

Wawi Navarroza SELF-PORTRAITS & THE TROPICAL GOTHIC.



WAWI NAVARROZA

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Wawi Navarroza. SELF-PORTRAITS & THE TROPICAL GOTHIC.





Coming from a string of moving places and foreign travels after the fire which destroyed her Taguig studio, Navarroza re-established herself in Manila at the end of 2018, signaling her return to studio practice, providing the venue for the elaborate mise-en-scènes we see in this new exhibition. The artist looks back and forward, coming full circle to a genre that has defined her early art-making and has punctuated an arc of more than a decade: Self-Portraits.

Navarroza employs formal composition in tableau vivant large format which is staged for the camera. At the same time, she subverts photography in a way that the final image is rendered almost as a flat collage, deliberately controlled by lighting techniques and careful arrangements in the scenography. Furthermore, the artist disrupts the continuity of seamless photographic image by quick imprecise digital cuts-and-pastes on selected areas of the image, reminding viewers that ultimately, we are looking at a constructed image. At turns autobiographical and/or interpretative, the artist both as creator and figure, present allegories replete with materials and symbols, all generous for further significations and imaginings to mirror the contemporary.

“The artist is peripatetic and identity is plural. This time (2019) that I find myself having a studio again, I get the privilege to focus on what is immediate around me and reflect on the integral parts of myself (a confusing amalgam of referents as Filipino, as female, as Asian, as worldly transnational sponge)—by finding myself at home in the Philippines’ particular pastiche summarized as the “Tropical Gothic” (coined by national artist for literature Nick Joaquin): a syncretic mix of East and West, catholic and pagan/folk/mystic, laced with a Spanish colonial baroque hangover, ornamentation, contemporary clutter, sari-sari, horror vacui, the esoteric and the vernacular, the mashups, DIY, telenovelas, pageants, boxing, elections, gridlock traffic, hot humid eternal summer, raging monsoons, natural disasters, palm trees and concrete, nature and artifice, a marvelous mess of the living. Within this framework, all the incongruities make sense and it becomes a wild pleasure to confront the heavy and tender complexities of Self and Surrounding.”

• **Wawi Navarroza**



The Fire You're Made Of (Ignis Mirabilis, Self-Portrait After the Fire), 2019
archival pigment print on Hahnemühle, cold-mounted on acid-free
aluminum, with artist's exhibition frame i.e. double wood frame
custom-tinted to WN skin tone
53.30h x 40w in (135.38h x 101.60w cm)
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



*"I Want To Live A Thousand More Years" (Self-Portrait After Dengue,
with tropical plants and fake flowers)*, 2016
archival pigment print on Hahnemühle, cold-mounted on acid-free
aluminum, with artist's exhibition frame i.e. double wood frame
custom-tinted to WN skin
50h x 40w in (127h x 101.60w cm)
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



Start Here, A Lesson on Looking (Self-Portrait with Mandarins), 2019
archival pigment print on Hahnemühle, cold-mounted on acid-free
aluminum, with artist's exhibition frame
i.e. wrapped fabric on wood, colored frame
45h x 30w in (114.30h x 76.20w cm)
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



Remember Who You Are (Strange Fruit/The Other Asian, Self-Portrait with Pineapple), 2019
archival pigment print on Hahnemühle, cold-mounted on acid-free
aluminum, with artist's exhibition frame i.e. wrapped fabric on
wood, colored frame
45h x 34w in (114.30h x 86.36w cm)
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



May in Manila/Hot Summer (After Balthus, Self-Portrait), 2019
archival pigment print on Hahnemühle, cold-mounted on acid-free aluminum,
with artist's exhibition frame i.e. wrapped fabric on double wood frame
custom-tinted to WN skin tone
53.30h x 40w in (135.38h x 101.60w cm)
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter/The Self-Portraitist (After Alcuáz, Self-Portrait), 2019
archival pigment print on Hahnemühle, cold-mounted on acid-free aluminum,
with artist's exhibition frame i.e. wrapped fabric on double wood frame
custom-tinted to WN skin tone
40h x 53.30w in (101.60h x 135.38w cm)
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



The Heap/Viva La Vida (Portrait of A Female Artist at 40, Self-Portrait), 2019
archival pigment print on Hahnemühle, cold-mounted on acid-free aluminum,
with artist's exhibition frame i.e. wrapped fabric on double wood frame
custom-tinted to WN skin tone
40h x 53.30w in (101.60h x 135.38w cm)
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



