

THE  TIMES

Art lovers in the soup over a serving from Fukushima

Jack Malvern Arts Correspondent

A vibrant green soup made from vegetables grown near the Fukushima nuclear power station in Japan will be offered to members of the public as part of the Frieze Art Fair next month.

The soup is part of a performance work by United Brothers, a pair of Japanese artists whose mother lives near the power plant where three nuclear reactors went into meltdown in 2011.

Ei Arakawa, one of the artists, said that the exhibit would play up the ambiguity of whether the soup was safe but suggested that there was no real risk. "The vegetables you can get at the market are already supposed to be checked by the farmers' association," he said. "I think that [the radiation levels] are

higher than vegetables from other places, but if levels are over a certain number then they don't allow them to be distributed."

He said that the show in Regent's Park, which plays on ideas of Japanese hospitality, may include a Geiger counter to show the radiation levels in the soup, which is primarily made from daikon radishes. It will be prepared by the brothers' mother, who will make her first trip to London.

Arakawa said that a previous attempt to serve the soup in Amsterdam had prompted furious reactions from some visitors. "There was a group of activists who didn't eat anything from Japan because they believed that the government was misleading people.

"At Frieze I want to advertise more ambiguity of the risk of taking food that, for people who live in Fukushima, is an everyday choice."



The exhibit may also include a Geiger counter