

For the sixth edition of the ongoing exhibition programme dedicated to Nature, Abreu Advogados, in partnership with Carpe Diem Arte e Pesquisa, presents a series of works by the artist Louise Kanefuku.

Louise Kanefuku

Louise Kanefuku was one of the artists selected for the Arte Jovem 2020 exhibition. In this call for artists, organised by Carpe Diem Arte e Pesquisa, Abreu Advogados awards a prize to one of the artists selected for this exhibition. A solo exhibition at its head office building in Lisbon. This exhibition presents works related to Kanefuku's master thesis proposal at the Faculdade de Belas Artes Porto, in which the theme proposed was the whale.

The works presented in this exhibition belong to a body of work related to the artist's coming to the city of Porto. In this city "...the displacement of a body that discovered itself, over three years, a little whale, a little migrant. And it is around this central nucleus that it develops: a whale-migrant me-body".

In the artist's words "...this is the result of a constant autobiographical exercise that seeks to materialize sensations and contextual perceptions in images that can be drawings, videos or performances. The works reverberate my steps of adaptation in the city; the dialogue with the place and with the people. I am interested in the idea of bringing art closer to life, making life a source of raw material for creation; the democratization and desacralization of images and artistic processes; the exposure of the narrative of a foreigner and, finally, the creation of metaphors that open spaces for reflection about global free movement".

The series "I wish I was a whale" are drawings that materialize nostalgia, and where the whale appears as the protagonist. The drawing of the whale as a migrant animal, strong and imposing, able to cross oceans as a kind of underwater tank, safe and unshakable. In times of instability and fragility, these characteristics have been particularly evoked at the time of the arrival of the artist in the city of Porto and now also when she leaves the city. Quoting Arnaldo Battaglini, for whom drawing inhabits the border between idea and reality, a unifying act of thinking and feeling, drawing emerges in gestures that are sometimes sure and assertive, sometimes hesitant and slippery, capable of expressing as many timbres, forms, inflections, nuances, emphases, silences as there is room for in our souls.