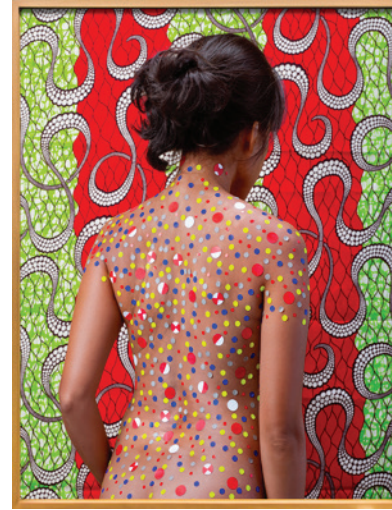
La Bruja (All the Places She's Gone, Self-Portrait), 2019
archival pigment print on Hahnemühle, cold-mounted on acid-free aluminum,
with artist's exhibition frame i.e. wrapped fabric on double wood frame
custom-tinted to WN skin tone
40h x 52.50w in (101.60h x 133.35w cm)
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



Self Portrait with Bricks (Autorretrato con ladrillos), 2012
archival pigment print on Hahnemühle, cold-mounted on acid-free
aluminum, with artist's exhibition frame
i.e. wood frame custom-tinted to WN skin tone
41.34h x 27.56w in (105h x 70w cm)
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



*Self-Portrait for My Grandfather, the Photographer (after Frida Kahlo's
Portrait of My Father / Retrato de Mi Padre, 1951)*, 2007
Lambda C-print, cold-mounted on acid-free aluminum,
with artist's exhibition frame i.e. double wood frame
custom-tinted to WN skin tone
24h x 18w in (60.96h x 45.72w cm)
Edition 7 of 10 + 2 AP



The Dotted Self/Every Thought A Constellation (Psoriatic Self-Portrait), 2019
archival pigment print on Hahnemühle, cold-mounted on acid-free aluminum,
with artist's exhibition frame i.e. wood frame
custom-tinted to WN skin tone
45h x 34w in (114.30h x 86.36w cm)
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



Wawi Navarroza

Wawi Navarroza (b.1979, Manila) is a multi-disciplinary artist who is primarily known for her use of photography in her art practice. Both active locally and internationally, her works are continually shown in galleries and museums, and has been the recipient of important art awards. She was born and raised in Manila, the grand-daughter of Cristituto Navarroza, a respected and much-loved portrait photographer from a small coastal town in Leyte. Following this legacy, she has taken after her grandfather pursuing the medium to which she has extended to the larger context of contemporary art-making .

Wawi has graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from De La Salle University, Manila mentored by conceptual artist Judy Freya Sibayan. As a young artist she was endowed with the prestigious Fellowship Grant by the Asian Cultural Council that relocated her to New York City while also attending continuing education at the International Center of Photography. A few years after, she then received a scholarship award from the Istituto Europeo di Design in Madrid, Spain for the program European Master of Fine Art Photography and finished on top of her class. This would cement her ongoing dialogue with Asia and Europe, with constant travel and acquired languages, in her works.

Spanning almost 2 decades since devoting a full-time practice in the arts, her work has been shown in important institutions such as the National Museum of the Philippines, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Metropolitan Museum of Manila and also widely exhibited in museums, galleries, and festivals abroad: Singapore Art Museum 8Q, Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery, Hangaram Museum, Korea, National Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Fries Museum of Contemporary Art, Museum Belvedere, Netherlands, among other spaces in Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia, Russia, Finland, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Spain, and the United States. Navarroza has received a number of awards such as the critical Cultural Center of the Philippines' Thirteen Artists Awards, Ateneo Art Awards, Lumi

Photographic Art Awards Helsinki, and was distinguished as Finalist for the Singapore Museum Signature Art Prize, WMA Commission Hong Kong and Sovereign Asian Art Prize 2018.

Her art has been surveyed in major publications such as "Photography Today" (Phaidon) and "Contemporary Photography in Asia" (Prestel). She's been a strong proponent of books as an extension of artistic work and with this, has published two books of her own "DOMINION" and "Hunt & Gather, Terraria". In 2015, she founded THOUSANDFOLD, a platform for contemporary photography and a library for photobooks in Manila with the aim to further educate and encourage more publication of photography author-works from the Philippines.

