



SILVERLENS

ALLAN BALISI

among the good wishes

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24 August – 23 September 2023

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Allan Balisi's painterly idiom thrives in deferral: a cinematic sequence interrupted, a series of compositions that dilate a singular action, or a forthcoming gesture captured as it is about to be completed. Contra inertia, the paintings depict imminence—a quick breath before bodies topple, the last grunt before the locked gate is forced open. This imminence is achieved as a painterly effect. In most works, a clear premise for an action is staged and we assume possible outcomes. The paintings ask us to sustain these possibilities, to linger in anticipation.

We are sure that something will happen, or is happening. Some of the works let us know what is most likely to transpire, some works barely allude to what is about to unfold. A miniature Venus de Milo sculpture stands on a shelf. If one looks closely, the sharply delineated shadow beside it and the shelf barely having enough space to support its base tell us a number of possibilities. In this moment, however, we admire how light falls on the cold skin of the replica, the amount of work that went into this reproduction.

For the artist's solo exhibition titled *Among the good wishes*, paintings dwell in this space of interval—between a precious attempt and a possible outcome. In one work, a pair of dancers grasp each other by their arms, a tense tableau. Their bodies are depicted as if the slightest shift of weight would end in collapse. In another, a figure is about to pry open a locked gate with a crowbar. A taxi just passed us by. In one of the works, flames burst, engulfing structures in its vicinity. Wishes are cultivated in these intervening moments. Balisi's works draw out situations into scenographies, gestures into entire events. A wish is never a promise as it is a configuration of time and space where all troubles and their fixes are imminent, and finitude comes with grace.

Throughout these intervening times and spaces, the images undergo a series of translations and transformations: a sheet of white cloth held by an obscured figure in one work becomes a fluttering flag that across a number of canvases is gently lowered in another series of works. And, in one more work: what resembles another reworking of the fabric is in fact petals of a flower about to bloom or slowly wilting away. Even the way surfaces are enlivened by the ways in which they reflect or render light is worth noting, and the absence of background for most of the paintings isolate this vibrant quality. There is a stark illumination that casts objects and figures in sheer or shimmering animated light. Balisi's rendition of snail eggs offers a cluster of globular forms that warp light, offering in place of its incidence a kaleidoscope of texture and what feels like synthetic skin. A series of works presenting faces of clocks flag our passage in this interruptive, transformative milieu: time has stopped but each hand—hour, minute, second—taunt us with their imminent turning. In the works for *Among the good wishes*, we see events about to transpire or worlds about to collapse into themselves, and within these intervals we catch glimpses of a world hopeful to recompose itself.

-Carlos Quijón, Jr.





ALLAN BALISI
among the good writers



Urgency of Moment/white flag descending II, 2023

oil on canvas

16h x 20w in • 40.64h x 50.80w cm (each)







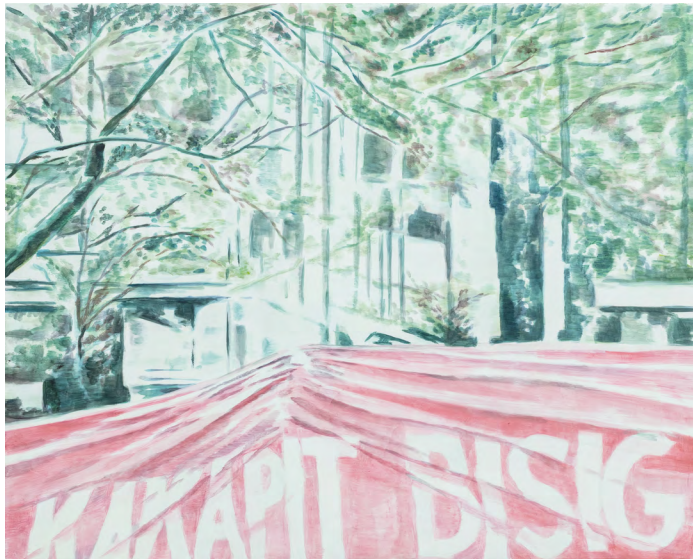
Please send applause and some good advice II, 2023

oil on canvas

16h x 20w in • 40.64h x 50.80w cm

*Please send applause and
some good advice, 2023*
oil on canvas
54h x 68w in • 137.16h x 172.72w cm





