

## The Album

The crash of different ideas that, together, represents a full canvas of who I am.

“Who Soto Orbis Is?”. I was asked this question once, making me reflect on my past, present and future as an independent artist. And even if we don’t want to put ourselves in boxes, labeling ourselves, is important we know who we are, and where we are standing in. So, being asked after three projects, in a span of almost two years, it was weird, a little uncomfortable, but necessary. But the thing about realizing who you are as an artist, or as a character at least, is that you start to realize some ideas, emotions, thoughts, feelings that don’t match together.

In Canvas, I decided to let different characters to tell their stories in my behalf. Those stories may see weird, non-sensical at first, however all of them were written based on properties that I think I wouldn’t be Soto if I tried to deny they exist. It can be messy and make totally sense, fight against and along itself while bringing some peace. Disconnected stories that are related to each other in some way. At the end of the day, there is no way to have a better understanding of someone looking at a pixel, at a drop of ink. You need to look at the whole picture. You need to step back and stare at the canvas.

## The Songs

### 1 - Storms

**Color:** Purple

**Main Character:** Oracle

**Description:** An oracle feels constantly overwhelmed with the revelations they constantly get

**Meaning:** My creative side being both a blessing and a curse

It’s like a blink of an eye. So sudden, so spontaneous to the point it can be ignored if not paid attention enough. The more you get used noticing when it arrives, the more sensitive you become to it. Then, every time it comes, you have no choice but decide what to do with it in a matter of seconds: or to manifest it into the physical world or hoping it will eventually leave you.

This is how abstract forms escape the world of ideas.

### 2 - Dead

**Color:** Red

**Main Character:** Queen of Hearts

**Description:** A queen is hated by the public even she’s doing everything she can to do a good job

**Meaning:** People apparently dismissing you for caring too much

Reputation can be such a drug. Knowing people love what you do can make people feel stronger in their convictions and paralyzed about disappointing expectations at the same time. However, when you feel you’re in the bottom of the popularity chart, when

you realize how people despise you without even trying to know your backstory, it can either bring torment or peace to someone, knowing anything they do will be bad received.

What would you do if you're the villain for a whole kingdom? You'd try to fight or embrace your inner villainess?

### 3 - Vaudeville

**Color:** Yellow

**Main Character:** The Entertainer/Comedian

**Description:** A comedian is about to perform for the first time after forgetting his notes at home

**Meaning:** How I mostly feel unprepared in life not knowing if I'm in the "right path" or not

It's the first day in the job you've always wanted. You've been expecting to be called anxiously, checking every message, every phone call, every e-mail, waiting for the confirmation, and now you're finally about to hit the stage. When you put your hand in your pockets to give another look at your notes, you don't find them. You panic. You start making a mess, trying to search each and every part of your costume and backpack, with no success. Now, you wish you had more time before hitting the stage. But it's too late: it's your cue!

### 4 - Abaporu

**Color:** Orange

**Main Character:** A Painting (and its painter as well, in a way)

**Description:** A painting confronts its observers and their need to be pleased

**Meaning:** The subjectivity of art and how "beauty" isn't my focus

If any painting could talk, what would it say? Maybe, it would try to explain its own worth in a thousand words or more. It could try, perhaps, to correct those who misinterpret its author's original intents. Or it could even ignore everything people have to say (or not say) about it, challenging its haters and accusers.

We never fully know the place where an artwork was conceived, and how much of what we see is, in fact, from the painting or just a reflection of our biases, views and ourselves. And what would be of art if we didn't wonder about it?

### 5 - Communic 8

**Color:** Blue

**Main Character:** An Extraterrestrial Being

**Description:** An alien wonders why earthlings don't talk to them

**Meaning:** How we may isolate ourselves even when we need human contact

Distances never been so shortened in human history. Even kilometers apart, we can get closer from people we want to be in touch with. Still, we usually close ourselves to the possibility beings from other planets, systems, galaxies could be looking for a way to establish a meaningful connection with us. And considering how messy Earth still is,

maybe some external help would be good for a change, even if the outsiders are just here for a good chat.

## 6 - Legion

**Color:** Green

**Main Character:** A Ghost

**Description:** A ghost promises to terrorize an explorer for invading an old temple

**Meaning:** The feeling of regret doing something

The past can't hurt anyone, someone's actions there are frozen in time, unchanged. Still, we live constantly with the consequences of our choices, some we may be proud of and other, we immensely regret. Some ghosts, however, get so heated, hungry for revenge, that the rest of their afterlife is dedicated to disturbing the peace of those who crossed their way, even if by accident. Those legions of ghosts will keep pressuring us until our breaking point for our past sins, even if their actions are past the point of make amends for ours. What would be the safest way to calm them down?

## 7 - Neo Prometheus

**Color:** Indigo

**Main Character:** A Mythical Guard

**Description:** A guard wonders if he should open the casket he was asked to protect or just follow his superiors' orders

**Meaning:** If being more open about ourselves with people will make good or harm

When our minds start to analyze some situations where are inserted in, we see ourselves facing moral and philosophical dilemmas, to the point it feels the time slowed down and the whole world is looking at us, hoping we'll pick the correct answer. What should we do if the directrix we received doesn't feel as fair is supposed to be? What do we do if breaking the protocol may result in devastating results?

## 8 - After Lamp

**Color:** Black

**Main Character:** A Freed Genie

**Description:** A genie doesn't know what to do after being freed from their lamp

**Meaning:** How we may struggle to realize our true wishes and desires

We never fully know how it's like to face a dilemma until we face it ourselves. After many years watching people being irresponsible, you wonder how they can be so reckless, irresponsible, how they lack self-awareness most of the times. It's not like you can do much, as your job is to make sure you're fulfilling their wishes. "I won't make the same mistakes as they do when I'm free", you say to yourself, as you believe you got things figured out after observing so many mortals. But, when you become one, you start to realize things aren't as clearer as they seemed when you were an almighty worker. So... what do you do next?

## 9 - Minimalismo

**Color:** White

**Main Character:** A Philosopher

**Description:** The desire of wanting to simplify things and avoid overcomplications

**Meaning:** Finding a balance between our extremes

Most of us may define ourselves as complex creatures, to the point we may realize how aspects of our personalities clash and fight against each other to see which one will prevail. But what if some of those conflicts are just an unnecessary waste of energy? What if aspects we see as contradictions are just trying to balance each other until we learn how to handle them?