



Festival Transphotographiques, September 2021, Lille, France
3 wallpaper prints, 9 fine art prints on aluminium, total dimension 200x570 cm

This project is titled "Reading the air" (Ba no Kuuki wo Yomu 場の空気を読む in Japanese) which means being able to read a situation by sensing someone's feelings. As Japanese people express way more with body language and silence, it becomes necessary to read between the lines, understanding the situation without words. In this project I conducted an anthropology quest on the way Japanese society communicates its emotions. In the same way I created a subtle visual poem focusing on the concept of hiding in a broader sense, creating connections among different aspects of Japanese culture that were reflecting the idea of hiding sentiments and opinions and its possible visual translations into real life situations: shadows, curtains, hidden beauties, but also typical mottos. As soon as I arrived in Japan I have been impressed by the extremely difficulty I experienced in reading people's facial expressions. Japan can be described as a conflict-avoiding culture. In Japanese this is explained by the concept of "wa", literally "harmony." Rules, customs and manners tend to avoid conflict. Japanese society expects people to hide their true feelings and opinions in many circumstances in order to keep the harmony safe. This situation is described also with the fundamental concept of Honne and Tatemae, that might be translated with "true opinion/honest talking" and "public face." Tatemae is the idea that it's often necessary to hide your true opinion in order to ensure social harmony. It is unusual to directly criticize someone in social situations. In this project I decided to focus on the concept of hiding in a broader sense. For example a famous Japanese proverb is stating: (literally translation) Flower that is not talking/ Not saying is a ower (Iwanu ga hana). It could be translated as "some things are better left unsaid". After understanding better their society, I question myself and Japanese people if it is true that hiding own's Honne (real emotions and opinions) will keep the social harmony safe. The project has been started during a art residency in Japan.

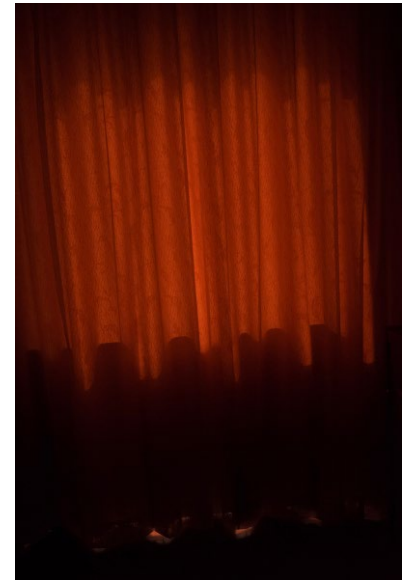
Reading the air

2018

Acknowledgements

- project awarded among the finalists of Encontros da imagem Emergentes Award 2019, Braga, Portugal
- project awarded among the finalists and coup de coeur at the Bourse du Talent, section Portrait 2019, Paris, France.
- project shortlisted at Prix Maison Blanche 2019, section projections, Marseille, France.
- work produced within a residency program awarded at Zerodate art Foundation, Odate, Japan, october-november 2018

Some images from the project









Installations



La Bourse du Talent, Bibliothèque National de France, BnF, december 2019, Paris, France
3 wallpaper prints, 9 fine art prints on aluminium of different dimensions, total dimension
180x600 cm

Artist book



The project presents also an first attempt of an artist book of 80 pages. The book presents a combination of pictures and hidden texts printed on transparent paper, located on the inside of the page folding (japanese binding technique has been adopted). The book can be accessed at the following url 1 (video), 2 (full PDF, text are inserted separately):

1 <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1bF5hQY2XcE-UnvcFzqkH50IzW8XHE6fs>

2 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1P7BKyn7VzKpA0QqKd9e-STF0v3TrCvM/view>



Dali International Photography Exhibition Festival, La Grande France,
Dali, China, august 2019
3 wallpaper prints, 3 leporello on the wall, 200x500 cm