

PRESS RELEASE

Exhibition Title:	The Devil Follows Me Day And Night, Because He Is Afraid To Be Alone
Exhibition Type:	Solo
Artist(s):	Manuel Ocampo (Philippines)
Opening Reception:	6pm, Friday, 23 January 2015
Exhibition Duration:	23 January 2015 – 22 February 2015
Location / Address:	The Drawing Room (Contemporary Art) 5 Lock Road Gillman Barracks Singapore 108933
Opening Hours:	Tuesday – Saturday: 11am to 7pm Sunday: 11am to 6pm Closed on Mondays and public holidays
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Exhibition Blurb:

“The Devil Follows Me Day And Night, Because He Is Afraid To Be Alone” is world-renowned Manuel Ocampo’s solo exhibition of new works with The Drawing Room. The Philippine-born artist has earned an early reputation for his iconoclast paintings that critiqued colonialism. Ocampo has been a prime mover of the art community in Manila and the others that intersect the Philippines.

The show explores the artist’s pursuit to be critical of his art-making process. As he subjects his painting skills to relentless practice, he grapples with the motivation and intention behind an artist’s work. Should an artist paint as he pleases or deliberately differentiate his painting from the boundless images that are already existing in our world? What subject matter and ideas should an artist convey? What stylistic or formalist innovations should an artist present?

He scrutinises what it means to be “critical” with art as he asserts that “criticality” is a fundamental tool in illuminating an artist’s vague intentions. He goes further to declare – in his characteristic provocative style – that the age-old tradition of painting has become a laughing-stock in the academia. Therefore, it is paramount for artists to be compelling and paintings to be stimulating.

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About the artist:

Manuel Ocampo (b. Quezon City, Philippines) attended California State University, Bakersfield, in 1985. Having exhibited his works extensively in France, Luxembourg, Denmark, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Italy, USA, Canada, Mexico, Australia, Japan and Philippines, Ocampo currently lives and works in the Philippines.

Having lived and worked at numerous places globally, Manuel Ocampo is easily adopted as the poster child for multiculturalism and identity politics. He is known for his bold, controversial references to politics, religion and race, as he utilises a wide range of popular iconography like the swastikas, crucifixes, teeth, feces, flowers, and emoticons.

Ocampo is the recipient of several prestigious accolades, including the “National Endowment for the Arts”, “Rome Prize in Visual Arts”, “Reader’s Digest Artists at Giverny Program” and “The Pollock-Krasner Foundation”.

Manuel Ocampo has also pioneered a series of exhibitions that surveys current practices from the Philippines. This programme, headlined as “Bastards of Misrepresentation”, has been presented in institutions in Berlin, New York and Sete.

Image captions:

1 - Artwork.jpg

“Consumer Crisis”, Manuel Ocampo, 2014, Mixed Medium On Canvas, 48 x 48 inches

2 - Artist.jpg

Manuel Ocampo. Image by MM Yu.

3 - Artist At Work.jpg

Manuel Ocampo at work. Image by MM Yu.

4 - Artist At Work.jpg

Manuel Ocampo at work. Image by MM Yu.

5 - Artist In Studio.jpg

Manuel Ocampo in his studio. Image by MM Yu.

6 - Artist In Studio.jpg

Manuel Ocampo in his studio. Image by MM Yu.