



Costantino Zicarelli
Sex and Death After Sex
2009
oil on canvas
198 x 244 cm

FRONT COVER : MM YU Common Oddities (Carousel) 2007 duratrans 28 x 35.5 cm



Electrolychee (Bernie Bru)
Baby Water Startle
2008
acrylic, waxed paper and embroider on stained cheesecloth
20 x 20 cm



Electrolychee (Marcushiro)
X1
2008
mixed media on giclee print
20 x 20 cm

COSTANTINO ZICARELLI (b. 1984) graduated from University of Santo Tomas majoring in Advertising. He has taken part in many group exhibitions locally and overseas. His solo exhibitions include *The Mind is a Terrible Thing to Taste* and *It Was Always the Devil's Turn We Are Together Forever Till the Day Will Be on the Verge of Sorrow*.

DEX FERNANDEZ (b. 1984) obtained her Bachelor of Fine Art, majoring in Advertising, from Technological University of the Philippines in 2005. Dex is a graphic designer, illustrator and painter who works a lot with vintage posters and tattoo references incorporating these into his larger-than-life sculptures and t-shirts. Selected group shows include *The Spoils of Love: an Imagine Silence Exhibit* (2009), *If I Were a Monster* (2009), and *Tutok Bantayog: Anong K Mo* (2008).

ELECTROLYCHEE is a Manila-based studio that merges illustration with design. The brainchild of Marcushiro+Bru, Electrolychee's strange creations play within the realms of slick, computer-generated vector art and organic, hand-drawn imagery. They are full-time visual artists who frequently showcase their pop-inspired artworks in the metro's alternative galleries. The design studio also produces Electrolychee-branded merchandise.

FERDZ VALENCIA (b. 1977) is an illustrator and comics creator who also makes silk screen art and installation works. He was part of the *Surrounded by Water* artists collective and has participated in various exhibits. He is a Cawad CCP awardee and CAWAD Urian nominee for the 35mm animated short film *TERMINUS*. He also creates shirt graphics for his brand incubator.

JOHN TORRES (b. 1975) received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication (cum laude) in the Ateneo de Manila University in 1997. Under the steady influence of a Jesuit priest, he learned about the fundamentals of filmmaking. In 2006, John was awarded the *Dragons & Tigers Award* for Young Cinema at the 25th Vancouver International Film Festival for his debut feature *Todo Todo Teros*. He also won the NETPAC and FIPRESCI critic's awards at the 2006 Singapore International Film Festival and a Jury Special Mention at the Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival.

EXHIBITION DATES: 6 - 29 NOVEMBER 2009



FOREVER AND EVER
AND EVER AND EVER
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PHILIPPINE ART TREK III



MARIA JEONA (b. 1989) is a Junior in Painting in the University of the Philippines. Her first exhibition was held at the Faculty Center in the University of the Philippines in 2008 and since then, she has been a provocative addition to group shows such as *Imagination is an Overused Cliché* and *Honey Honey in the Sunshine* in Paseo Gallery, and *Bayan ni Nanding and Seeing you, Seeing Me* in Manila Contemporary.

MARK SALVATUS (b. 1980) is a cross-disciplinary artist based in Lucban and Manila. He graduated Cum Laude at UST Fine Arts major in Advertising Arts. He has participated in various solo and group exhibitions/projects in the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Spain, Japan, Moscow and Ekaterinburg. Mark is currently teaching at Kalayaan College in Cubao and he is also the co-founder of Pilipinas Street Plan, a community of street artists in Manila.

MARTHA ATIENZA (b. 1981) graduated with a BA in Media Art and Mixed Media at the AKI Academy for the Visual Arts and Design in The Netherlands in 2006. She started out making boxes consisting of all type of materials and lighting. Her work today has developed to video installations. She was a resident artist of Green Papaya in May 2009 where she culminated with the exhibition *Man in Suit* which is shortlisted for Ateneo Art Awards.

MICA CABILDO (b. 1986) In 2005, Mica graduated from De La Salle University in Manila with a BS degree in Commerce, major in Advertising Management. She is currently Junior Art Director for award-winning visual communications agency Team Manila Graphic Design Studio.

MM YU (b. 1978) obtained her Bachelor of Fine Art, majoring in painting, from the University of Philippines in 2001. She was the recipient of the Ateneo Art Gallery Common Room Bandung Residency Grant in 2007. She had recently participated in various group shows such as *Cutog* at Valentine Willie Fine Art (2009), *Beyond Frame* at the UTS Gallery, Sydney (2008). She currently lives and works in Manila.

TATONG RECHETA TORRES (b. 1979) acquired his Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture. Aside from his two solo exhibitions *Spotlight Dilemma* in Hiraya Gallery (2008) and *The Most Genuine Regret* in Art Informal (2008), he has prolifically taken part in major group shows in galleries in Manila. He is currently part of the production team of the movie *Shake, Rattle & Roll 12*.

