Press Release

Alfredo & Isabel Aquilizan
Of Fragments and Impressions

28 Sep – 11 Nov 2017

Opening: Wednesday 27 September, 6.30PM – 8.30PM

Guests-of-Honour: Lito Camacho (Board Member of the National Gallery, Managing Director and Vice Chairman of Credit Suisse AG for Asia Pacific) and Kim Camacho (Art Patron)
‘Of Fragments and Impressions’ is a ground-breaking exhibition staged by STPI and award-winning Brisbane- and Manila-based installation artist duo Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan in conjunction with STPI’s 15th anniversary.

Impressive in scale and pivotal in its undertaking, the extensive oeuvres see the prolific artists breaking new frontiers by transforming fragments of their widely-acclaimed temporal installations into permanent material works for the very first time. From a sweeping installation of cardboard pulp and steel metal rods, to gritty shanty town houses constructed with compressed cardboard, to spectacular large-scale cyanotype collages of wings, the artists turned the STPI gallery into a stellar showcase which embodies their decades-long practice.

Fragments after In-Habit, a new series of collagraphs, reuses squashed cardboard from a 2012 collaborative artwork which toured around Australia for three years and travelled to Japan, where visitors created cardboard dwellings that were assembled onto the original work. The sickle and slippers motifs in their Left Wing and Wings series extend from significant ephemeral works such as Belok Kiri Jalan Terus (2015) and Wings (2009), which reflect the complex social realities facing agrarian communities and draw reference to countries with leftist political histories. Lastly, the Northwind series follow the trajectory of the artists’ early works in the late 90s, demonstrating the universal longing of homesickness and separation.

A milestone achievement, these outstanding works chronicle the artists’ personal history and are triumphant testaments to their artistic breadth.

This show is generously supported by the Friends of STPI.

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HOME: Project Another Country, Alfredo & Isabel Aquilizan, 2017, Installation; cardboard pulp, stainless steel metal rods

Dwellings after In-Habit: Project Another Country I, Alfredo & Isabel Aquilizan, 2017, Collagraph printed from compressed cardboard on Saunders paper
Dwellings after In-Habit: Project Another Country XXIV, Alfredo & Isabel Aquilizan, 2017, Collagraph printed from compressed cardboard on Saunders paper

Wings I, Alfredo & Isabel Aquilizan, 2017, Collage with cyanotype on Saunders paper, 222.5 x 169.5 cm
Left Wing IV, Alfredo & Isabel Aquilizan, 2017, Screen print on Acetate film with light box, 82 x 170 x 7 cm

Wood | Cut (Chainsaw), Alfredo & Isabel Aquilizan, 2017, Paper Sculpture

All works: Produced at STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery © The Artists/STPI
Alfredo Juan (Philippines, 1962) and Isabel Aquilizan y Gaudinez (Philippines, 1965) are currently based in Brisbane with their five children. The artist-duo’s collaborative activities evolved within the spheres of family and community, including personal relationships and those they share with other artists. For years they have been exploring the meaning of ‘home’ and a sense of ‘belonging’ while travelling extensively for work, finding and defining the notion of ‘identity’, dealing with hardships of journey, displacement, sensing presences in absence and accumulating memory. They continue to process these issues through materials and objects that are both abstract and referential, objects that serve as metaphors of everyday human life. For the past ten years they have continuously collected fragments of their protracted Project Belonging (1997-2007), an artistic collaboration spanning ten years. They are currently working on a new project entitled Another Country that talks about migration, dislocation, diaspora, adopting/adapting, settlement/resettlement, and identity.

The artists have participated in a number of international biennales and exhibitions including the Sharjah Biennale, UAE (2013), Asia Pacific Triennale, Australia (2009), Singapore Biennale (2008), Adelaide Biennale, Australia (2008), Biennale of Sydney (2006), the Third Echigo-Tsumari Triennale, Japan (2006), Gwangju Biennale, Korea (2004), La Biennale de Venezia, Italy (2003) and many others. Currently they are working on the following projects: Yes Naturally, The GEM, PhotoMuseum and Gemeentemuseum the Hague, Netherlands; FRAGMENTS: A Survey, Institute of Modern Art Brisbane, Australia; New Work/Old Work, Queensland University of Technology Museum, Brisbane Australia: In-Flight III, National Heritage Board, Singapore; Moscow Biennale, Moscow Passing Through: Project Another Country; 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan In Habit: Project Another Country; Lake Macquarie Art Gallery, Lake Macquarie, NSW Australia, In-Habit Touring Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney, Australia with Museums and Galleries NSW. Collections include 21st century Museum of Contemporary Art Kanazawa Japan; Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation; Gene and Brian Sherman Collection, MSK; Museum of Fine Arts Ghent, Belgium; Singapore Art Museum, Singapore; Asian Arts Museum, Fukuoka, Japan; The Cultural Center of the Philippines; The Lopez Museum Foundation; The Drawing Room Manila; The Podium Manila; GMA Network Channel 7, Quezon City; Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, Makati City; Art Association of the Philippines; and ABS-CBN Channel 2, Quezon City.
About STPI