Wawi also works as an educator and mentor of photography through workshops, talks, jury, and portfolio reviews here and abroad, with previous teaching experience within the academic setting. She also sings for post-punk rock band called The Late Isabel, with a recently launched album "Imperial".

Despite the successes, Wawi has not been a stranger to crises that seem to define every turning point where life meets art. In 2011, her studio was devastated by typhoon; in 2012, she lost major bodies of work to digital loss and theft; in 2016, a life and death bout with dengue while in art residency and in the same year, a fire which ruined her Manila studio and displaced her for some years. These are all transmuted to her works that probe displacements and constant movement, finding the Self with and in the surroundings; all these with the intention to mirror our shared path to understanding a deeper sense of place and identity.

In the past few years she has based herself back and forth Madrid and Manila. Currently, Wawi Navarroza is working and living in Manila, Philippines. She is represented by Silverlens Galleries.

AWARDS, RESIDENCIES, AND GRANTS

2019	<i>Ignacio B. Gimenez Outdoor Installation Art Grant</i> , Inaugural grantee
2018	<i>Sovereign Asian Art Prize</i> , Finalist <i>Kuala Lumpur International Photography Awards 2018</i> , 3rd Prize Winner
2017	<i>WYNG WMA Commission Hong Kong</i> , Finalist Sovereign Asian Art Prize, Finalist
2016	<i>Eurasian Creospace Network Grant</i> , University of Valencia-Asia Europe Foundation, Spain <i>Merayakan Murni</i> , Ketemu Project Space Artist Residency, Indonesia <i>Prix Pictet</i> (unaccepted nomination)
2015	<i>Prudential Eye Awards Singapore</i> , Nominee
2014	<i>Cultural Center of the Philippines Thirteen Artists Award</i> , recipient
2012	<i>Lumi Photographic Art Awards</i> , Helsinki, Honorary Award Winner
2011	<i>Sovereign Asian Art Prize</i> , Finalist, Hong Kong <i>Signature Art Prize, Singapore Art Museumv-Asia Pacific Breweries Foundation</i> , Finalist, Singapore <i>Istituto Europeo di Design</i> , Madrid - Master Europeo de Fotografia de Autor, Scholarship
2010	<i>fotoMAGAZIN</i> , Portfolio Prize, Germany
2009	<i>Asian Cultural Council - Silverlens Foundation Fellowship Grant</i> , New York
2007	<i>Ateneo Art Awards, Philippines, Winner</i> <i>Artesan Gallery Artist Residency Grant</i> , Singapore Fotomasterskie Peterburgskie, Visiting Artist, St. Petersburg, Russia
2001	<i>54th Art Association of the Philippines (AAP) Art Competitions</i> , Gold Medal for Photography, Manila

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019	<i>Wawi Navarroza: Self-Portraits & The Tropical Gothic</i> , Silverlens, Manila
2017	<i>MEDUSA</i> , Silverlens, Manila
2014	<i>Tierra Salvaje</i> , Silverlens, Manila
2013	<i>Ultramar pt. 2: Hunt & Gather, Terraria</i> , Silverlens, Manila
2012	<i>Ultramar pt. 1 Falling Into Place Gathered Throng</i> , Silverlens, Manila

2011	<i>On Landscape & Some Dislocations</i> , Galería Patrick Domken, Cadaqués, Costa Brava
2009	<i>DOMINION</i> , Silverlens, Manila
2008	<i>Perhaps it was possibly because</i> , Silverlens, Manila
2007	<i>When All Is Said And Done</i> , Artesan Gallery, Singapore <i>100 Años Entre Nosotros / 100 Years Between Us</i> (Navarroza homage Frida Kahlo centennial) Galería de Exposiciones, Instituto Cervantes de Manila <i>Saturnine: A Collection of Portraits, Creatures, Glass & Shadow</i> , Silverlens, Manila / McDermott Gallery, Siem Reap / ArtReflex Gallery, Saint-Petersburg
2005	<i>Polysaccharide: The Dollhouse Drama</i> , Blacksoop Project Artspace, Manila / Ateneo Art Gallery, Manila / La Trobe University, Bendigo

