, I I feel so much special. Because it's there, from the before, and then, for me, it's really natural. And if they are natural trout, the color is so different, so vivid and beautiful. And I, I really wish they live there happily, forever. Because, that was their environment. And then, you know, that probably, you know, the geographical nature. And then, you know, water from the sky. Something magic. And then special trout was born there, and then, I really treasure them.

Misako Ishimura [00:03:30] Yeah. It's a caddis fly. Because a caddis, because they're insects, they, they, they are like a tough insect. Almost, they were in the, many other parts of the world. So, and also they kind of, you know, each river has their own caddis, and then they are like a bottom, to the, up to the air. So all like a new food. You know a pupa, and then adult dry. And then you can fish in anywhere you want. That's my go-to fly. Caddis fly.

James Thull [00:04:14] Yeah that's wonderful.

Misako Ishimura [00:04:21] How did I get in to it, was my my husband. He's a he really loves to tie a fly. And there are all those materials there. So I just started to do my own. And why? When I started to do, I always think about the trout was, sometimes salmon, sometimes, you know, the fish. How the fish read it, where they live, and how they, you know, see my flies and all those things. And I like that time, thinking about the river, and the stones, and all those natural creatures. And thinking about it, and then starting to tie. So my tying is really like kind of, like a communicating, you know, my my memory in the nature.

James Thull [00:06:12] Excellent. And would you mind responding to that in Japanese for us as well?

Misako Ishimura [00:06:13] [Japanese response]

Misako Ishimura [00:06:13] Yes, the Catskills, you know like, a [unintelligible] and then Beaverkill, oh all those the rivers are very special for me, because I have been fishing quite a long time. And then Free Stone River, and the most incredible thing is like a, if studied do like a may fly hatch is studied the hatches every week, they have a different kind of may flies. You know, they, if the weather, I mean if, if climate is right, and then if rain has a good pH. It started from the beginning of April. But the very, very special location and then, sometime they hatch, sometimes they don't. Because of the pH in the rain. And various you feel so, how do I say, it becomes more sensitive. How how the world, like our world is so small. You know the pollution, or those things can effect very closely. Yeah.

Misako Ishimura [00:07:32] So for, for example, water pH level. And those of, you know, it like for example, I've been to New Zealand. And in New Zealand, they say it's a beautiful water. But actually, there are too much cows and sheeps. So their water has pe, you know pinpoint pollution of that, because of the more, you know, put too much popularized to cows and sheeps and then, the other night tourism go to the river and then also lake. And then just like putting trees near the lake won't work. But that's a very localised one. But not only that, the jet stream goes around the world. The earth, according to some scientists, those jet stream will carry the cloud. So the rain condense, how pollute, how the pH level is different. Will be also different, by the, each country's, how much they are doing. They are all controlling the air. So since the year, 2, before year 2000, like in 1998 or '99. You started to have so much changes in the world like a [unintelligible]. They started to change the way to go to the north. So they realize, because of climate has been changing, and then they had a really dry weather. Year 2000, and then the ice box started melting. And at that time, they didn't know. But they started to, even though they don't know what it is, but the all the scientist wants to communicate to each other. Not only one country, but the another country, and then to find out, the like a measurement. You know, like a measure- to find out, to each river's, why each water, how has it been changed? They want to have a, kind of a, one measurement. Because in Europe, they have another measurement, way to scale the quality of the water. In the USA has their own way to scale how pure the water is. But, you know, they are trying to break that barrier, and then measure the water quality by the one scanning system, or something like that. And then, I think, each, each country has their own program and their own. But beyond all that, they they, as I said, the globe is getting small. So one country's problem is not only one country.

James Thull [00:10:33] Sure.

Misako Ishimura [00:10:33] Yeah, that, that I really believe in. So, I'm glad that they started to work together. And, you know, beyond nationality, in many countries.

Misako Ishimura [00:10:51] Well, what I really, you know, like my, my position. My way, or the activity to the world. I really think, future generation. You know, the children of our children, and they, I'm talking about human beings, you know, how how they... That's, that's, that's, I think some people, they care about the nature. Some of them are not. You know, the soul. But I had, also, some, how to say, a picture that more than 75% of the children had experience in the wild with the close relative. When they grown up, they have more solid root, to themselves. And also, they want they want to care about the world, and especially nature. So, those I want, you know, there are so many different parents and family position. But beyond all those differences, I really want those children, you know, have a experience in the nature, with their trusted person. And then, you know, to, nature is not your enemy. And then, you know, you, you, you have a more, like a kind of a, you

are yourself is a part of nature. I want them to hands-on experience. That's, I am interested in right now.

