



OVATSUG FIGUEIREDO

UNSTABLE STRUCTURES UNDER SENSITIVE PRESSURE

Pictorial edification and sensitive collapse

I do not understand painting as a surface of representation. I work with it as a physical system subjected to pressure, accumulation, instability, and time. Matter is not used to illustrate an idea or to construct a predetermined image; it behaves as an active force, capable of altering the direction of the work.

My practice develops through layers of high-density materials - mortars, mineral sediments, alkyd resins, pigments, oils, silicates, and industrial compounds - applied onto rigid supports. These materials possess weight, viscosity, curing time, contraction, and structural resistance. Each layer modifies the physical condition of the previous one, generating surfaces that evolve through sedimentation, fracture, absorption, and compression.

I am interested in the moment when painting ceases to function as image and begins to operate as matter occupying space. Form emerges through processes that exceed formal control: drying, gravity, chemical reactions, pressure, and accumulated mass continually reorganize the surface. Certain fissures, deformations, or ruptures are not accidents to be eliminated, but structural events that redefine the work from within.

The work does not seek resolution. It insists on the interval between construction and failure, between control and loss of control, between permanence and sensitive collapse.

Unstable Structures under Sensitive Pressure

S.O.S. Oceans / Mental Health Stigma / Pandemic Memory

The project is organized around three recent nuclei: Pandemic Memory, Mental Health Stigma, and S.O.S. Oceans. The central interest is not to represent crisis, ruin, or collapse, but to construct material situations in which these states physically occur. Each canvas emerges from a negotiation between gesture and the behavior of matter. Error, drying, deformation, and accident are not corrected as external failures; they become part of the work's logic.

In Pandemic Memory, the surface condenses a collective memory marked by trauma, saturation, and persistence. In Mental Health Stigma, painting approaches vulnerable psychic structures, working with color, repetition, and formal tension as forms of unstable organization. In S.O.S. Oceans, the research assumes an ecological dimension: quartz sand from the Massambaba restinga, resins, epoxy foam, pigments, and industrial materials compose surfaces in which flow, salinity, corrosion, and pollution become internal conditions of the work.



Submerged Infrastructure

YEAR

2012-2024

SERIES

S.O.S. Oceans

DIMENSIONS

170 × 65 × 80 cm (70 kg)

TECHNIQUE

Pictorial sculpture. Mixed technique on solid wood.



Abyssal Ocean

YEAR

2026

SERIES

S.O.S. Oceans

DIMENSIONS

120 × 75 cm

TECHNIQUE

Mixed material on canvas.



Organic Seaweed

YEAR

2026

SERIES

S.O.S. Oceans

DIMENSIONS

120 × 80 cm

TECHNIQUE

Mixed material on canvas.



Sea Breeze Corrosion

YEAR

2026

SERIES

S.O.S. Oceans

DIMENSIONS

102 × 72 cm

TECHNIQUE

Mixed material on canvas.



Red Tide

YEAR

2026

SERIES

S.O.S. Oceans

DIMENSIONS

120 × 70 cm

TECHNIQUE

Mixed material on canvas.



