

Arising from the Margins

Artist Statement

During my residency I devoted myself to researching the origins and uses of the mimeograph or gariban as it is known in Japan. The gariban is a very simple portable printing press, made of wood in the shape of a briefcase, which contains a frame with mesh and a roller inside. The briefcase only weighs a couple of kilos and can be transported very easily. This portable printing press was invented by the scientist Shinjiro Horii in 1894 in the Shiga prefecture. In addition to delving into the heart of the gariban, I had the opportunity to visit the Daito Museum, a company dedicated to manufacturing the stencil paper used to print on the mimeograph. This museum has a large collection of articles that tell not only the history and development of the gariban and stencil paper but also that through understanding their uses reveal key aspects of the political history of Japan.

Another essential aspect of my research focused on connecting and networking artists in and around Fukuoka who still use this printing technique. Later, together with these artists, I held a workshop for artists and students where each participant created a gariban artwork.

The result of this project is displayed in the form of a classroom installation entitled "Gariban Otaku Society" in the studio of the Artist Cafe Fukuoka. This installation shows the obsessive search to understand part of the long history of more than 100 years of gariban in Japan.

Bruno Ruiz

Gariban Otaku Society
Mixed media / Dimensions variable / 2024

1. *The mimeograph: Enabling the underground publishing around the world*
2 chalk drawing on blackboard / Dimensions variable
2. *Gariban codex* (collaborative work with Mr.S)
hinoki wood, fire pen and pigments / Dimensions variable
3. *Collective exhibition (workshop results) gariban gallery*
prints in gariban / Dimensions variable
4. *Gariban Chronicles video and publication*
video and publication