

PAUL ERIC ROCA JANOS DELACRUZ

SOCIAL SURREALISM

curated by Ricky Francisco



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23 JULY- 6 AUGUST
2020

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SOCIAL SURREALISM

In Alice Guillermo's seminal "Social Realism in the Philippines", she defined social realist art as 'rooted as it is in a commitment to social ideals within a dynamic conception of history, social realism in the visual arts grew out of the politicized Filipino consciousness.' In gist, it is socially involved art that presents socio-political realities in an effort to engage society and effect change. Most of the work from that period consciously used imagery drawn from reality as it was targeted to engaging the masses in order to provoke class action towards a more egalitarian society.

The works of Janos Delacruz and Eric Roca are also conscious of social realities and are equally purposeful in their creation. They speak of power struggles and excesses, much like their artistic forebears. However, unlike previous social realist works that imagined the "social" in a broad societal scale, the works of Delacruz and Roca imagine the conflict within the realm of the personal, recognizing that the personal is political.

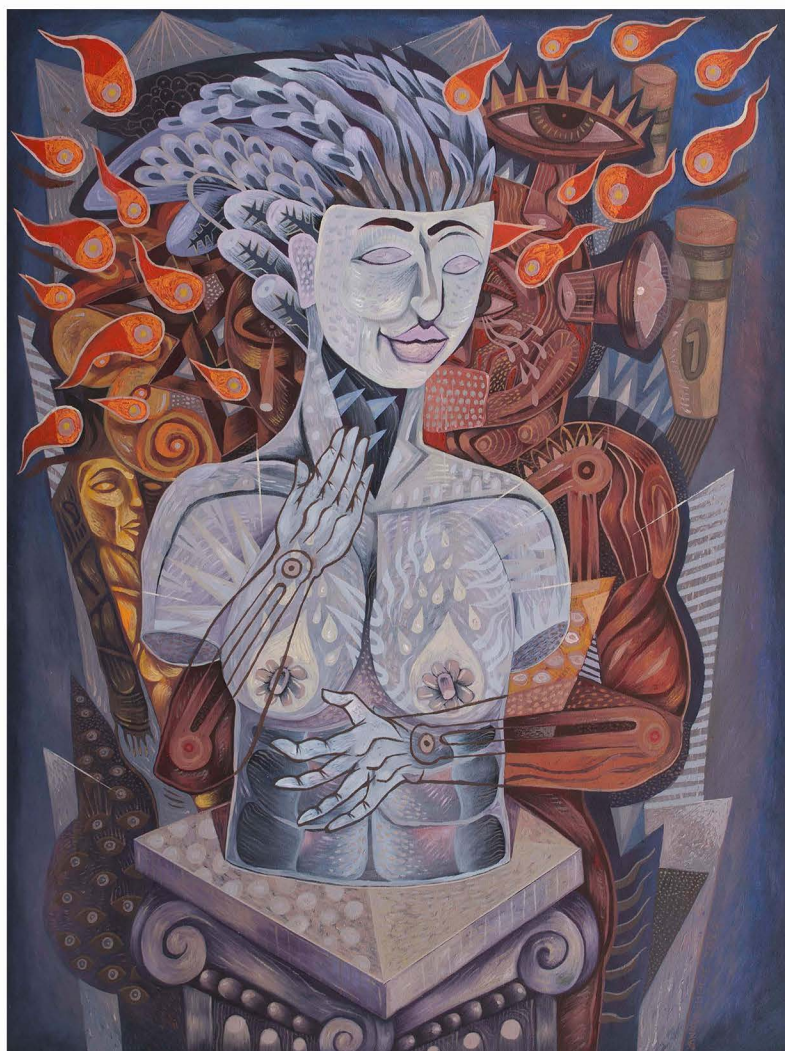
Both are highly expressionistic, and their modality is surreal; which seems appropriate as we attempt to grasp the increasingly bizarre world we are in - where the very nature of truth is contested by deliberately fabricated non-facts aimed to sway public opinion. That both Delacruz and Roca bring the discourse to the personal is apt because we, as individuals, are subjected to the gross disinformation in social media and highly personalized propaganda. And yet, they go beyond; pursuing the issue in the realm of affect, tying emotion with conscious decision-making, and therefore, the realm of ethics and morality.

In a world constantly numbing us to right and wrong, with increasingly unthinkable and untenable propaganda, Delacruz and Roca point to the importance of the personal for any attempt to reclaim what is right.



JANOS DELACRUZ

While you Are Sleeping
60" x 48", Oil on canvas
Php 190,000



JANOS DELACRUZ

Work In Progress
48" x 36", Oil on canvas
Php 103,000



JANOS DELACRUZ

LDR

48" x 36", Oil on canvas

Php 103,000



JANOS DELACRUZ

From left:

Amidst Euphoria

42" x 32", Oil on canvas

Php 80,000

Inflamed Anew

42" x 32", Oil on canvas

Php 80,000



JANOS DELACRUZ

From top:

Inflamed Anew (Study)

18" x 24", Oil pen and ink on paper

Php 35,000

Work In Progress (Study)

18" x 24", Oil pen and ink on paper

Php 35,000





JANOS DELACRUZ

From top:
Pagtahak Sa Bagong Umaga
18" x 24", Oil pen and ink on paper
Php 35,000

Mahal Mo O Mahal Ako
18" x 24", Oil pen and ink on paper
Php 35,000

JANOS DELACRUZ

Unang Tukso
18" x 24", Oil pen and ink on paper
Php 35,000





PAUL ERIC ROCA

Despot
36" x 24", Acrylic on canvas
Php 70,000



PAUL ERIC ROCA

Witness
36" x 24", Acrylic on canvas
Php 70,000



PAUL ERIC ROCA

Torpidity
36" x 24", Acrylic on canvas
Php 70,000



PAUL ERIC ROCA

Timorous
36" x 24", Acrylic on canvas
Php 70,000

About the Artists:

Paul Eric Roca is an illustrator and a visual artist. He graduated from Enverga University with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Architecture and Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of the Philippines. He illustrated several children's books namely, "Si Ching na Takot sa Dilim", "Klasmeyt" and "Federico" from Adarna Books and also illustrated workbooks, such as " Learning About Forces" for SRA (Science Research Associates Inc.).

He has worked in Singapore for The Straits Times as an Editorial Illustrator for nearly eight years. Presently, he is working for the Manila Bulletin as an Editorial Cartoonist.

A recipient of CCP's Thirteen Artist Awards, **Janos Delacruz** (b. 1985) is a prolific painter, printmaker and illustrator based in Muntinlupa. Delacruz's profound social commentaries set in surrealistic panoramas have been recognized and given merit by various art institutions like the Art Association of the Philippines, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Philippine Association of Printmakers, and National Commission for Culture and the Arts. This University of Sto. Tomas alumnus also had his works actively exhibited in Manila, as well as in USA, UAE, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan and Thailand. Delacruz continues to express his philosophical narrations in his intricate urban landscape filled with subjects of self-exploration and social awareness.



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