Preserved Beach

YEAR

2026

SERIES

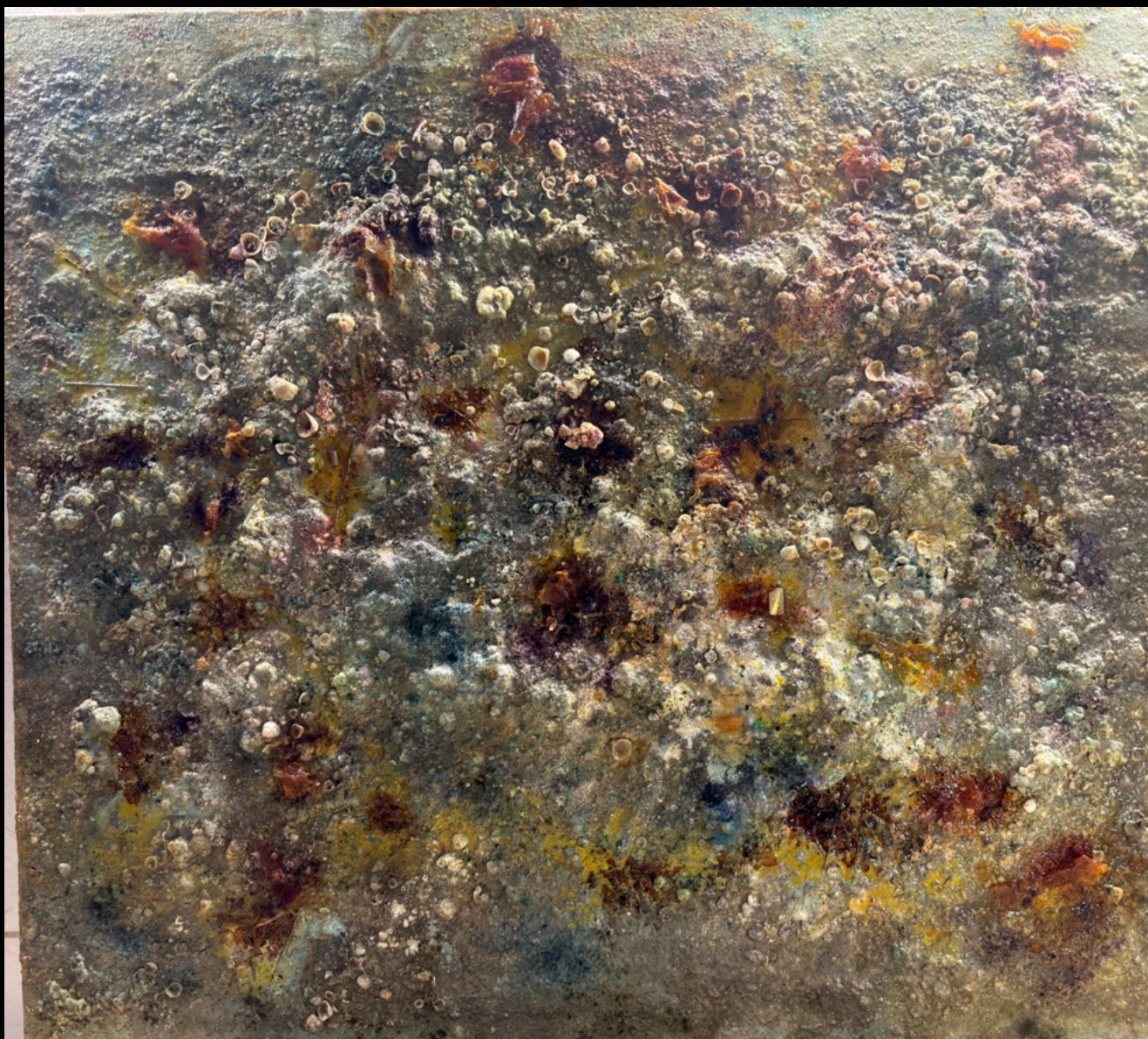
S.O.S. Oceans

DIMENSIONS

110 × 70 cm

TECHNIQUE

Mixed material on canvas.



Pollution and Destruction

YEAR

2026

SERIES

S.O.S. Oceans

DIMENSIONS

95 × 86 cm

TECHNIQUE

Mixed material on canvas.



Polluted Beach

YEAR

2026

SERIES

S.O.S. Oceans

DIMENSIONS

120 × 80 cm

TECHNIQUE

Mixed material on canvas.



Bleached Corals

YEAR

2026

SERIES

S.O.S. Oceans

DIMENSIONS

100 × 74 cm

TECHNIQUE

Mixed material on canvas.



After the Reef

YEAR

2026

SERIES

S.O.S. Oceans

DIMENSIONS

125 × 47 × 22 (h) cm

TECHNIQUE

Pictorial object. Mixed material on
bubble wrap plastic.



Screw Loose

YEAR

2025

SERIES

Mental Health Stigma

DIMENSIONS

150 × 100 cm

TECHNIQUE

Mixed material on canvas - Pictorial
Edification Technique.



Art Against Depression

YEAR

2025

SERIES

Mental Health Stigma

DIMENSIONS

150 × 100 cm

TECHNIQUE

Mixed material on canvas - Pictorial
Edification Technique.



