

ALFREDO ESQUILLO, JR.

Bio

Alfredo Esquillo (b. 1972, Philippines) paints tableaux of Philippine social life, attempting to uncover the almost surreal ironies of a culture convulsing with myriad contradictions. The artist's emergence on the Philippine contemporary art scene is noted for the artist's credible competence in illustration and the retooling talent in figuration. Esquillo's painting style captures quite cogently the hybrid cultures of the Philippines today.

With Esquillo's growing interest in cultural paradoxes, he begins to redefine the technology of photographic effect as well as the idiom of painting itself. As religious icons mingle with media contraptions, his art recognizes the appeal of both in the cultural tastes of Filipinos. The density and luster of the artist's palette, however, belie the illusionary nature of the gifts that media and religion bear.

Esquillo Jr. majored in painting at University of Santo Thomas. Since then painting has remained the mainstay of his practice, even being incorporated into his more recent works that could best be described as assemblages or installations. In those recent works the artist has imagined the journey of the Filipino nation, from serial colonization and exploitation to a more hopeful future. His works examine individual, social, historical and communal identities, reimagining familiar representations to question how these viewpoints are constructed.

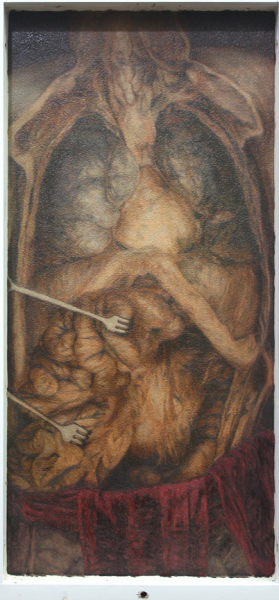
The artist conjures likeness as a vehicle of passage, a process therefore of both an intimation of something still to come and of an imitation in which the self embodies a condition. This styling of the self lends well to the performance of subjectivity, one that plays out as a material of history being staged again so that the self could act in and on its flux. It is a colonial history that is evoked by the jeep, brought to the

Philippines as military hardware during the United States' imperialist excursion in the Pacific in the first half of the twentieth century. In the course of time, it would be transformed by the local culture into the jeepney, which to this day persists as the country's highly decorated popular transport, an index of postcolonial survival in dense cities and remote islands.

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b. 1972, Manila



Igorot Exposition, 2010.

SELECTED AWARDS

- 2004 *Award for Continuing Excellence (ACES)* Metrobank Foundation
- 2000 *Thirteen Artists Awards* Cultural Center of the Philippines, Manila
- 1996 *ASEAN Art Awards*, Fourth Prize, Bangkok, Thailand
Philippine Art Awards, Juror's Prize, Manila
- 1995 *ASEAN Art Awards* First Prize, Jakarta, Indonesia
Philippine Art Awards, Juror's Prize, Manila
- 1993 *10th Metrobank Foundation Painting Competition*, First Prize, Manila
- 1992 *Ugat Lahi/Haribon Foundation On the Spot Painting Competition*, First Prize, Manila
- 1991 *PLDT-GTEPDC Visual Art National Painting Competition*, Second Prize, Manila
- 1989 *Fr. Diego Cera On The Spot Painting Competition*, First Prize, Manila

FELLOWSHIP GRANTS/RESIDENCIES

- 2004 PROJEK MAGER, Group Residency Project with Anting Anting and Matahati, Rimbun Dahan, Kuala Lumpur
- 2001 3-month art residency project at Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka
- 1999 2-month art residency project at the Vermont Studio Art Center, Vermont