STPI is a dynamic creative workshop and contemporary art gallery based in Singapore. Established in 2002, STPI is committed to promoting artistic experimentation in the mediums of print and paper and has become one of the most cutting-edge destinations for contemporary art in Asia. STPI sits alongside National Gallery Singapore and the Singapore Art Museum as part of the national Visual Arts Cluster of leading institutions in the region.

STPI Creative Workshop is a rigorous incubator for pushing the boundaries of various print and papermaking techniques. Bolstered by specialised facilities and a highly qualified workshop team, STPI Creative Workshop produces unique collaborations with leading international artists to challenge conventions in art, explore new trajectories in their practice and share their experience with the public.

STPI Gallery is an active platform that fosters the exchange of ideas in contemporary art with its diverse exhibitions and public programme. The gallery hosts specially curated exhibitions of works produced in the STPI Creative Workshop and regularly participates in international fairs. This enables it to nurture and sustain local and international interest in both its artist collaborations and in the mediums of print and paper. The gallery’s public programme aims to engage and broaden visitor understanding of contemporary art, while collaborations with a variety of international curators, collectors and gallerists provide a holistic experience for audiences on a global level.

FIFTEEN YEARS AND MORE TO COME

2017 is going to be STPI’s most significant year yet, as it rolls out an ambitious programme of exhibitions, artist collaborations and events under the theme of FIFTEEN YEARS AND MORE TO COME to reflect its ceaseless pursuit for bold innovation.

In 2017, STPI will host some of the most exciting names in contemporary art, including Alfredo & Isabel Aquilizan (Philippines), Dinh Q. Lê (Vietnam), Jason Martin (UK), Philippe Parreno (France), Do Ho Suh (South Korea), Pae White (USA), and a first-time participation from Zai Kuning (Singapore).

This year will also see STPI expand on its regular public programme, providing an even more diverse and comprehensive learning experience for the local community and visitors to the city. The programme includes the ‘In Talks With’ series, a year-long series of symposiums that aims to engage the public with the most influential figures in art, and peaks with ‘STPI Print Pop-Up’ week on 23-26 August 2017 as well as STPI Annual Friends Benefit Dinner & Auction on 23 September 2017.

Art for our HOMES Project is STPI’s major community initiative, where local artist Ong Kim Seng produces an original artwork to be translated into 300 editions, all individually hand-signed and numbered by the artist. STPI will gift these prints to selected new homeowners on 27 August.

This year also marks STPI’s first participation in Yokohama Triennale. 20 works from STPI’s project “Exquisite Trust (Blindly Collective Collaborations)” with Carsten Höller, Tobias Rehberger, Anri Sala, and Rirkrit Tiravanija was selected by Triennale Co-Director Akiko Miki to be exhibited at the Yokohama Museum of Art.

#STPIFIFTEENYEARS

Public Programme at STPI

Artist Panel Discussion with Alfredo & Isabel Aquilizan, Russell Storer, and Elaine Ng
Thu, 28 Sep
7.00PM – 8.30PM

Family Day: Re-build, Re-make, Re-construct
Sat, 30 Sep
2.00PM – 5.00PM

Poetry reading by Cyril Wong, Jason Wee and Daryl Yam
Sat, 14 Oct
3.00PM – 4.00PM

Printer’s Jam: Collagraphs
Wed, 18 Oct
7.00PM – 10.00PM

Film Screening: The Human Scale
Thu, 26 Oct
7.00PM – 8.20PM

In Talks With: Joselina Cruz
Sat, 4 Nov
3.00PM – 4.00PM

Upcoming Exhibitions

STPI Year End Show
18 Nov – 23 Dec 2017

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Gallery Hours
Mon – Fri: 10AM – 7PM
Sat: 9AM – 6PM
Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays