

Continuing Spirit: Alfredo Esquillo **18 November 2018 – 20 January 2019**

Continuing Spirit: Alfredo Esquillo is a 25-year retrospective curated by artist and mentor, Renato Habulan. The exhibit gathers 37 of Esquillo's major works that highlights his aesthetic milestones. Since completing his BFA degree at the University of Santo Tomas, Esquillo has focused on representing different aspects of reality, both from within and without. As described by Tessa Maria Guazon:

"The seeing body figures prominently in Alfredo Esquillo's art. It is metaphor for answering a call to walk the journey of faith. For the artist, the path is firmly grounded in the materialities of the world and the rebukes of history...The pathways that define Alfredo Esquillo's practice are represented through a vernacular atmosphere of objects and forms, conjured through densities of pictorial space, and rendered in a range of chromatic palettes and perspectival views. These visual devices not only aid a manner of picturing but also infer a way of understanding."

The exhibit is divided into three sections. Capturing visitors' attention upon entering the gallery are his imageries of labyrinths, spiritual objects, icons and symbolisms surrounding figures as they pray for survival and salvation. It covers his early works, from his winning paintings in national and international art competitions to his strong devotion to folk religiosity in Quiapo.

Esquillo's practice also includes the use of materials like plastic and *pelon* sheets. Featured in the exhibit are his creative experiments of weaving two canvases to form mat patterns and his appropriation and face cut-outs of archival photos using different media. Other works included are his tragicomedy series where he rendered the narratives through theatrical compositions of figures in different spaces.

The exhibit coincides with the launch of Esquillo's self-titled book that chronicles his struggles and triumphs both in life and art. It contains an in-depth biography by Jay Giovanni Bautista, with critical essays on his visual styles by Patrick Flores, Lourd Ernest de Veyra, Tessa Maria Guazon, and the late Alice Guillermo. The book features more than 200 of Esquillo's masterpieces in full color for scholars and collectors' review and for everyone's appreciation.

Continuing Spirit: Alfredo Esquillo runs from 18 November 2018 to 20 January 2019 at the Alicia P. Lorenzo Gallery, Elizabeth Gokongwei Gallery, and Ambeth R. Ocampo Gallery, 3/F Ateneo Art Gallery, Arts Wing, Areté, Ateneo de Manila University.

An ArtSpeak with Alfredo Esquillo and Renato Habulan is scheduled on 9 January 2019, Wednesday, 3PM at the Ben Chan ArtSuite, 2F Ateneo Art Gallery.

Admission to the museum is free. For more information, visit www.ateneoartgallery.com or send an email to aag@ateneo.edu. You may contact also the museum through landline at 426-6001 loc. 4163 or 426-6488.

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Alfredo Esquillo Jr. [b.1972, Manila] is known for his illustration and figurations about Philippine social life. He graduated with a degree in Fine Arts Major in Painting at the University of Santo Tomas. He won in numerous local and international competitions including First Prize at the 10th Metrobank Foundation Painting Competition in 1993 and the ASEAN Art Awards held in Thailand in 1996. Esquillo also received the Thirteen Artists Awards by the Cultural Center of the Philippines in 2000. He has exhibited his works in solo and group exhibitions both here and abroad.

Images available upon request. Contact:

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