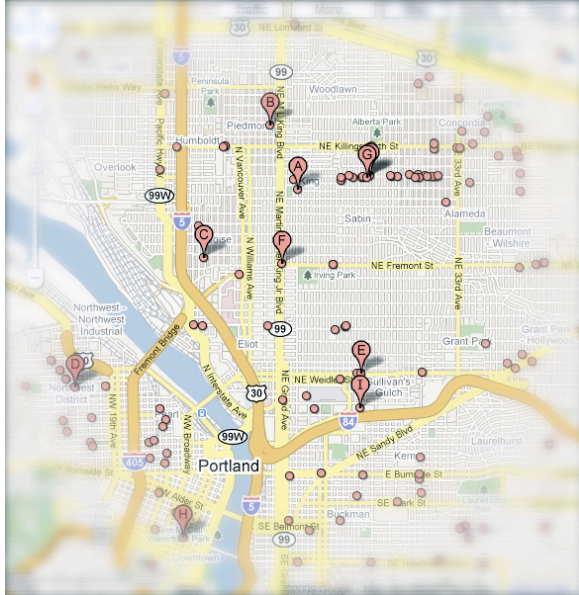


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Jason Doizé | Hikikomori  
October 29 - November 6, 2009

Opening Reception: Thursday, October 29th, 6 - 10PM  
FalseFront  
4518 NE 32nd Ave.  
Portland, OR 97211



"Hi... I was a Hikikomori for 3 years. I thank my mom for helping me get over it. As for the cause, I was bullied for 2 years in school everyday for reasons I am not aware of. Maybe they just felt like it? I had a happy childhood until my first year of middle school(I changed schools). I was usually alone and they spread rumors about me. They harassed me everyday. It was very hard to cope with. I was all alone. Nobody helped me. It continued for 2 years and I couldn't do anything but be silent about it. They'd push me around, hit me, say words that make me feel shameful about myself. I didn't know what else to do. Even in public like the mall, people would say stuff and point at me. Reality or just my paranoid imagination caused by the damage they made, I don't know. In the beginning of my last year in middle school, I just snapped. For three years I couldn't go out. I was so afraid of people hurting me. On the instances that I HAD to go out like death anniversaries of my grandparents, I'd have anxiety attacks. The thought of being around people was frightening. The psychiatrist diagnosed me of having post traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety disorder, bipolar disorder and agoraphobia. Mom refused to give me the medications the doctor prescribed as she reasoned that it can have bad effects in the long run and that I'd be reliant to them. After awhile my mom enrolled me in an online home study school which I have to admit, is alot better than regular school since it is required that you master all subjects before passing which in turn made me pass the university exam with a high mark! Thanks to her, I continued my studies. I am glad she supported me and helped me. Now, I finally recovered from most of those except agoraphobia which isn't as serious as it was before. I still feel uneasy in public. Why do they like to see someone slightly different from them suffer? One thing I discovered when I am alone with one of them, they couldn't bully me. They couldn't even keep eye contact. But if they are in groups of 2 or more, they do whatever they want. They're such cowards.

I am still wondering though, why are people cruel?"

-Ykurosawa  
<http://www.jref.com/forum/showthread.php?t=5680>

I came across this short online confession by chance. It's from a Japanese online research website, www.jref.com. It wasn't my intention to read this young person's struggle with what Japanese call "hikikomori" but I was intrigued. I wanted to know more. Hikikomori is my artistic take on the phenomenon of the same name. Using tools and materials already available to me in the studio, primarily paper and the computer, I hope to better relate and understand such individuals. To what degree do we open our "little home boxes" we inhabit and allow others in? Maybe the idea of shutting-in isn't foreign at all. Maybe in the end we're all hikikomori.

-Jason Doizé

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Directions from Downtown via Burnside bridge, head east then get onto NE Grand Ave. Continue north(NE Grand Ave becomes MLK Blvd) and then turn right onto Prescott St. Continue 1.3 miles then turn left on 32nd Ave.

Additional image:

