

# The Art Residencies at Onomichi

**2019**



## **OFFLINE** VENTURES

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We harness the transformative power of creativity to sustainably stimulate encounters and contribute to the (re)vitalization of physical areas.

We partner with human talent and destinations to build scale, celebrate our planet's tangible and intangible heritage, promote innovation and global visibility.

## The Onomichi SS19 Program

The SS19 program took place in Onomichi, Hiroshima Prefecture, Japan.

It gathered mixed-media artist Rafael Gross-Brown, graphic designer Oliver Siegenthaler, and photographer Bea Schulze, who immersed themselves in a community rich in offline possibilities, ranging from craftsmanship to Zen meditation, to cycling the beautiful Shimanami-kaido.

# RAFAEL GROSS-BROWN

Rafa's experience was designed in collaboration with the Embassy of Paraguay, in the context of their 100 years of diplomatic relations with Japan and their close historical ties to the Bingo region. His work at Onomichi, integrating local materials and rich in collaborations with local artists was presented as "A Setouchi Immersion" at his solo exhibition at Instituto Cervantes in Tokyo.

# BEA SCHULZE

Bea experienced a prolific short stay, cycling in the mornings and intensely engaging with the local natural and human environment in an attempt to understand Onomichi through her lens. Her work was shared at an event in Shibuya on 31 May 2019.

# OLIVER SIEGENTHALER

Oliver arrived in Onomichi to try something new, initially experiencing idea blurriness and fear. His Random Boats series are a quick attempt at the paintbrush, after which he stepped back into his comfort zone: serious early morning cycling followed by brand and destination identity development, resulting in local collaborations with a local tea grower as well as a local sea salt harvester. His work was shared at an event in Shibuya on 31 May 2019.

## A Setouchi Immersion

On his first visit to Japan, Rafael Gross-Brown participated in a 5-week art residency in Onomichi, in the Hiroshima Prefecture. These works, which were shown at Instituto Cervantes in Tokyo, were created in that context.

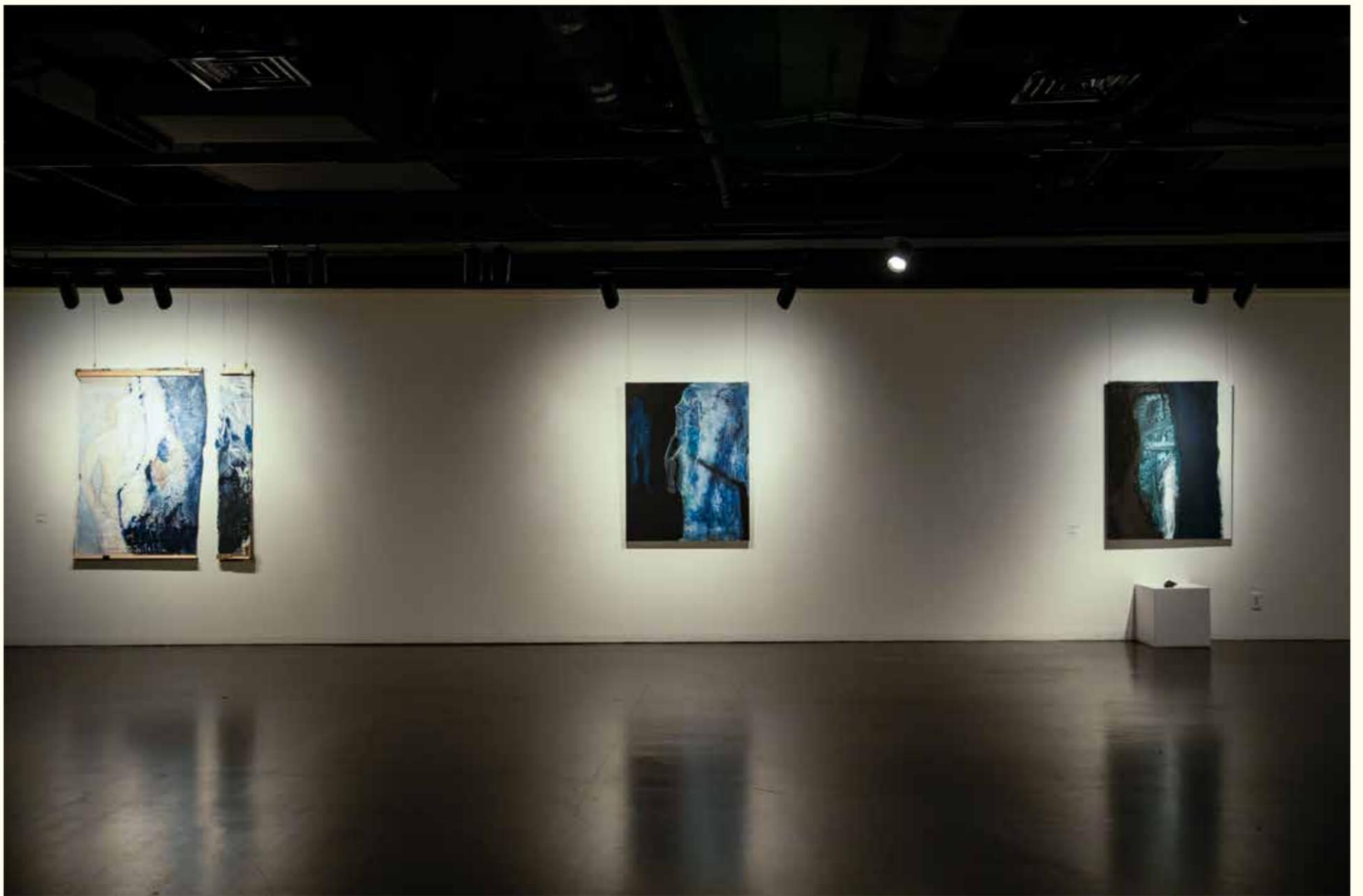
A Setouchi Immersion includes collaborative pieces that Rafael worked on with Japanese artists, with whom he communicated solely through the language of art (for example: drawing, material experimentation) because they did not share a common language. Inspired by the Japanese aesthetic principle of “Unity with Nature”, Rafael began these conversations proposing they draw from expressions

of the physical and biological natural world, which included: erosion, rules of fractal geometry, the visceral and animal, as well as the motion of oscillation, or rather, the choreography of oscillation as it manifests at different scales of the natural world.

The result is a series of works that challenge us to understand humanity’s current understanding and relationship with nature and, through 間 (pronounced “Ma”, a Japanese aesthetic concept that evokes space and pause between things), invite us to seek once again a unity with the natural systems that enabled the development, and still support, Homo Sapiens.







### **About the artist**

Rafael Gross-Brown is a multi-disciplinary artist from Asunción, Paraguay, based in Barcelona. In his work, the lines and brush strokes transcend intentional conscious expression, and instead aim to connect with spontaneity and mindful expression.

He studied Art, Design, and Technology at the Interactive Telecommunications Program at NYU's Tisch School of Arts, in New York City. He also graduated a law degree (LL.M.) at Harvard University School of Law, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the Catholic University of Law, Paraguay.

Rafael has participated in group shows in New York City, Asunción, and solo shows in Asunción and Tokyo.

***@rafagrossbrown***





# Time Facades

The time façades series focus on environments where a bygone time is venerated and a comfortable impression of placidity has set roots. A bow to the past. A gentle breeze under soft light evokes a peaceful stroll in Onomichi, inviting us to discover the charming longevity and perseverance of an aging town.





# Deliverance

Deliverance is an act of detachment and liberation from a structural corset. Accepting nature's invitation to swing the curves of her body, she inhales the cool bamboo breezes and savors her individuality, in a moment she imagines repeating again and again, without ever stopping.

# Locals

Onomichi locals are portraits of the human environment experienced by Bea during her residence in Onomichi. In a context where devotion to one's role is expected, sweet and honest glances contrast with a focused and determined presence. Humbleness as the common thread that weaves together a series of characters living in, and committed to, a respectful community.



### About the photographer

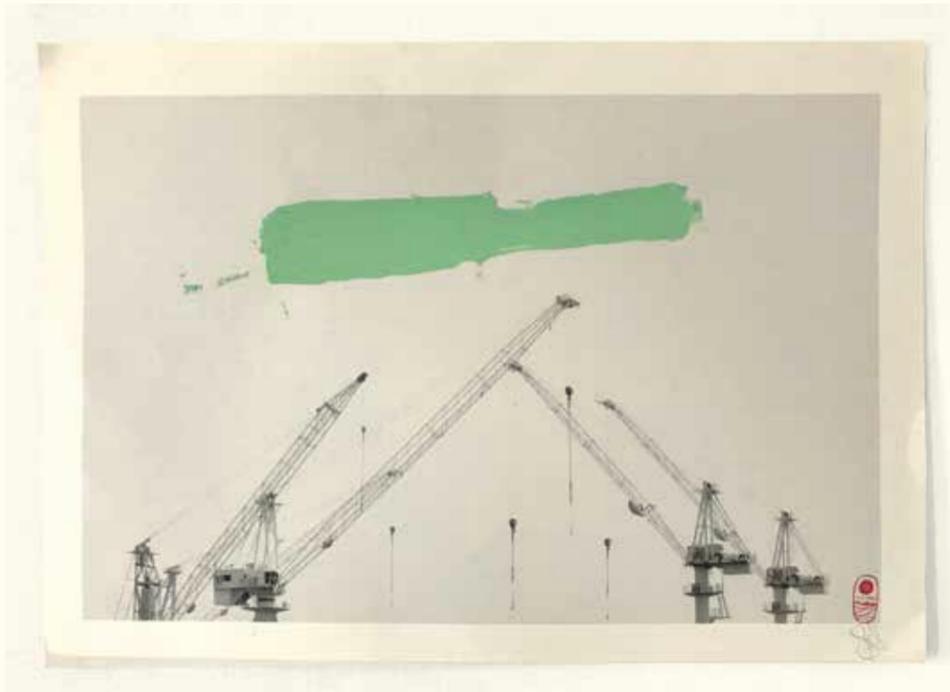
Bea travels the world seeking for cultural interaction and hospitality as represented by the relationship between people, nature, and architecture. In her search for what's unique, as well as what unites, she is interested in capturing the human dynamics that dwell within time and space.



## Flying boats

This work, in collaboration with photographer Bea Schulze, is inspired by the immense cargo ships that visit Onomichi's shipyards every day.

The presence of these giants in the narrow canals formed by the scattered islands of the Seto Inland Sea (Setouchi) paints colorful lines on the town's homogeneous and frequently cloudy coastline.





# Tea Stand Gen

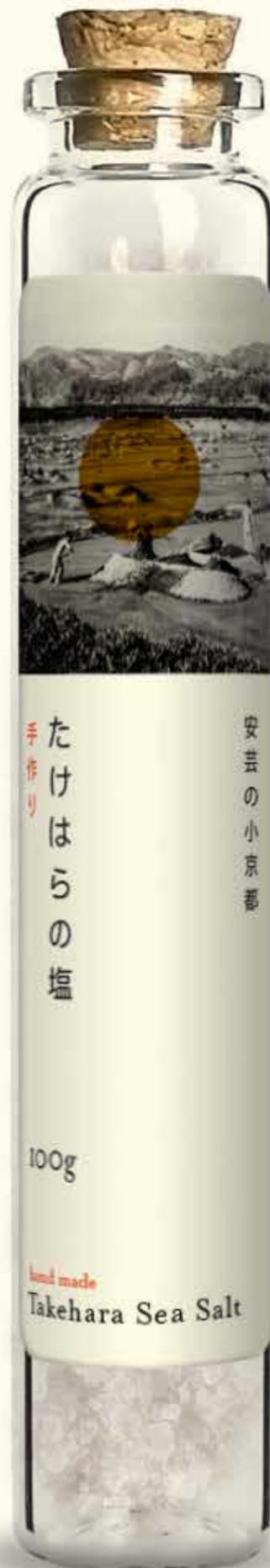
Oliver also worked with small local enterprises, such as Tea Stand Gen, a producer of organic tea.

With an illustration by local artist Maruyama Yuji, Oliver created a graphic language that highlights the special organic quality of the tea. The graphic system can be represented in packaging and has also alternative applications such as merchandising, glasses, jars and other elements.



# Takehara Salt

In the town of Takehara, a UNESCO heritage site, sea salt is harvested using traditional techniques. A new label for the salt was created with an aim to enhance the value of an item usually purchased by visitors at the local gift shops.



## About the designer

Oliver Siegenthaler is a graphic designer based in Bogota, Colombia. His work has featured in different design publications and has been recognized and awarded by several magazines and design festivals. He is the head art director at his design firm S&Co in Bogotá, and a part-time professor at the Jorge Tadeo Lozano school of arts & design.