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020	<i>(upcoming)</i> , SF CameraWork, San Francisco
2019	<i>Yellow Ambiguities</i> , Ateneo Ary Gallery, Manila <i>Far Away But Strangely Familiar</i> , Danubiana Museum, Bratislava <i>Everywhere, There You Are</i> , Ateneo Art Gallery, Manila <i>Elevations Laos</i> , Vientiane, Laos ARTIJOGI1: <i>Enlightenment</i> , Yogyakarta National Museum, Indonesia <i>Conversations/Positions/Photoma</i> , Mabini Projects, Manila <i>Art Basel</i> , Silverlens, Hong Kong <i>Manila Biennale: OPEN CITY 2018</i> , Intramuros, Manila <i>Shared Coordinates</i> , a collaboration of Edouard Malingue Gallery, ROH Projects, MSAC and SILVERLENS, The Arts House, Singapore <i>Curated by Federico de Vera</i> , Ayala Museum, Manila <i>Shared Residence</i> , Ateneo Art Gallery, Manila <i>Everywhere There You Are</i> , Malasimbo Arts & Music Festival 2017, Puerto Galera, Mindoro (with Ling Quisimbing Ramilo) <i>Translaci3n</i> , Inaugural Exhibition, Curated by Gary-Ross Pastrana, Silverlens, Manila
2016	<i>Roundabout: Wawi Navarroza, Mark Valenzuela, Riel Hilario</i> , Adelaide Central Gallery, Australia <i>Meryakan Murni</i> , Sudakara Art Space Jl. Sudamala No. 20, Bali, Indonesia

Marker (special exhibition), Art Dubai, UAE

Artist book Hunt & Gather, Terraria at **PROTOTROPISM** book show, The Library Project, Dublin, Ireland

2015 **Surface Tension: Perspective on the Changing Landscape**, Alliance Française de Manille for COP-21, Paris

Asian Women Photography Showcase, Objectifs, Singapore

Traces (Platforms), Finale Gallery, Manila

Platforms (special exhibition), Art Stage Singapore

2014 **Still Moving: After Image**, South-East Asian contemporary photography survey show, Singapore Art Museum, SAM 8Q

Imaging Philippine Flora, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Manila

Ocean of Possibilities, ArtScience Museum, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore

New Natives, Lightbombs Contemporary, Hong Kong

Creative Cities, Khaosiung, Taiwan

2013 **The Philippine Contemporary: To Scale The Past & The Possible**, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Manila

STRIP 2013, There But There, Silverlens, Singapore

2012 **Thirteen Artists Award 2012** Winners Exhibition, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Manila

Terra Cognita, Noorderlicht Photo Festival, Museum Belvédère, Heerenveen

Ley Hunting, Silverlens, Manila

The Hope & The Dream in Filipino: Contemporary Photography from the Philippines, The Month of Photography Tokyo 2012, presented by The Photographic Society of Japan and Tokyo Museum of Photography, Tokyo

2011 **Asia One projections**, Recyclart, Brussels

Medi(t)ation: Asian Art Biennale 2011, National Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung

2010 **25th Asian International Art Exhibition**, Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery, Ulaanbaatar

It Was Always About Forever, (Navarroza & Zicarelli two-person exhibition), Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur

Emerging Wave: ASEAN-Korea Contemporary Photo Exhibition 2010, Hangaram Museum, Seoul

CUTIO: Parallel Universe, New Photography from South East Asia, Valentine Willie Fine Art: Kuala Lumpur / Singapore / Yogyakarta / Manila

2009 **Six6: The Silverlens Anniversary Show**, Manila

Verso Manila: Contemporary Filipino Artists in Turin, Verso Arte Contemporanea, Turin

CUT09: Figure, New Photography from South East Asia, Valentine Willie Fine Art: Kuala Lumpur / Singapore / Yogyakarta / Manila

2008 **Swarm In The Aperture: Recent Photography in the Philippines**, The National Museum of the Philippines, Manila

Another Asia, Goethe Haus, Jakarta, Indonesia

FOEM (Pandango sa Bingit), Art Center/Finale Gallery, Manila

2007 **Global/Vernacular: Ateneo Art Awards 2007** Winners Exhibition, Ateneo Art Gallery, Manila

Rocked Age: Images of Loud Music Culture, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Manila

Eros, Alab Art Space, Manila

2006 **Outbound: Ateneo Art Awards 2006** Winners Exhibition, Ateneo Art Gallery, Manila

