

RUI  
SOARES  
COSTA STUDIO

COMPLEXO INDUSTRIAL DO OLHO DE BOI 45  
2800-205 ALMADA  
PORTUGAL

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# Tagus river

*A MORE THAN HUMAN* AGENT IN CONTEMPORARY ART

**PART I**

BoSS - Ocean Ambassadors Program - Focus on Portugal

Olho de Boi, Almada  
November 12, 2024

[www.ruisoarescosta.com](http://www.ruisoarescosta.com)





# Bloodbrothers

THE SEARCH FOR THE ULTIMATE  
ECO-CONSCIOUS SURFBOARD

PART II

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- 1. PART I: Tagus River – A more than human agent in contemporary art**
- 2. PART II: Bloodbrothers – The search for the ultimate eco-conscious surfboard**



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# 1. TAGUS RIVER: MORE THAN HUMAN AGENT IN CONTEMPORARY ART

- research and artistic practice dealing with **time**
- perception of time by manipulating its **suspension, distension** and **compression**
- time as a variable that can be played with, like a parameter in an equation - we can capture, condense and extend time

# 1. TAGUS RIVER: MORE THAN HUMAN AGENT IN CONTEMPORARY ART

- research / work organized in **series**
- concepts and principles: **parsimony, minimalism, nothingness, seminality, nature** and **materiality**
- **co-creation** with the surrounding context (e.g., the tides of a river, the atmospheric humidity of a room, etc.) – process in which the artist removes himself as much as possible from the process of creation



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# 1. TAGUS RIVER: MORE THAN HUMAN AGENT IN CONTEMPORARY ART

- **2020** - connecting artistic research and practice with environmental activism, sustainability and politics
- **2021** - start of the **Rising series** project - addressing some of the main issues of contemporaneity - the **Anthropocene** and the **Climate Crisis** - more specifically, the **rising sea levels**



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# 1. TAGUS RIVER: MORE THAN HUMAN AGENT IN CONTEMPORARY ART – RISING SERIES

## Exhibitions:

- [Rising](#), 2021
- [Rising series](#), 2021
- [Anthropocene & Great Acceleration](#), 2022
- [Untitled Anthropocene 0,3/1/1,5/2/2,5](#), 2023
- [Stringing the disconnection](#), 2023
- [Untitled installation](#), 2024
- [Untitled for C, Rising series](#), 2024
- [Air series](#), 2024

## Curatorial projects and other projects:

- [Three Houses for Mankind](#), 2021
- [Entropy and Transformation](#), 2022
- [Laboratório de coisas inúteis](#), 2023



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# 1. TAGUS RIVER: MORE THAN HUMAN AGENT IN CONTEMPORARY ART – **RIISING SERIES**

- Tagus river draws on the metal, rusting it
- the rise and fall of the tides draws the slow accumulation of time
- each piece is:
  - a. at a specific **height** (A) determined in relation to the Hydrographical Zero
  - b. at a specific **location** (L) defined by latitude and longitude coordinates
  - c. exposed to the action of the Tagus tides for a certain number of **days** (D)



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# 1. TAGUS RIVER: MORE THAN HUMAN AGENT IN CONTEMPORARY ART – **RIISING SERIES**

- equation to be replicated sometime in the future (e.g., 50, 100 or 200 years)
  - pieces with the same size/shape, same **location** (L), same **height** from the Hydrographical Zero (A) and exposed to water erosion for the same number of **days** (D) will give rise to radically different pieces, because In 50, 100 or 200 years the **average sea level will be higher**
- although A, L and D are kept constant, as a result of the rise in the average sea level, the pieces will be submerged for longer time



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# 1. TAGUS RIVER: MORE THAN HUMAN AGENT IN CONTEMPORARY ART – ANTHROPOCENE

- Humanity – 300 thousand years of a history of 4.6 billion years of the solar system, or 13.8 billion years of the universe
- recent but also profoundly ephemeral – the specific set of circumstances that allow mankind to exist are dynamic and will cease to exist at some point. Only the “when” is an open question
- classifying a geological epoch as being driven by human action is assuming that the consequences of a single species (humans) on the planet are to such an extent that they will lead to changes on a geological scale, of those that can be measured in tens or hundreds of millions of years



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# 1. TAGUS RIVER: MORE THAN HUMAN AGENT IN CONTEMPORARY ART – ANTHROPOCENE

- how is it that in the 200 years that have passed since the industrial revolution (12 000 from the neolithic revolution) we have managed to generate changes capable of shaping a new geological epoch?
- subtext / seminal idea – time that acts and the artist (or Humanity) who removes himself (or itself) as much as possible from the equation – artist as the non-necessary condition
- Philosophically, as if a correction, a response to the anthropocene



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## 2. BLOODBROTHERS: THE SEARCH FOR THE ULTIMATE ECO-CONSCIOUS SURFBOARD

- surfboard construction:
  - **core** (blanks)
  - **lamination** (resins to make the core resistant and impermeable)



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## 2. BLOODBROTHERS: THE SEARCH FOR THE ULTIMATE ECO-CONSCIOUS SURFBOARD

- surfboard construction - **traditional/mainstream** (oil-based, non-recycled, non-recyclable and toxic materials):
  - core: **polyurethane** (PU) blanks
  - lamination: **polyester** resins



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## 2. **BLOODBROTHERS: THE SEARCH FOR THE ULTIMATE ECO-CONSCIOUS SURFBOARD**

- surfboard construction - **BLOODBROTHERS:**
  - core: PU blanks  $\frac{2}{3}$  **recycled content / 73% less CO2 emissions / 100% recyclable**
  - lamination: **bio-based polyester resin** made from up to **90% plant-based** and **renewable resources**



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## 2. **BLOODBROTHERS: THE SEARCH FOR THE ULTIMATE ECO-CONSCIOUS SURFBOARD**

- **BLOODBROTHERS:**

- **manifesto**

- **bloody lab**



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