Painting in the Age of Globalization

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I was born and raised in São Paulo. From an early age, I liked to draw and was good at crafts. I started taking art more seriously during my time at the School of Architecture and Urbanism at the University of São Paulo, and at the age of 25 had the honour of participating as a Brazilian artist in the twenty-first São Paulo International Biennale. It was also around this time that I decided to leave Brazil in search of adventure and moved to Japan, my parents’ country of origin. By day I worked in an architectural firm, by night and on weekends I devoted time to my art. I stayed in Tokyo for eleven years, London for a year, and have been living in New York for the past thirteen years.

Because my work is exhibited worldwide, I have often had the opportunity to travel between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, and between both the so-called Western and Asian divide. From these experiences I have learned the importance of interconnectedness in a world that is increasingly woven into one entity. Simply put: no matter where we are on Earth, what society we are a part of, what language we speak, or what ethnicity we identify with, we need other people.

I work alone for the most part, and to those who visit my studio my job appears to be a lonely one, but my work requires me to connect with associates across continents. One negative aspect of global culture is that it masks regional identities, but at the same time it opens up opportunities previously unthinkable. Such a rapidly changing society can be difficult to understand, but I find a level of comfort in living amidst this lack of certainty. I enjoy the challenge of depicting the complexity of the modern world with nothing but paint and a couple sheets of canvas.

_A forthcoming monograph on the life and work of Oscar Oiwa titled_ The Creation of The World by Oscar Oiwa _will be published by Kyuryudo Art Publishing Company, Tokyo and Oscar Oiwa Studio, New York, in May 2016._
**Oscar Oiwa**
is an artist born in Brazil to Japanese immigrants. He received his BFA (1989) in Architecture and Urbanism from the University of São Paulo. He has had over sixty solo exhibitions since 1990, including at the Arizona State University Art Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, and Museu Nacional de Belas Artes in Rio de Janeiro. Selected public collections include The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo (Tokyo), Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo (Tokyo), Mori Art Museum (Tokyo), Yokohama Museum of Art (Kanagawa), Hyogo Prefectural Museum of Art (Hyogo), 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (Ishikawa), Phoenix Museum of Art (Arizona), Arizona State University Art Museum (Arizona), Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, and University of São Paulo Museum of Contemporary Art (USP). He has received several awards including from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship (2001) and the Asian Cultural Council (2002). Oiwa currently lives and works in New York City.

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**Figure 1**  *Oscar Oiwa, Good Morning São Paulo, 2015, oil on canvas, 227 × 333 centimetres.*

_Courtesy of the artist._