

YAVUZ GALLERY | PRESS RELEASE | 17 JUNE 2021

Manuel Ocampo

Promdi

Exhibition dates: 25 June to 25 July 2021

Location: Gillman Barracks, 9 Lock Road, #02-23, Singapore

Yavuz Gallery is proud to present *Promdi*, a solo exhibition by Manuel Ocampo in Singapore.

One of the most internationally-acclaimed Filipino artists, Ocampo is known for his provocative works that present ironic commentaries and questions on personal identities, versions of culture and society. Deploying an arsenal of art-historical and literary references, religious and popular iconography, Ocampo's complex paintings weave together various visual vocabularies, creating implied meaning through accumulation and its interrelationships. Presented to viewers in a way that remains deliberately opaque, the symbols and its formal properties that render them – their vivid colours, energetic gestures and course brushstrokes – open up a spectrum of interpretations that defies easy definitions.

In his latest exhibition *Promdi*, Ocampo brings to attention the arbitrary line between rural and urban life. Its title references the stereotypical and offending titular term, used in the Philippines to describe people who first arrive in a big city and wear unfashionable clothes or speak in a rural-like accent from the countryside. Using the artist's personal experience and the recent move of his studio – from metropolitan Manila to the coastal and rural Bataan (a three-hour drive Northwest from the city) – as a starting point, the series of new paintings continue his fearless interrogations surrounding notions of personal identity, migration and culture in his characteristic irreverence.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ocampo has been a vital presence in the international art scene for over twenty-five years, known for his paintings that play with religious and cultural symbolism and iconography for an incisive examination of various taboos and icons in society. Currently based in Bataan, the Philippines, he had an extended residency in California in the late 1980s and early 1990s and spent significant time working in both USA and Europe.

Ocampo represented the Philippines at the 57th Venice Biennale (2017), with a selection of paintings from the 1990s in dialogue with his recent works. The pavilion exhibition, entitled *The Spectre of Comparison*, was curated by Joselina Cruz, director of the Museum of Contemporary Art and Design, Manila, Philippines and also featured installation works by Lani Maestro. This marked Ocampo's third showing in Venice following the 1993 and 2001 biennials.

In 1992, he participated in Documenta IX, and presented works at "Helter Skelter: L.A. Art in the 1990s" at The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, USA, hailed as one of the most important contemporary exhibits art historically. He also recently participated in the 2020 Sydney Biennale, Australia, curated by Brook Andrew.

Ocampo's works are in major public collections worldwide, including: Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (USA); MOCA Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (USA); the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco (USA); Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia (Spain); Fukuoka Asian Art Museum (Japan); Fonds National d'Art Contemporain (France), amongst many others.

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Selected Works



Bird of Bataan 8, 2021, oil on canvas, 129 x 96.5 cm



Cultured Duck 1, 2021, oil on canvas, 30 x 23 cm

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Manilandscape 1, 2021, oil on canvas, 91.5 x 61 cm



The Cats Are Out Tonight, 2021, oil on canvas, 121 x 91 cm

For further information on the artist and the works, please contact:
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