

Laura Mas (OKOKUME)

Born 1985 in Mataro, Barcelona, Spain

Works and lives in Barcelona, Spain

Laura Mas Hernandez (b.1985; Mataró, Spain), known as **Okokume**, constructs fictive worlds to seek a universally resonant psyche for the contemporary audience. In her paintings, she explores alternatives to saturated presentations of womanhood, trauma, anxiety and the environmental crises in the media. Adopting a distinct graphic style, Okokume's visual language reflects her positioning and identity, which is fostered by the internet, media, pop culture and an increasingly tight-knit international network.

Drawn to the disparate cultural sources of Surrealism and Japanese ukiyo-e prints for their exploration of the subconscious and unbounded possibilities rooted in commonplace logic, Okokume follows the legacy of the Superflat movement and acknowledges in her work a shared global visual landscape that has shaped her exposure to expression. The artist created a recognisable icon in her early works: Cosmic Girl is a starry-eyed guardian with a child-like turquoise body, pink curly hair, two small horns on her head and rounded hikimayu eyebrows that give her an air of innocence. Expressive, relatable but always ambiguous in narrative, Cosmic

Girl is full of resonant charm. The character draws on viewers' protective instincts and the traction behind a unified vision that can gain impetus in a culture driven by media.

At the heart of Okokume's imagined universe is a tenderness and vulnerability. Since her participation in the 2024 exhibition *Tales of Women*, Okokume's work has turned to the diversity of feminine strength, marking a new focus on healing and overcoming trauma. In her recent body of work, feminine figures are roughly outlined and positioned in the foreground of paintings with shallow depth – a confrontation of open-endedness, unrefined emotion, and the liminality of transformation and growth.

Based in Barcelona, Okokume graduated from the Llotja Advanced School of Art and Design. Her works have been widely exhibited in galleries and art fairs around the world, including Hong Kong, Tokyo, Taipei, Seoul, Los Angeles, Paris and Berlin, among others. Her works reside in the private art collections of many well-known collectors, industrialists, and celebrities, attesting to her immense talent and success in the art world.