



Museu
Oscar
Niemeyer



JAPAN HOUSE
SÃO PAULO



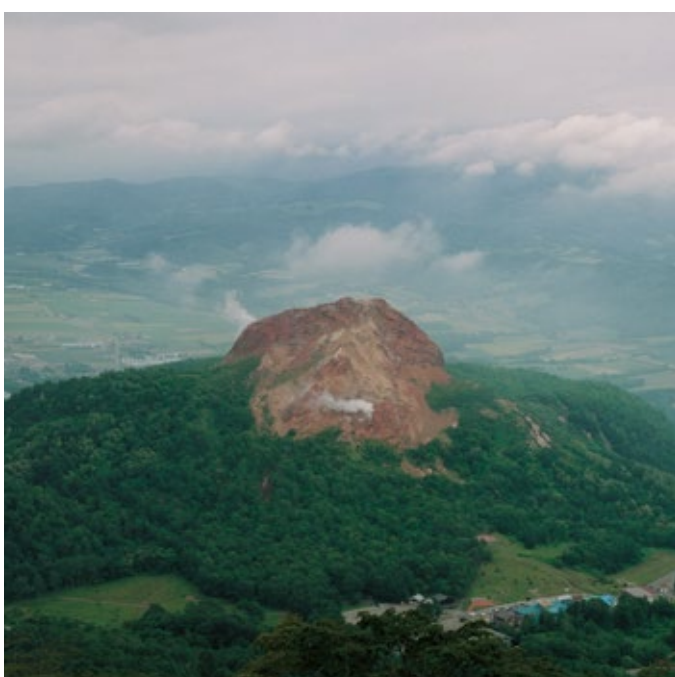
JAPONÉSIA
NAOKI ISHIKAWA

The Japonesia exhibition represents the beginning of a promising partnership between Museu Oscar Niemeyer (MON) and Japan House São Paulo.

Naoki Ishikawa is considered to be one of the most relevant artists of contemporary photography in Japan and his inspiring work offers visitors a unique expedition through an unknown Japan.

A particular aspect of Naoki's exceptional work is the fact that he works with film photography, further emphasizing the colors in developed images. This is how he portrays to the public the interaction between nature and people and their cultural features.

This exhibition is a unique opportunity to see Japan through the sensitive eye of one of its main photographers. An artist who is internationally known and awarded, here, Naoki focuses on images of more than 20 islands from the archipelago, thus reinforcing the



strong connection Japan has with the ocean.

The exhibition title, “Japonesia”, also highlights the fact that Japan is a group of islands.

As the first cultural institution to have established a partnership with Japan House São Paulo, MON is, therefore, paying a special tribute to the thousands of Japanese descendants living in the State of Paraná – a state that ranks second in this population in Brazil.

Juliana Vellozo Almeida Vosnika
CEO - Museu Oscar Niemeyer




A first-person perspective

Japonesia is the opportunity to see Japan through the eyes of the traveling artist Naoki Ishikawa, in a first-person perspective, as if unveiling pieces of his travel diaries and memories through images.

Here, we have the opportunity to discover new landscapes, to recognize many other places, or to be surprised by the singularity of hyper popularized and almost saturated locations, such as the emblematic Mount Fuji.

In spite of having seen countless reproductions or even visited the mythical Japanese mountain, Naoki's visual installation, which is composed of frames, moments, and angles, shows us the rich and powerful results of the passage of time: one's inner sense of time, the exact moment of each experience, and even the observer's state of mind.






From the exhibition visual tour at the Museu Oscar Niemeyer, we perceive Japan as a country with a wide variety of scenarios that undergoes spectacular aesthetic transformations not only due to its geographical location , but also due to remarkable passage of seasons.

Naoki shares the curious and personal viewpoints of his adventures and explorations. At the height of digital dependence, he works with analog photography and develops his films manually, establishing an intimate relationship with the subject depicted through the act of photography and the materiality of the paper.

The famous maxim ‘No man is an island’ (John Donne, 1624) is masterly symbolized by the concept of *Japonesia*. At a time when the world is in forced isolation, the recollection of Japan as a cluster of islands and the sea as the element to unify this chain of lands performing like a patchwork of history and tradition is extremely poetic.

The year 2020, marked by the need of isolation and barriers, is also a testimony of the power of relationships and exchanges.

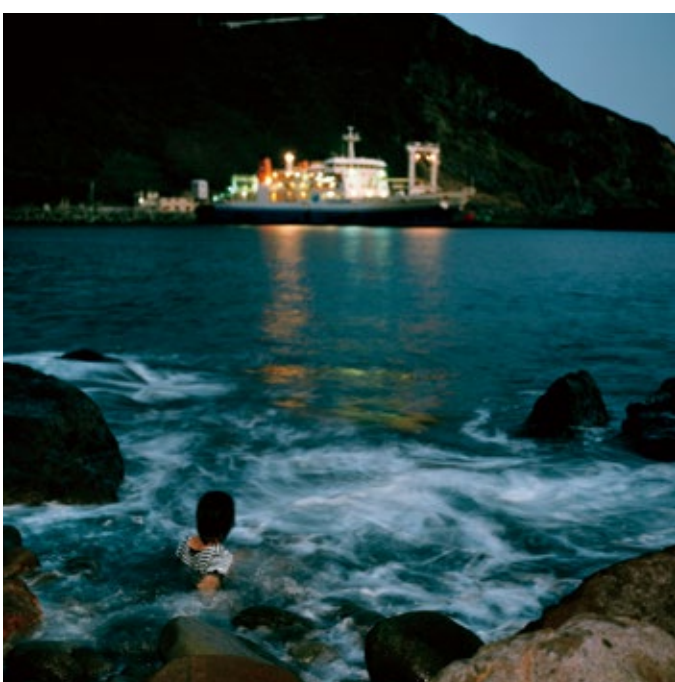
Japonesia opened on the very same day Japan House São Paulo reopened its doors for the public, in October 2020, after long months without being able to welcome visitors