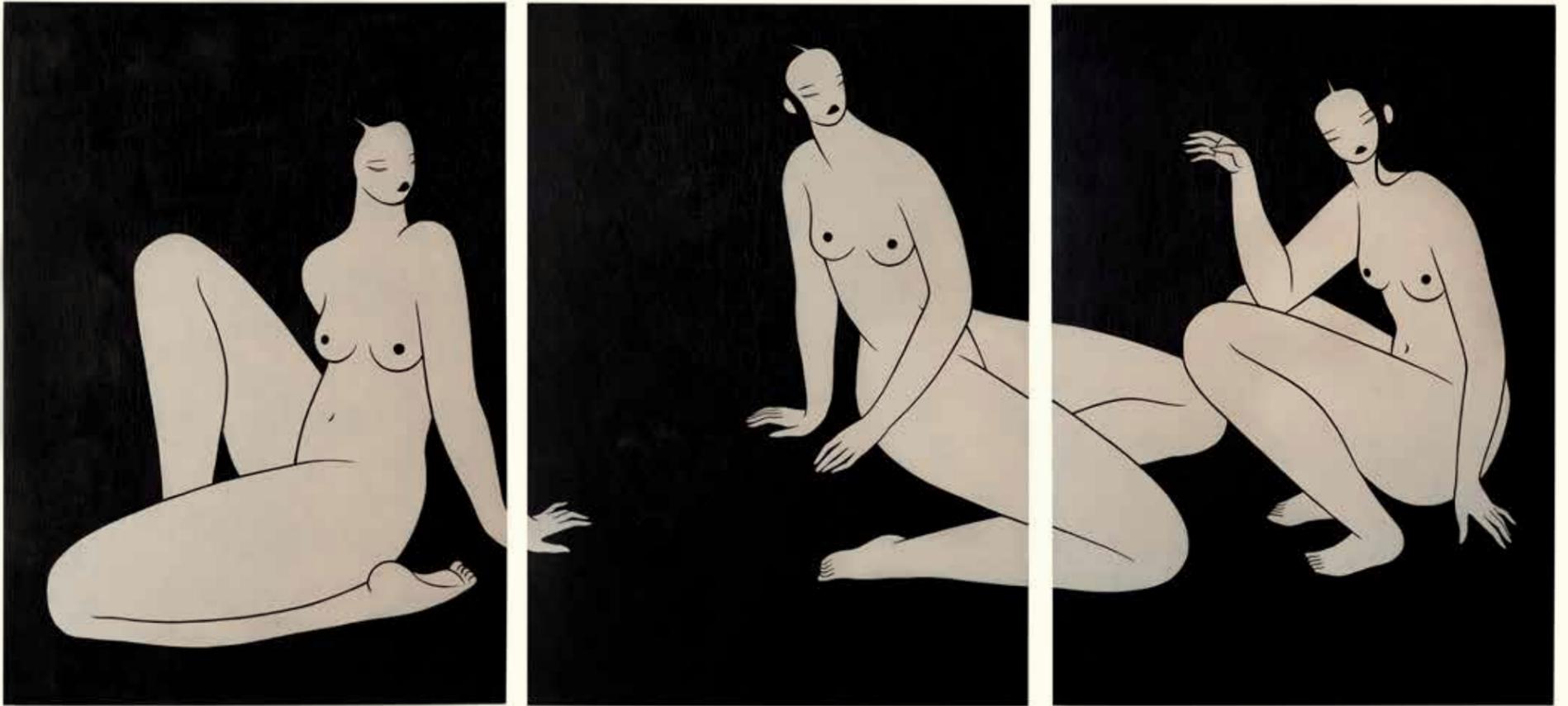
## Previous art residencies

# Hilda Palafox (SS18)

As the sun rises in Japan, dusk falls over Mexico. Bridging the 11,864km separating Mexico City and Onomichi (Hiroshima Prefecture), means rapidly adapting to an initially unfamiliar context –absorbing from local people, landscapes and materials– shaped by her five-week stay. Small fragments of Hilda's stay in Onomichi, infused in the universe of her imagination.



# 11864 km in a straight line



## About the artist

Hilda Palafox (@poni on Instagram) is a Mexico-city based graphic designer turned painter and muralist whose work has encompassed illustrations, canvases, murals and other media such as ceramics. One of the most important Mexican female artists of her generation, she has participated in projects ranging from group shows, brand collaborations (Nike, H&M, Google) and international mural festivals. Other than the pieces produced in Onomichi for the show, Hilda gracefully left a small mural painting in Onomichi, as well as one at a public bath (sento) in the Nakameguro area of Tokyo.

## Previous art residencies

# Daniel Silva (SS17)

During his stay in Onomichi, Daniel Silva created HND, the first segment in a series of cohesive art interventions to take place across diverse settings. The work consisted of a site-specific installation composed of locally-sourced raw materials, including beeswax, charcoal, and hanpu, a robust cotton maritime canvas.

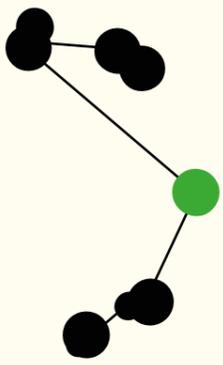


We are experiencing some turbulence - please  
Stow away your electronic devices  
| HND | BOG | LAX | LHR |

**About the artist**

Daniel Silva is a London-based artist whose work focuses on sculpture and installation, and has recently started to incorporate algorithms, Swarm Intelligence, and audio. He completed his MA from Central Saint Martins in 2014 with a top of the class distinction and is represented by Baert Gallery in Los Angeles. Prior to becoming a full-time artist, Daniel worked for 10 years at a NY advertising agency, while in parallel pursuing his interest in photography.





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