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 *Balik-Loob*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2016 *Continuing Spirit*, YOD Gallery, Volta Art FairN, New York
- 2015 *Transfigurations*, Arndt Fine Art Berlin, Germany
Aninag, Art Fair Philippines, Special Exhibit, The Link, Makati City
- 2014 *Habeas Corpus*, Galerie Sogan & Art, Art Stage Singapore, Singapore
- 2013 *Turning Inwards*, Artissima 2013, Present Future Section, Italy
- 2011 *Kalooban Narratives*, Tin-aw Art Gallery, Manila
- 2010 *Exodus*, VWFA Singapore, Singapore
Bato-bato sa Langit, SLab, Makati
- 2008 *Reclamation Project*, Tin-aw Art Gallery, Makati
- 2007 *Bahay-bahayan*, West Gallery, Manila
- 2006 *Enero Nueve*, Boston Gallery, Manila
Pasyonista, Nineveh Art Space, Laguna
- 2005 *Autotheater*, West Gallery, Manila
- 2004 *Third World*, Nineveh Art Space, Laguna
Dysfunctional, West Gallery, Manila

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- 2003 *Tragikomedy*, West Gallery, Manila
High, Pinto Gallery, Antipolo
- 2001 *Banig Icons*, West Gallery, Manila
- 1999 *Recent Works*, Red Mill Gallery, Vermont Studio Center, Vermont, U.S.A.
- 1997 *Masa Kultura*, Hiraya Gallery, Manila

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 *Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2017 *Mutable Decay* Eskinita Art Gallery, Manila
Ang Babae at ang Dragon, Kalye Koletib, Pinto Art Gallery, Manila,
Rebelasyon, Kalye Kolektib, JStudio, Art Fair Philippines, The Link, Makati
Ring the Bells that Can Still Ring, YOD Gallery, Art Fair Philippines, The Link, Makati
- 2016 *WASAK! Reloaded*, Arndt Fine Art, Berlin, Germany
WASAK! Filipino Art Today, Arndt Fine Art, Berlin, Germany
- 2013 *THE PHILIPPINE CONTEMPORARY: To Scale the Past and the Possible*, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Manila City, Philippines
Beyond the Self, Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Northern Territory Australia
- 2012 *Semblance/Presence*, Two-man exhibition with Renato Habulan, NUS Museum, University Cultural Centre, National University of Singapore, Singapore
Beyond the Self, Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, University of South Australia, Australia
Maelstrom VWFA Singapore, Singapore
Post No Bill Manila Contemporary, Makati City, Philippines
Imagining Identity: 100 Filipino Self-Portraits (A Selection from the Paulino Que Collection), Finale Art File, Makati City, Philippines
- 2011 *Beyond the Self*, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, Australia McClelland Gallery & Sculpture Park, Victoria, Australia
Monumental, Manila Contemporary, Makati City, Philippines
El Guernica: Deconstruccion, Ayala Museum, Makati City
Bisa: Potent Presences, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Manila
- 2010 *Soundbyte*, Tin-aw Art Gallery, Makati City
- 2009 *Figuring The Times, Philippine Paintings 1996 - 2009 (A Selection from the Paulino Que Collection)*, Finale Art File, Makati City,
Post-Tsunami Art South East B(l)ooming, Marella Gallery, Milan
Things Said Amongst Us, Nadi Gallery, Jakarta
- 2006 *Tipon*, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Manila
- 2005 *Incarnation, Disarming Figurations in Philippine Art*, National Museum, Manila
CP BIENNALE: Urban/Culture, Bank Indonesia Museum, Jakarta

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- 2003 *The American Effect: Global Perspectives on The United States*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- 2002 *Under Construction: New Dimensions of Asian Art*, Japan Foundation Forum/Tokyo Opera City Gallery, Japan
- 2001 *Who Owns Women's Bodies*, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Manila
- 1999 *1st Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale*, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan
- 1998 *At Home and Abroad: 20 Contemporary Filipino Artists*, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, U.S.A.
- 1996 *Delatang Pinoy:Yes! The Filipino Can*, Hiraya Gallery, Manila

EDUCATION

- 1993 Bachelor of Fine Arts Major in Painting, University of Sto. Tomas, Manila City