— the core of its existence and our greatest patrimony. The opportunity to showcase Japan House São Paulo’s first itinerant exhibition to the public in Curitiba, in an institution of scale and remarkable work such as Museu Oscar Niemeyer, is of immense symbolic value. This achievement was only made possible because of the involvement and commitment of both institutions teams who worked hard and passionately, highlighting the value of unity.

Japonesia expresses the beauty of encounters and awakens a longing for new perspectives and discoveries.

Natasha Barzaghi Geenen
Cultural Director
at Japan House São Paulo
and curator of the exhibition





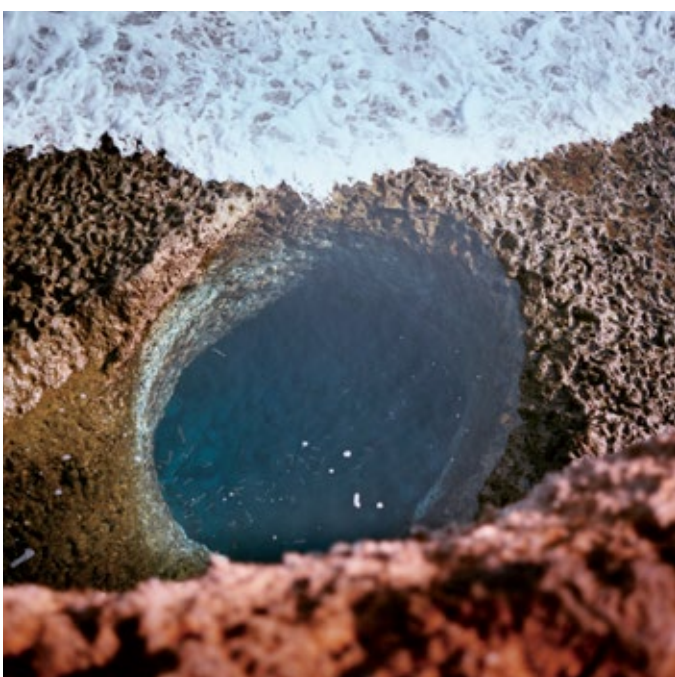
Born in Tokyo, Japan, in 1977, Naoki Ishikawa is a photographer. He earned a BA in fine arts from Waseda University, and an MA and a PhD from the University of Tokyo.

Ishikawa's work is centered on Japan's landscapes, including both nature and people. As a travelling artist, he researches the places to be photographed before setting out to immortalize, through analog photography, the land, the people, and the traditional and contemporary cultural elements that make those places special. He is interested in anthropology, customs and folklore. He exhibits the work arising from travelling to both large cities and more secluded areas.

His work has been shown in many countries, including France, Italy, Germany, and Canada. He has won several awards for

his photographs. The Photographic Society of Japan recognized him as Emerging Artist in 2008 and, in 2020, he was given a Lifetime Achievement Award, for remarkable photographic work over time. His work is included in public collections in Asian and North American institutions, such as the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo (Tokyo, Japan), Shanghai Institute of Visual Arts (Shanghai, China), Cleveland Clinic (Ohio, United States), among others.

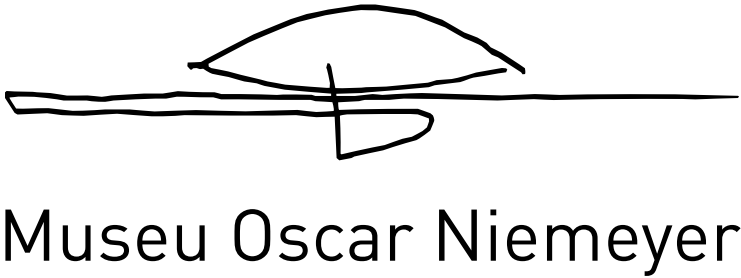
Naoki Ishikawa is also renowned for his books. The highlight is his children's book, published in Japan in 2020, about a Sherpa boy who wants to climb Mount Everest. Sherpa is an ethnic group originally from Tibet and Nepal. (シェルパのポルパエベレストにのぼる or Porpa, the Sherpa Boy who Climbed Mount Everest, free translation into English).



Japonésia
Naoki Ishikawa

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Oscar Niemeyer Museum

From Tuesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Ticket sale until 5:30 p.m.

Online ticket sales: museuoscarniemeyer.org.br

Free admission to seniors over 60 and children under 12.

Rua Marechal Hermes, 999
Centro Cívico · Curitiba · PR
Tel.: 41 3350 4400