

29 NOV

2022 MMMMM ...

Manifesto
—
(a fragment)

14 MAY

2023 Mmmmm ... Mmmmedalla! What do you dream of?

ILHAM ◀

I dream of the day when I shall create sculptures that breathe, perspire, cough, laugh, yawn, smirk, wink, pant, dance, walk, crawl, ... and move among people as shadows move among people ... Sculptures that will retain a shadow's secret dimensions without a shadow's obsequious behaviour ... Sculptures without hope, with waking and sleeping hours ... Sculptures that, on certain seasons, will migrate en masse to the North Pole. Sculptures with a mirror's translucency minus the memory of a mirror!

*

Mmmmm ... Mmmmedalla! What do you dream of?

I dream of the day when I shall go to the centre of the earth and in the earth's core place a flower-sculpture ... Not a lotus, nor a rose, nor a flower of metal, ... nor yet a flower of ice and fire ... But a molhole-flower, its petals curled like the crest of a tidal wave approaching the shore ...

*

Mmmmm ... Mmmmedalla! What do you dream of?

I dream of the day when, from the capitals of the world, London Paris New York Madrid Rome, I shall release missile-sculptures ... to fly – at nine times the speed of sound ... to fall – slim as a stork on a square in Peking ... bent, crushed – like a soldier's boot after an explosion – on an airport in Ecuador ... in splinters – on the fields of Omaha ... A few – to cross inter-stellar space ... accumulating, as they wing along, asteroids, meteors, magnetic fields, interstellar germs ... A new life ... on their way from our galaxy to the Spiral Nebula ...

D O T D
DR O T D
DRE O T D
DREA O TH DA
DREAM OF THE DAY
DREA F TH DA
DRE E T D

*I dream of the day when I shall create
sculptures that breathe, sweat, cough, laugh, yawn, smile,
wink, gasp, dance, walk, crawl...*

The exhibition title, *Dream of the Day*, draws from the 1965 manifesto of the Philippine-born artist David Medalla, well regarded for his long-lasting influence in the British and global contemporary art scene since the sixties. His work, as well as those of 38 other artists from the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Vietnam, Myanmar, Egypt, and Malaysia are included in this exhibition which explores a range of media, genres, and sensibilities—from surrealism, slow cinema and trans-performance, to queer photography and feminist painting.

Dream of the Day questions how the presence of dreams, monsters, myths, hybrids, omens, spirits, and fantasies evoked in this assemblage of artworks sits in the context of contemporary Southeast Asia, where modern life typically centres around notions of realism, humanism and nationality. The exhibition puts its faith in disbelief and speculation, exploring how modern and contemporary art from Southeast Asia, by seeing through sensible forms, is able to examine and interpret the realities of everyday life through the use of visual imagery that goes beyond the conventional and familiar. In doing so, the exhibition proposes the possibility of different forms of intelligence and instinct that might be more responsive to a wider range of life-forms which exist in a vaster inter-species, transgenic world.

The practice of image-making in Southeast Asia in both the modern and contemporary art fields has been marked by a struggle with the idealizations of nature and identity,

and has given rise to an overinvestment in images that are both created and critiqued primarily in light of colonialism and global mediatization. What the exhibition gestures towards instead is a possible imagination that is not too beholden to this particular tradition of criticality, even as it persists in engaging with the political and social concerns of the day.

This possible imagination is the “dream of the day.” It is an evocation of a current condition and at the same time a kind of plea, instruction, or a call to action. It is an endeavour to overcome the dualism of critique—where the practice of critique is inextricably bound to, and may even inadvertently reinforce the object of its critique. This condition of dualism has over time tended to preclude other ways of prefiguring new transformative horizons for art and the imagination.

Mingling works from modernism as well as from contemporary art, the exhibition aims finally to create a lively sensorium, a place where the viewer can desire to dream—for is this not the impulse and potential of why we are drawn to exhibitions? It is nothing less than the exposure to the elements.

