



Instituto Tomie Ohtake
Salt – by Ricardo Hantzschel

Instituto Tomie Ohtake presents SALT, an exhibition by Ricardo Hantzschel. The exhibition consists of 32 photographs printed on salted paper with shots taken by different cameras – from pinhole to digital- between January 2011 and January 2015. Text of the exhibition is signed by photographer Fernando Lemos.

This exhibition documents the manual salt extraction process performed in the municipalities of Araruama and Arraial do Cabo, in the lake areas within the state of Rio de Janeiro. This collection aims to emphasize aesthetic aspects of the salt extraction and its characters, giving visibility to a mode of production which has remained unaltered since the nineteenth century and, according to Hantzschel, tends to disappear over the next decade.

In Fernando Lemos' poetic definition, Ricardo is a “traveler, researcher, workshop master, a sea-intimate man who chose salt extraction areas - Cabo Frio, Araruama and other geometric beds of full brightness, powered by the sun aesthetically disciplined by wooden screens, which prompts an atmosphere that caters to the artist's mood.”

As part of the work, material research was conducted to use the crude product extracted from salt pans and adapts it to the salted paper technique, a sensitive support which preceded photography created by the Englishman William Henry Fox Talbot in 1834, in which copies of the exhibition were printed. According to Ricardo, the supporting material thus selected – made up of watercolor paper, salt and silver - carries on its surface images of a world apart. “The manual application of the sensitizing element with brush has added gesture, reinforcing the presence of chance in the salted paper process, whose technique, which preceded photography, organically incorporates into the image the crude product extracted from the salt pans,” he adds.