Ascending, 2023
oil on canvas
16h x 20w in • 40.64h x 50.80w cm



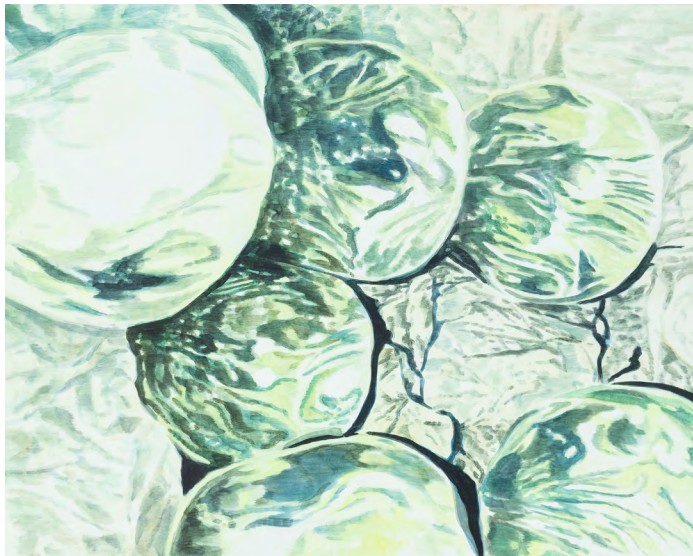


Urgency of Moment/white flag descending V, 2023

oil on canvas

16h x 20w in • 40.64h x 50.80w cm (each)





Bloom II, 2023
oil on canvas
16h x 20w in • 40.64h x 50.80w cm



Roadway and good speed, 2023
oil on canvas
16h x 20w in • 40.64h x 50.80w cm






Moving, 2023
oil on canvas
16h x 20w in • 40.64h x 50.80w cm



by the printed word, forgive yourself, 2023

oil on canvas

16h x 20w in • 40.64h x 50.80w cm



In the middle of summer, when the dying sun bled the blue sky
orange, the movement began. At first it was no more than a tremor,
but slowly it increased to a rumble, an upheaval, an earthquake,
and everyone ran to see what was going on.





Urgency of Moment/white flag descending VI, 2023

oil on canvas

16h x 20w in • 40.64h x 50.80w cm (each)



Among the good wishes, 2023
oil on canvas
48h x 60w in • 121.92h x 152.40w cm





Edge, 2023
oil on canvas
16h x 20w in • 40.64h x 50.80w cm







Urgency of Moment/white flag descending I , 2023

oil on canvas

16h x 20w in • 40.64h x 50.80w cm (each)



A Single Chorus, A Single Murmur, 2023
oil on canvas
16h x 20w in • 40.64h x 50.80w cm