Curated by Patrick Flores

Patrick Flores is Professor of Art Studies at the Department of Art Studies at the University of the Philippines and Curator of the Vargas Museum in Manila. He is the Director of the Philippine Contemporary Art Network. He was a Visiting Fellow at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. in 1999. Among his publications are *Painting History: Revisions in Philippine Colonial Art* (1999); *Past Peripheral: Curation in Southeast Asia* (2008); *Art After War: 1948–1969* (2015); and *Raymundo Albano: Texts* (2017). He was a Guest Scholar of the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles in 2014. He was the Artistic Director of Singapore Biennale 2019 and Convenor of the Forums for the Taiwan Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2022.

AL MANRIQUE
ALEX NIÑO
ALFONSO OSSORIO
ALLAN BALISI
APICHATPONG WEERASETHAKUL
CHALERMCHAI KOSITPIPAT
CHARLIE CO
CLUB ATE
DALE ERISPE
DAVID MEDALLA
EIFFEL CHONG
GALO OCAMPO
GOTOT PRAKOSA
HENRY FRANCIA
I GAK MURNIASIH
I KETUT BUDIANA
IVAN SAGITO
JESS AYCO
JOSE LEGASPI
KELVIN ATMADIBRATA
KIETTISAK CHANONNART
LIONEL WENDT
LUCIA HARTINI
MANUEL OCAMPO
MAUNG DAY
NENA SAGUIL
NOR
NURRACHMAT WIDYASENA
ORAWAN ARUNRAK
PRADEEP THALAWATTA
PRATEEP KOCHABUA
PRATUANG EMJAROEN
SHARON CHIN
TAN ZI HAO
TEENA SAULO
TRUONG CONG TUNG
VAN LEO
VEEJAY VILLAFRANCA
WIMO AMBALA BAYANG

Aku bermimpi suatu hari nanti aku akan mencipta arca
yang bernafas, yang boleh berpeluh, batuk, ketawa, menguap, senyum,
mengenyit mata, bercungap, menari, berjalan, merangkak...

Dikurasikan oleh
Patrick Flores

Patrick Flores merupakan Profesor Pengajian Seni di Jabatan Pengajian Seni, University of the Philippines dan Kurator di Muzium Vargas, Manila. Beliau juga Pengarah Philippines Contemporary Art Network. Beliau juga Felo Kunjungan di National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C pada tahun 1999. Antara penerbitan beliau adalah *Painting History: Revisions in Philippine Colonial Art* (1999); *Past Peripheral: Curation in Southeast Asia* (2008); *Art After War: 1948–1969* (2015); dan *Raymundo Albano: Texts* (2017). Beliau juga Sarjana Jemputan di Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles pada tahun 2014. Bertugas sebagai Pengarah Artistik Singapore Biennale 2019 dan Penyelenggara Forum di Venice Biennale pada tahun 2022.

Tajuk pameran *Dream of the Day* ini, diambil daripada manifesto tahun 1965 oleh David Medalla, seorang artis kelahiran Filipina yang berpengaruh dalam dunia seni sezaman British dan antarabangsa sejak dekad 60an abad ke-20. Karya beliau, bersama karya 38 lagi artis dari Filipina, Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Singapura, Vietnam, Myanmar, Mesir, dan Malaysia termasuk dalam pameran ini yang merangkumi berbagai bahantara, genre dan daya kepekaan—daripada surrealisme, ‘sinema renungan’, ‘persembahan-trans’, kepada fotografi ‘queer’ dan lukisan feminis.