Social Imbalance

YEAR

2025

SERIES

Mental Health Stigma

DIMENSIONS

150 × 100 cm

TECHNIQUE

Mixed material on canvas - Pictorial
Edification Technique.



Pharmacological Control

YEAR

2025

SERIES

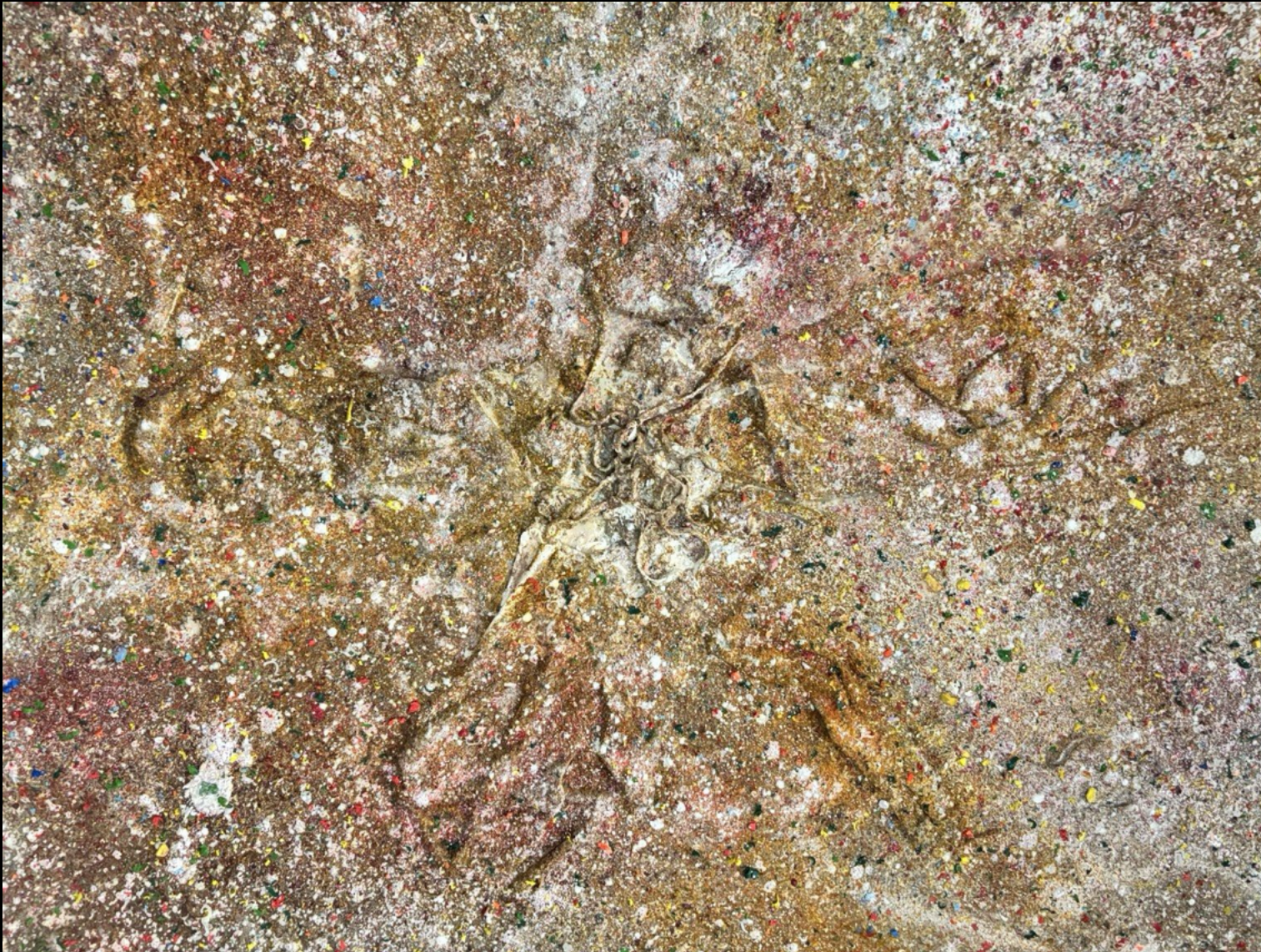
Mental Health Stigma

DIMENSIONS

150 × 100 cm

TECHNIQUE

Mixed material on canvas - Pictorial Edification Technique.