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Tanjong Pagar Distripark #02-04 SINGAPORE 089005 Tel : +65 8193 1260
vwfa.singapore@gmail.com | www.vwfa.net

Gallery opening hours: Tuesday - Saturday: 11am to 5pm.
Sunday: 11am to 5pm. Closed on Mondays and public holidays.

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SOUTHEAST
ASIAN ART

CURATED BY GIOCHAPITA REFEZ & SIMON SOON

forever and ever and ever and ever

costantino zicarelli | dex fernandez | electrolychee

ferdz valencia | john torres | maria jeona | mark salvatus | martha atienza

mica cabildo | mm yu | tatong recheta torres



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Forever And Ever And Ever And Ever dives into the stream of youthful abandon and takes a look at the under-explored but culturally distinctive phenomenon of "tropical summer" in the Philippines through the works of emerging contemporary artists based in the island nation. How has summer as a cultural phenomenon and experience shaped an understanding of Philippine's annual hot and humid season last roughly from May to July, each year?

As an imported cultural lens, the experience of summer is richly varied. One can think of it in a number of ways – a rite of passage, a languorous idyll, a time of celebration or reflection – occasions and events (both momentous and inconsequential) that we create to escape from the season's oppressive heat.

Long school vacations, beach holidays, weddings, barbecues, christenings, fiestas, teenage romance, summer flings, coming of age experiences. Think of how similar these culturally formative experiences correspond with the ones in the West.

Filipino cultural identity, like all other post-colonial countries, is just as much shaped by its decades long contact with its colonial counterpart. Yet, marrying it to a distinctively local weather, a geographically specific hybrid sensibility emerges – with its particular taste, smell, colour – to create a culturally enriching experience of perpetual festivity and reminiscing, benign aimlessness, inflated stream of youthful energy at the intersection between growing up and looking back.

Rather than reprising a post-colonial critique, the exhibition sees this hybrid form as a trajectory in exploring its manifested culture. Along the way, we pick up the stories, loose personal strands that when weaved together, create a poetic tapestry of the way we respond and shape our lives through a seasonal frame.

Painter **Costantino Zicarelli** and photographer **MM Yu** colour in elements of summer by portraying museum-hopping activity and the street scenes respectively. They play against each other in terms of subject, contrasting cultural life to destitution, markedly highlighting the jarring disparity that is part of Filipino society.

Tatong Recheta Torres, **Martha Atienza** and **Ferdz Valencia** respond to the sense of aimlessness so integral to the languid listlessness of the season. Known locally as 'tambay', it translates as hanging around to pass time. **Tatong Recheta Torres** shows people in 'tambay'

summer idyll

siddharta perez and simon soon

mode - idle talk over sodas and canoodling in the pool - while **Martha Atienza's** video explores the dimension of waywardness and lack of resolution through her red-dressed protagonist who both embraces and challenges the pounding waves. On the other hand, **Ferdz Valencia** constructs a sculptural installation that pays tribute to skate boarding culture, monumental in its encapsulation of the free-spirited youth.

Coming of age stories influenced and drawn from personal memory banks are examined by **Marla Jeona** and **John Torres**. **Marla Jeona** extracts a summer far removed from herself in her performative work, indicative of old photographs while personified body parts point to the body in the midst of a holiday. **John Torres**, on the other hand, collects fragments of narratives from summers spent with books and combines them to a documentary of a performance in the form of a visual bricolage.

Meanwhile, **Electrolychee** duo, **Bernie Bru** and **Marcushiro**, explore embroidery and collage respectively, create playfully crafted works that explore visual vocabularies drawn from highly personal and idiosyncratic experiences.

Last but not least, design, so integral to the way younger generations of artist think is what we would also like to acknowledge. Here, **Mica Cabildo**, **Mark Salvatus** and **Dex Fernandez** come together as independent merchandise artists to present product designs that attempt to capture the paradoxical ethos of a fleeting yet endless summer, reflecting on the complexity of the visual codes and colours that fashion remembrance.

Forever and Ever and Ever and Ever takes into consideration the temporal and geographical deferments realised within an exhibition narrative of Filipino summer held in the month of November in Singapore. These displacements characterise memory and nostalgia as central to the imagination of summer - so that when we look back, we return to the formative experiences that shape who we are today - allowing us to access the mnemonic power of aesthetics, as a longing for a different place, a place back in time.



Mark Salvatus Paradise Collection 2009 T-shirt XS-S-M-XL



Mica Cabildo
Baggage-free Summers
2009
tarpaulin tote bags
41 x 35.5 cm



Dex Fernandez Pinoysapinoy 2009 T-shirt S-M-L



Martha Atienza Untitled 2009 video 0:10:18



John Torres Andrew? 2009 high definition video 0:05:30

Tatong Recheta Torres
Pro Bono 2009 oil on canvas 122 x 168 cm



Ferdz Valencia
A Stunt Double's Next Act of Defiance
2009 acrylic on wood 198 x 91.5 x 457 cm



Marla Jeona
I Cream Candies,
A-Hole: You'd Sleep with Anyone, You Slut
2009
oil on canvas
152.5 x 189 cm