

# SEANKELLY

Stoffa, Felipe. "Colors of Life," *Harper's Bazaar Brasil*, October 2018.

Harper's  
**BAZAAR**  
BRASIL



Photo: Vicente de Paulo

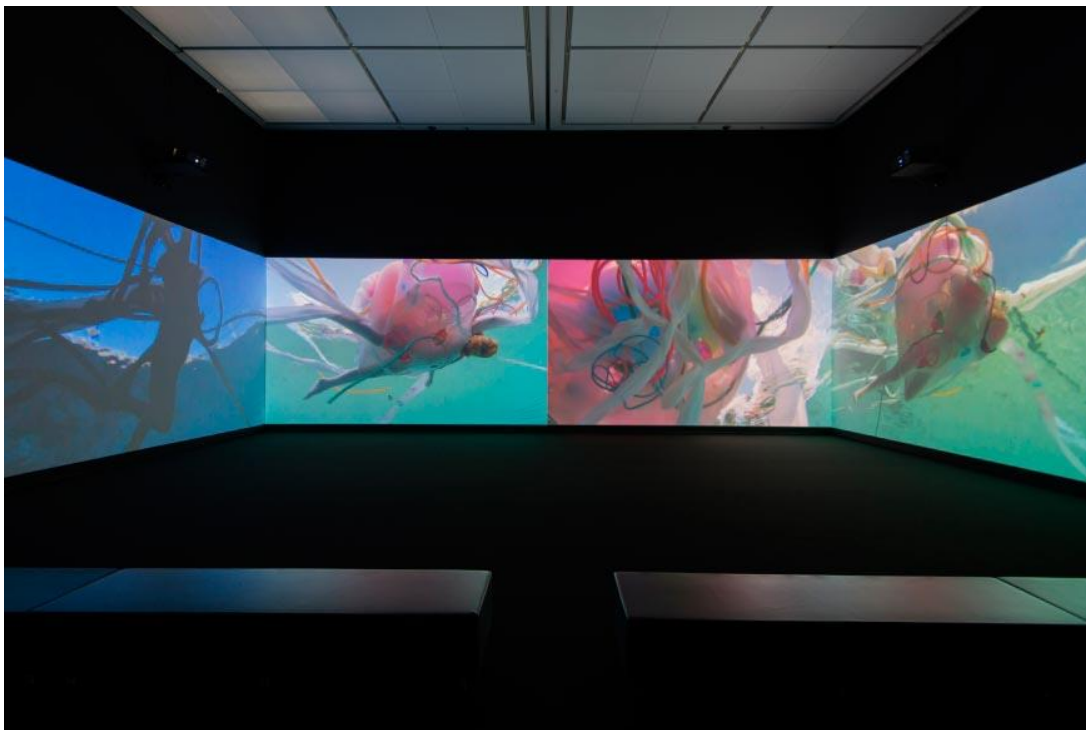
*The diverse experiences of the artist Janaina Tschäpe are mixed in her mind and give the keynote of the paintings she produces, now on display in New York.*

**JANAINA TSCHÄPE** has been living in New York for 22 years, where she has a studio and a residence, both in Brooklyn. "I usually go from one to the other walking. It's usually 40 minutes on foot, or 15 minutes by bike. I make phone calls along the way, I think a little and when I get to the studio...it's to paint," says the 45-year-old artist. Inside the studio's lull, it does not even feel like it belongs in an industrial block.

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Daughter of a Brazilian mother and German father, Janaina lived in constant transit between the two countries. This repertoire that comes from life itself, as in the case of identity questioning, are some of the features that appear in the artist's production. Her work is a reflection of an attentive and passionate look at the experiences, colors, scenarios and memories that she experiences. The paintings she makes take the viewer into a mystical world. "I create the memory of landscapes," she says.

During her conversation with *Bazaar*, the artist put final touches on a series of seven large-scale paintings to be featured in her first solo exhibition at the American gallery Sean Kelly, which recently began representing her. The exhibition officially opens on October 26, 2018.



*Photo: Press Release*

In Brazil, she is part of the Fortes D'Aloia & Gabriel team. "I started working with Sean Kelly at the end of last year. It's an incredible gallery, the space gives you a big picture," she praises, as she stands beside one of them to compare the size of the work, which measures 2.77m X 4.75m. "There's nothing left in the studio."

The challenge for the exhibition, opening this month, is the size of the canvases. "My work has a physical and gestural reflection, I use the whole body to paint," she says. For almost a year now, she has been involved in the creation of the series, she emphasizes that it was a battle. "At first I was afraid, but I deconstructed it. It's like playing the instrument, you control the gesture." In her case, the brushes.

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The landscape is what permeates her creative thinking. It is the starting point and also the final product of the work. From an unforgettable sunset, the mountainous and dramatic view of the Rio de Janeiro or the vast and uncontrollable nature of the interior of Brazil, the paintings retain small flashes of memories and mix everything on their canvases. The result is a new scenario. "The landscape is not always clear, it can be a suggestion."



Photo: Press Release

Janaina's fascination with color is the final touch of thought. The other day, she found a rose variation whose name is *tickle me pink*. "It's a color that comes from a very strong emotion," she confers. "The viewer is free to go through the painting. Every scene in my head is translated by a color."

Since her earliest work in video and photography, Janaina needed some maturity to pursue painting. And it happened only when she settled in New York. "Painting is a very intimate relationship, it's like a lover. You see every day, you end up fighting with it," she laughs. "It's a crazy thing, sometimes I have to leave the studio because it's all very visceral. I need some distance so the play does not turn out to be an internal fight or get too emotional."

To clear her mind, she tries to visit Germany at least twice a year, accompanied by her daughter. She also has a farm in Bocaina de Minas (MG), where part of her family lives nearby. There she maintains an atelier, but the inspiration comes in the shape of the grass, the color of green and all the visual beauty that surrounds the property. "I like Brazilian nature very much, it is without limits, deeper and denser. I spent four weeks at the farm and now I have half a year of

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food for the brain," she jokes. "As an artist, I'm always looking for a vulnerable situation, or the work is over. Painting is a matter of life, you can have a dialogue forever," says Janaina.



*Photo: Press Release*

Within the works of the show, *Humidgrey* is an example of the search for sensations. "It has a gray background that sends me back to Croatia. I was there because of an exhibition. As I sat down, I saw the sunset, and the sky became a mystery, ashes into a red. It was full of drama and emotion, and I thought, 'Wow, it's a horny gray!'"

***Sean Kelly Gallery : 475 Tenth Avenue, New York. Running Until December 8***