Dream of the Day mempersoal bagaimana kehadiran mimpi, unsur-unsur raksasa, mitos, kacukan, petanda, semangat dan khayalan yang dibangkit dalam kumpulan karya ini, wujud dalam konteks sezaman Asia Tenggara, di mana kehidupan moden lazimnya tertumpu pada fahaman realisme, humanisme dan warganegaraan. Pameran ini meletak kepercayaannya pada keraguan dan andaian, meninjau bagaimana seni moden dan sezaman Asia Tenggara, dengan melihat menerusi bentuk-bentuk yang wajar, berupaya memeriksa dan mentafsir hakikat/realiti kehidupan harian melalui penggunaan imejan visual yang melangkaui konvensi dan kebiasaan. Dengan demikian, pameran ini menawarkan kemungkinan berbagai bentuk kecerdasan dan naluri yang mungkin lebih peka terhadap berbagai bentuk kehidupan yang wujud dalam dunia transgenik antara spesis yang lebih luas.

Amalan membuat imej di Asia Tenggara dalam seni moden mahupun kontemporari telah ditandai oleh pergelutan dengan idealisasi alam semula jadi dan identiti, dan telah membawa kepada pelaburan berlebihan dalam imej yang sama-sama dicipta dan dikritik pada dasarnya dibawah suluhan kolonialisme dan mediatisasi global. Sebaliknya apa yang pameran ini kemukakan ialah sebuah imaginasi yang mungkin tidak begitu bergantung kepada tradisi kritikan ini, walaupun ia masih terus bermain dengan kecenderungan politik dan sosial semasa.

Imaginasi yang mungkin ini ialah “impian hari ini.” Ianya adalah kebangkitan situasi sekarang, sekaligus sejenis rayuan, arah atau seruan untuk tindakan. Ianya sebuah usaha untuk mengatasi dualisme kritikan — di mana amalan kritikan terikat erat, malah mungkin secara tidak sengaja, mengukuhkan lagi objek kritikannya. Keadaan dualisme begini lama-kelamaan boleh cenderung menafikan cara-cara lain untuk meramal cakrawala perubahan baharu untuk seni dan imaginasi.

Dengan menggabung karya modenisme dengan karya kontemporari, pameran ini akhirnya bertujuan untuk mewujudkan sebuah sensorium yang meriah, sebuah tempat di mana penonton boleh bermimpi—kerana, bukankah ini dorongan dan potensi yang menarik kita ke pameran? Ianya tidak kurang daripada pendedahan kepada cabaran. (*‘It is nothing less than exposure to the elements’.*)



DREA O TH DA
DREAM OF THE DAY
DREA F TH DA
DRE F T D
DR F T D

Wimo Ambala Bayang, Straight Line Above Oil Well, 2018

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Please share your photos and experiences at the exhibition with the hashtag #ilhamgallerykl

Find us on social media [@ilhamgallerykl](#)

APA PENDAPAT ANDA?

Sila kongsikan foto dan pengalaman melawat pameran dengan tanda pagar #ilhamgallerykl

Ikuti kami di laman media sosial [@ilhamgallerykl](#)



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Tue – Sat 11am – 7pm
Sun 11am – 5pm
Closed on Mondays
and public holidays.

Waktu lawatan:
Selasa – Sabtu 11pg – 7ptg
Ahad 11pg – 5ptg
Tutup pada setiap Isnin
dan cuti awam.

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VISITOR GUIDELINES

To protect the artworks from damage, we ask that visitors please refrain from touching any of the artworks on display.

Food and drinks are not allowed in the gallery.

While we do not allow flash, we do encourage photography in the gallery!

GARIS PANDUAN UNTUK PENGUNJUNG

Bagi mengelak karya-karya seni daripada ditimpa kerosakan, kami meminta para pengunjung untuk tidak sesekali menyentuh sebarang karya yang dipamerkan.

Makanan dan minuman tidak dibenarkan dibawa masuk ke dalam galeri.

Walaupun kami tidak membenarkan penggunaan denyar (flash) kamera, namun kami menggalakkan orang ramai mengambil gambar di dalam galeri kami!



Cover
David Medalla
MMMMM... Manifesto
1965