Virus

YEAR

2025

SERIES

Pandemic Memory

DIMENSIONS

104 × 90 cm

TECHNIQUE

Mixed material on canvas - Pictorial
Edification Technique.



Isolation

YEAR

2025

SERIES

Pandemic Memory

DIMENSIONS

104 × 90 cm

TECHNIQUE

Mixed material on canvas - Pictorial
Edification Technique.



Vaccine

YEAR

2025

SERIES

Pandemic Memory

DIMENSIONS

125 × 120 cm

TECHNIQUE

Mixed material on canvas - Pictorial
Edification Technique.



Cocoon

YEAR

2022

SERIES

Pandemic Memory

DIMENSIONS

42 × 29 × 10 cm

TECHNIQUE

Mixed technique on Canson A3 300g paper mounted on 10 mm marine-grade plywood.



Fragility

YEAR

2022

SERIES

Pandemic Memory

DIMENSIONS

42 × 29 cm

TECHNIQUE

Mixed technique on Canson A3 300g paper mounted on 10 mm marine-grade plywood.



Covid-19

YEAR

2022

SERIES

Pandemic Memory

DIMENSIONS

42 × 29 cm

TECHNIQUE

Mixed technique on Canson A3 300g paper mounted on 10 mm marine-grade plywood.

OVATSUG FIGUEIREDO [Rio de Janeiro, 1977]

Expanded painting, pictorial edification, and material systems under pressure

Ovatsug Figueiredo [Rio de Janeiro, 1977] is a Brazilian visual artist whose practice operates between expanded painting, material construction, and critical research. His trajectory brings together studio practice, artistic training, and academic inquiry, crossing art history, contemporary culture, psychology, education, and cultural studies.

His artistic training includes the Escola de Artes Visuais do Parque Lage, in Rio de Janeiro, where he studied drawing, painting, theories of contemporary art, printmaking, and advanced painting seminars with artists and professors such as Fernando Cocchiarale, Anna Bella Geiger, Suzana Queiroga, Elizabeth Jobim, and Teresa Miranda; as well as the Escuela Massana, in Barcelona, where he attended courses in abstract painting and advanced seminars in art, creativity, and identity research under the guidance of Catalan sculptor Gabriel Sanz. He also participated in programs related to Brazilian art, Latin American art, art and politics, at Uncool Artists (NY) and Zait_Art (Berlin).

In the academic field, he graduated from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, holds a master's degree in Education, a doctorate in Communication Psychology from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, and completed postdoctoral research in Cultural Studies at McMaster University, Canada. Since 2006, he has developed a continuous studio practice centered on pictorial edification, a concept through which painting ceases to operate as a surface of representation and begins to act as a physical body, an unstable topography, and a system of forces. He works with mortars, plaster, resins, solvents, oils, industrial pigments, mineral residues, quartz sand, and epoxy foam, producing works in which weight, time, gravity, drying, fissure, and collapse participate in the formation of the image. Among his recent series are Pandemic Memory, Mental Health Stigma, and S.O.S. Oceans.