Misako Ishimura [00:12:45] As I said, you know, children. Everybody has a children. And especially this fly fishing? It's, it's and there is no like, a kind of a sport injury. That much. And then, you know, you don't have any muscle or anything. You just walk and fish. I think it's really good for women. And also elderly people, and then children too. Especially Tenakara. Tenkara is a very simple, very light, and then you really feel you are playing with a nature. Because of a, short line makes you more direct feeling to the fish, to the nature, where you don't have to worry about line control. Then you can spend more time watching the bird and the trees, and also as a family. Doing something, one thing, as a family, is very important. So they can talk about the same subject, but with it in the whole family, in the table. It's not like, I know, how, like a father talking about their business in the, what they did. Or a mother talking about what they, you know? There are so many different level of the, how do I say, experience. And then talking with one table, then it is a good communication. But if you go camping and talk about the same thing, same, you know, and then family it gets, I think tighter, because of the same subject they are talking about. And if they started to do, you know, women started to fly fishing? Their children will start fishing. And they, they will have more time to be out there, and then to, to directly feeling what's going on with this world. That's very important for them, because what they, what they do on this earth, will effect it. And then, they really can feel, know if when they've grown up.

Misako Ishimura [00:15:04] Do, do, you know, for example like this fair. I recomend to go. And in my Arkansas, Mountain Home, we have a so-called sow bug. It's a really non-profit fishing club. Have a fair, and then all those maybe they charge five dollar for adult, children free. And then all those of the profit goes to the education program. Or something like that. So be a part, be out there, to find out. And then like, I was, I used to be a TGFer and I'm still TGF, Theodore Gordon Fly Fishers Group. And the donors of the club will give you some money, to have day camps. In the [unintelligible]. So there are lots of chances. So don't, don't hesitate to do that, that don't have a time or all those things, but you know grab the opportunity. And then do it.

Misako Ishimura [00:16:14] To care and respect. And then, if you do have those, you know, the.. You've naturally become a good fishing partner. Because, you know, those who care and respect is happier, watching your behavior to become responsible yourself. Whatever you move. Yeah.

Misako Ishimura [00:16:42] Yes. I, I started to fish with my father, and it is a river fishing and with worm. And then I loved the ocean fishing, too. And then it's, it's not a rod. Just like, a one line, and they put the live shrimp, and then fish from, you know, make the shrimp up and down from the bottom. And Japan is very fortunate. It's surrounded, beautiful ocean. And then landscape is very nice, so there are so many rivers. But once I came to the New York, I didn't fish. And then later, I came back, and I started to fish in Japan, again. And some place they still have a good river, but most of the place has a new problem. Too, too many dams. And then the river bank was very, how do I say, concrete dam. That was a little bit pitiful. But that's, that's the Japanese politician, they did it. So.

Misako Ishimura [00:18:01] Yes. Usually, fly fishing is for the night. And for the people who has spare time? It's leisure fishing. But in Japan, Tenkara was performed by the mountain man, which don't have any you know, how do I say, the opposite. Very poor mans. And that's why first I am interested in, and also they lasted a long time. It's like a

three to four hundred years, lasting. No, in the world. You know, everybody starts, every and every country started with a one pole, and the one that is fishing. And then some of them, they become a fly fishing. But all of those one pole all fly, it's disappeared. Because fish are disappeared. So that's why I'm so interested in, why in Japan is that mentioned all the time? And then, because of a like, kind of, our cuisine. You know, like we love, I do, well all those, who like, our country's special culture, made it common. Oh. If fish are there, Tenkara fishing is kind of, you know, it's sort of enough. In the, I am a captain of a team in Japan, and then I meet so many world anglers, in the World Fly Fishing Championship. And then they started talking about nymphing, and all of those things. But moreso with our a fishing style, we don't cast long feet. We cast like, within 25 feet. Sometime they don't use a line. They use the leader and the tippet, and then it's a leader. Yeah. And so thinking about it, and then Tenkara fishing, as a style, is almost exactly the same. Because those, those kind of a, you know, fishing with the long leader, they are not using a line. Yeah. So it's effective fishing, and also very simple. And that's why I'm interested in. I'm then, for, for probably everybody can do. It's not heavy, because of, there is no reel. So.

Misako Ishimura [00:20:40] In Japan, Tenkara, Tenkara it's a fly.