Another Asia, Fries Museum of Contemporary Art, Leeuwarden

ART FAIRS & FESTIVALS

2018 Art Basel Hong Kong

Festival Internacional de Foto, Cadaqués, Spain

Art Fair Philippines

Obscura Festival of Photography Festival, Penang, Malaysia

2017 Art Fair Philippines

Angkor Photography Festival, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Obscura Festival of Photography Festival, Penang, Malaysia

2016 Art Fair Philippines

Obscura Festival of Photography Festival, Penang, Malaysia

Chennai Photo Biennale, India

2015 Art Fair Philippines

ArtStage Singapore

Obscura Festival of Photography Festival, Penang, Malaysia

2014 Art Fair Philippines

Singapore International Photography Festival

Noorderlicht Photo Festival, Netherlands

Milan Image Art & Design Fair, Singapore

2013 Art Taipei

2012 Singapore International Photography Festival

Noorderlicht Photo Festival, Netherlands

PhotoIreland

Pulse New York

2011 Angkor Photography Festival, Siem Reap, Cambodia

2006 Noorderlicht Photo Festival, Netherlands

2005 Angkor Photography Festival, Siem Reap, Cambodia

COLLECTIONS

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (Central Bank of the Philippines)

Menarco Collection / The Vertical Museum, Bonifacio Global City, Philippines

Metropolitan Museum of the Philippines

Stora Enso Photography Museum, Oulu, Finland

EDUCATION

2012 Istituto Europeo di Design, Madrid

Master Europeo de Fotografía del Autor (European Master of Fine Art Photography), scholarship

2009 International Center of Photography, New York City

2002 De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines

BA Communication Arts, with honors

ARTIST BOOK

Hunt & Gather by Wawi Navarroza (artist book) co-published by 5 Ports Publishing and Hardworking, Goodlooking (Office of Culture & Design), Manila, 2014 launched at PSI MoMA New York Art Book Fair

DOMINION by Wawi Navarroza (photobook) co-published by Stephanian, launched at Offprint Paris, 2014

On Landscape & Some Dislocations (artist-Run exhibition catalog; in Spanish), Barcelona, 2012

Gracias por su visita by Wawi Navarroza (artist book), published by Hiraya Gallery, Manila, Philippines, 2011

BIBLIOGRAPHY & FURTHER READING

The Philippine Contemporary: To Scale The Past & The Possible, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, 2018

ART ARCHIVE Of: A Collection of Essays on Philippine Contemporary Visual and Performing Arts, "FILTERS: A View of Recent Contemporary Philippine Photography" by Irwin Cruz, published by The Hapan Foundation, Manila, 2017

GR-09022017, curated by Silja Leifsdottir et al., published by Fotogalleriet, Oslo, Norway, 2017

Curated by Federico de Vera, published by Ayala Museum, Manila, 2017

Photography in South East Asia: A Survey by Zuang Wubin, NUS Press, Singapore, 2016

No Chaos, No Party: 28 Artists in Metro Manila edited by Eva McGovern-Basa, Manila, 2016

Marker, published by Art Dubai, 2016

Photography Today, published by Phaidon, London, 2014

Still Moving: After Image, published by Singapore Art Museum, 2014

Helutrans Collection Series: South East Asia Contemporary, published by Helutrans, 2014

Contemporary Photography in Asia, published in Prestel, London, 2013

European Master of Fine Art Photography 2011-2012, published in IED-Madrid, 2012

Terra Cognita, published by Aurora Borealis, Netherlands, 2012

Portfolio12 - Migrations, published by PhotoIreland, Dublin, Ireland, 2012

Curare con l'arte contemporanea by Rebecca Russo published by Videinsight*, Turin, Italy, 2010

Emerging Wave: Asian Contemporary Photography, published by ASEAN-Korea Centre, Seoul, Korea, 2010

Preview Art Book, published by Summit Media, Manila, 2009

The Philippine Yearbook 2009: 61 Artists Who Will Change The World, published by The Fookien Times, Manila, 2009

Noorderlicht: Another Asia, published by Aurora Borealis, Netherlands, 2006





ABOUT SILVERLENS

Through its artist representation, institutional collaborations, art consultancy, and exhibition programming including art fairs and gallery partnerships, **SILVERLENS** aims to place its artists within the broader framework of the contemporary art dialogue. Its continuing efforts to transcend borders across art communities in Asia have earned it recognition from both artists and collectors as one of the leading contemporary art galleries in Southeast Asia. **SILVERLENS** was founded by Isa Lorenzo and Rachel Rillo in 2004.