Technical details

Registry	Work	Series	Dimensions	Profile
OF-2024-SOS-00	Submerged Infrastructure	S.O.S. Oceans	170 × 65 × 80 cm	IV
OF-2026-SOS-01	Abyssal Ocean	S.O.S. Oceans	120 × 75 cm	V
OF-2026-SOS-02	Organic Seaweed	S.O.S. Oceans	120 × 80 cm	V
OF-2026-SOS-03	Red Tide	S.O.S. Oceans	120 × 70 cm	V
OF-2026-SOS-04	Sea Breeze Corrosion	S.O.S. Oceans	102 × 72 cm	V
OF-2026-SOS-05	Preserved Beach	S.O.S. Oceans	110 × 70 cm	V
OF-2026-SOS-06	Pollution and Destruction	S.O.S. Oceans	95 × 86 cm	V
OF-2026-SOS-07	Polluted Beach	S.O.S. Oceans	120 × 80 cm	V
OF-2026-SOS-08	Bleached Corals	S.O.S. Oceans	100 × 74 cm	VI
OF-2026-SOS-09	After the Reef	S.O.S. Oceans	125 × 47 × 22 (h) cm	VII
OF-2025-MHS-01	Screw Loose	Mental Health Stigma	150 × 100 cm	II
OF-2025-MHS-02	Social Imbalance	Mental Health Stigma	150 × 100 cm	II
OF-2025-MHS-03	Pharmacological Control	Mental Health Stigma	150 × 100 cm	II
OF-2025-MHS-04	Art Against Depression	Mental Health Stigma	150 × 100 cm	II
OF-2025-PM-01	Virus	Pandemic Memory	104 × 90 cm	III
OF-2025-PM-02	Isolation	Pandemic Memory	104 × 90 cm	III
OF-2025-PM-03	Vaccine	Pandemic Memory	125 × 120 cm	III
OF-2022-PM-01	Cocoon	Pandemic Memory	42 × 29 × 10 cm	I
OF-2022-PM-02	Covid-19	Pandemic Memory	42 × 29 cm	I
OF-2022-PM-03	Fragility	Pandemic Memory	42 × 29 cm	I

Material profiles

Profile IV

Pictorial sculpture. Mixed technique on solid wood. Registry OF-2024-SOS-00. 2012-2024. 170 × 65 × 80 cm; approximate weight 70 kg.

Profile V

Mixed Material on Canvas - Pictorial Edification Technique: Cotton Canvas | Mortar | Plaster | Silicate | Water | Polyvinyl Acetate Adhesive | sedimentary quartz sand | Acrylics | Epoxy Foam | Found Objects | Fine Colour Dry Pastels (Rembrandt/ Sennet) | Mineral Pigments | Organic Pigments | Linseed oil | Artistic Medium | Mineral Oil | Mineral spirits | Alkyd Resins | UV-Resistant Maritime Varnish.

Profile VI

Mixed Material on Canvas - Pictorial Edification Technique: Cotton Canvas | Plaster | Water | Polyvinyl Acetate Adhesive | Acrylics | Found Objects | Mineral Pigments | Linseed oil | Artistic Medium | Mineral Oil | Mineral spirits | Alkyd Resins | UV-Resistant Maritime Varnish.

Profile VII

Pictorial Object. Mixed Material on Bubble wrap plastic mounted on marine-grade plywood - Pictorial Edification Technique: bubble wrap plastic | Mortar | Plaster | Silicate | Water | Polyvinyl Acetate Adhesive | sedimentary quartz sand | Acrylics | Epoxy Foam | Seashells | Fine Colour Dry Pastels (Rembrandt/ Sennet) | Mineral Pigments | Organic Pigments | Linseed oil | Artistic Medium | Mineral Oil | Mineral spirits | Alkyd Resins | UV-Resistant Maritime Varnish.

Profile II

Canvas on 15 mm marine-grade plywood. Mixed Material on Canvas - Pictorial Edification Technique: Cotton Canvas | Plaster | Water | Polyvinyl Acetate Adhesive | Acrylics | Found Objects | Mineral Pigments | Linseed oil | Artistic Medium | Mineral Oil | Mineral spirits | Alkyd Resins | UV-Resistant Maritime Varnish.

Profile III

Canvas on 15 mm marine-grade plywood. Mixed Material on Canvas Pictorial Edification Technique: Cotton Canvas | Mortar | Plaster | Silicate | Water | Polyvinyl Acetate Adhesive | Acrylics | Found Objects | Fine Colour Dry Pastels (Rembrandt/ Sennet) | Mineral Pigments | Organic Pigments | Linseed oil | Artistic Medium | Mineral Oil | Mineral spirits | Alkyd Resins | UV-Resistant Maritime Varnish.

Profile I

Canson Paper A3 300g mounted on 10 mm marine-grade plywood. Mixed Material on paper: Acrylics | Polyvinyl Acetate Adhesive | Acrylics | Found Objects | Fine Colour Dry Pastels (Rembrandt) | Mineral Pigments | Organic Pigments | Linseed oil | Artistic Medium | Mineral Oil | Mineral spirits | Alkyd Resins | UV-Resistant Maritime Varnish.



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