

RIOT THE BAR: I was 18 years old in mid 90s, young and excited to participate the 3<sup>rd</sup> Gay and Lesbian parade in Tokyo. It was the first time for me to contribute to this cultural adaptation of the movement of homos in West. After all, our parade was inactive and negative because of Japanese public restrictions not to be sexual (no tits, no butt shown), and strict orders by the authority to keep every aspect of parade in order (reminded me a Communist march). There was an internal conflict within the parade organization. The excluded members attempted to halt an adoption of the manifesto which was failed to take consensus through a democratic process. We lacked an open structure. Someone snatched the microphone on the stage, tried to shout something against people. "I'm against!" The 3<sup>rd</sup> parade in Tokyo faded into an unwanted picture of dissolution and disappointment. I liked this memory now. After 10 years, I'm here in New York. I see; Gay is good. Pride. Rainbow. I feel better. I feel good . . . ? Then all of a sudden it became dull. A symbolic power of Stonewall riot in 1969, after nearly 40 years, had transformed into something less politically risky and more overtly sexy. In fact, we are all over! It took some years to realize that WE ARE EVERYWHERE. Aren't you tired of this motto? Yes, you are. On the other hand, the representation of our community is much more violently masculine and controlled. The Stonewall INN has been gone. Destroyed. How can I allow myself to hope? How is a new potential community reformulated? All for the present of our time, welcome to RIOT THE BAR . . .

(Ei Arakawa)