James Thull [00:20:46] It is a fly, so they don't use bait on a Tenkara rod?

Misako Ishimura [00:20:49] No. Because, you know, if it's bait, you know, every time you fish, bait it's gone, and you would need to bait, you know. Tenkara is like kind of a professional people, means you want to do it so quickly. Everything is so fast, because within some certain time, you want to catch more fish. So if, if, it's right, you don't have to change every time it. So it's a fly, all the time fly. Yeah.

James Thull [00:21:16] I see.

Misako Ishimura [00:21:23] You know, the angling is actually, you said, culture. Really, really cross. You know, for example, fly. Fly can be just the only thing, watching and how to tie flies. We will see the whole, whole culture. Kind of like they are using silk, or they are using feathers, and all those things. So all those historical culture. You can, you, you, you can understand, from that level. And some people they see the history from the, where the money goes, and those things. We can see how they fish, and how, how how the style has been changed, what kind of a fly they are using, you know. You can see the, you know, from there, you can see the culture of there, you are, that country. And then it's, it's a very important. And like you a public organization has so much things there. So somebody wants to research, they can do it. And it's very important. And I'm, I really appreciate it.

Misako Ishimura [00:22:39] It's a team play, actually. You know, five anglers, one team. And then they've, they fish you different conditions. And because of that, so much at randomly, carefully arranged to, you know, equal opportunity. Five anglers has an almost same kind of a condition. So how much they, how they, they measure the fish they catch. And then, if more than 20 centimeter, it will be counted, and then by, to the point. And it's been more than 37 years doing. Anyway. So they are changing our point system, slightly. And then try to be equal. The bigger, if you catch the bigger fish, better score or something like that. So everything at that level, they counted on how good it is, and they make us find our position. They got five teams, 20 countries, means a hundred anglers. So within a hundred anglers, if the five stations. Each station has a like a, for example, 25 countries, 25 people, one group. If it is the first position, is 1, 2, 3, 4, the position of the last is 25th. And then after five sessions, they gather the position. So smaller the amount is, you become a winner. So, like, if first position in the five, five station, you have five points. You

are sure you go,t like, a top gold, gold medalist. But this is an individual gold medalist, and then silver and bronze. At the same time, five anglers, they gather together those, like a position. And then smallest number, is a winning team. So you have a winning team, gold. And then silver, and then bronze team. And, you know, before I said about the family too, so fishing is, you think it's individual, but yet it's not individual. If you are in the group, as a family, if you go fishing. They have their own kind of special award, and then they enjoy it. In the in the, the World Fly Fishing Championship, there is so much like a twenty person, more than twenty person is a team effort. Not, not only individual. So it's very interesting.

Misako Ishimura [00:25:46] I want to go to the Hokkaido. Before Hokkaido gets, its' Japanese island.

James Thull [00:25:47] Oh, ok. So an island in Japan? And what are they? Are there native trout there? What are they?

Misako Ishimura [00:25:50] Yes, supposedly, because it's a some places not, how they say, developed yet well so much. It's not controlled as well, so much.

James Thull [00:25:58] I interviewed a woman named Masako Tani, who is Dave Hughes wife.

Misako Ishimura [00:26:03] Wife. Yeah. Yeah.

James Thull [00:26:05] And she's Japanese as well, and she talked about a couple of different native species of Japanese trout over there, that sound interesting.

Misako Ishimura [00:26:11] Right. Right. Amago, Yamame and then yeah, Iwana.

Misako Ishimura [00:26:24] Yes. You know, the... As much as the whole, please think about it. You know, it's a deed, you know each researcher's, research is very detailed. But all the time, go that detail of the, from the big ways. Because I was in a National Park in the, not the federal park but there is such a thing right? The federal... Anyway, they said, they, they secure the bank. Okay. So I saw it, but to secure the bank, that the, the way they use the rock is too small. You can secure in this like, kind of a, you know, splash water. Well, you know, the splash fell out, or something. You know? It's a changing water pressure is very hard, right? So if you secure the bank with some more rocks, it'll be a hole to the bottom quickly. But they say something like, you know, somewhere like that there is a rule, that you only can use that material from that area, or something. From that area, they don't have so much the big rocks. So we end up like that. But, but if you think, kind of how is it just a couple years later, it will be go down in the bottom of the water. Yeah. But I don't know. So. So that's why I said, like that. You know, if, if you think in the whole picture, whole wide, worldwide picture. Someone doing is that you think is the best, sometime end up not the best.