Bloom, 2023
oil on canvas
66h x 53w in • 167.64h x 134.62w cm









Urgency of Moment/white flag descending III, 2023

oil on canvas

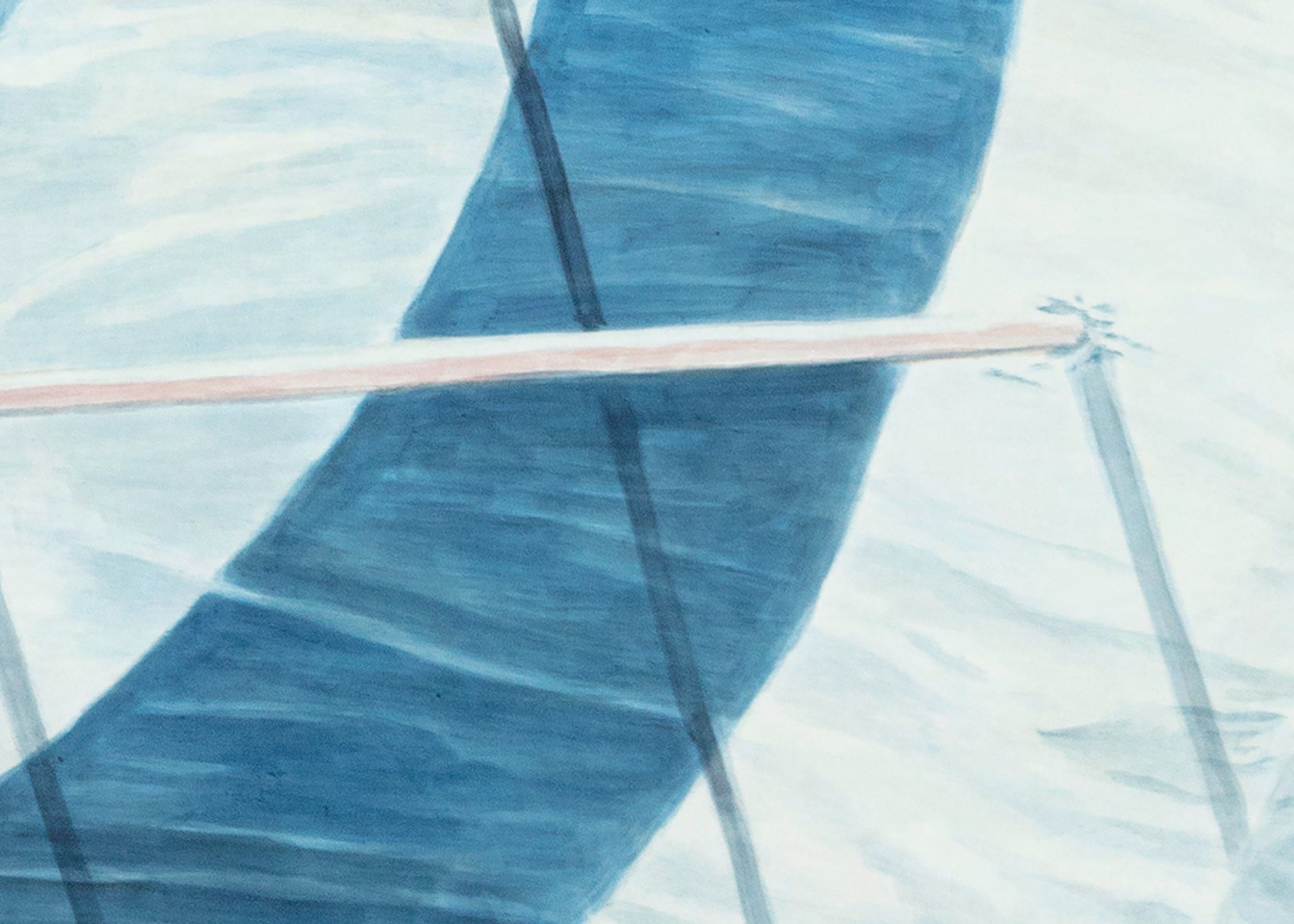
16h x 20w in • 40.64h x 50.80w cm (each)



Walking in chain factory III, 2023
oil on canvas
16h x 20w in • 40.64h x 50.80w cm



Avenue of Litanies, 2023
oil on canvas
48h x 60w in • 121.92h x 152.40w cm







Urgency of Moment/white flag descending IV, 2023

oil on canvas

16h x 20w in • 40.64h x 50.80w cm (each)



Revolution off Everyday Life, 2023
oil on canvas
66h x 53w in • 167.64h x 134.62w cm







ALLAN BALISI

Bio

Allan Balisi's (b. 1982, Isabela, Philippines; lives and works in Manila) work has a very strong narrative undercurrent despite its fragmentary albeit figural nature. Recent solo exhibitions include *Always Keep in Touch*, Golden Cargo Gallery, Manila (2022); *To Our Friends*, Blanc Gallery, Manila (2021), and; *Pathfinder*, Pablo Gallery, Manila (2020).

He was shortlisted for the 2009 and 2013 Ateneo Art Awards and is a recipient of the CCP Thirteen Artists Award in 2021.



ALLAN BALISI
CV

b. 1982, Isabela, PH



Loose ends, 2022

AWARDS

- 2021 CCP Thirteen Artist Award
- 2013 Marking Time, Ateneo Art Awards, Short-list
- 2009 The Next Wave: Ateneo Art Awards, Short-list
- 2004 37th National Students Art Competition, Second Place
- 2003 17th PLDT-DPC Visual Artist Competition, Grand Prize

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Among the good wishes*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2022 *Always Keep in Touch*, Golden Cargo Gallery, Manila
- 2021 *To Our Friends*, Blanc Gallery, Manila
- 2020 *Pathfinder*, Pablo Gallery, Manila
- 2019 *Braving Wild Winds*, Blanc Gallery, Manila
- 2018 *The Smallest Convenience*, Blanc Gallery, Manila
- 2017 *Ease Your Eyes at the Sun*, Blanc Gallery, Manila
- 2016 *People I Don't Know & Places I've Never Been*, Blanc Gallery, Manila
- Room Full of Elephants*, West Gallery, Manila
- 2015 *In Between Open Fields*, Blanc Gallery, Manila
- 2014 *Possible Landing*, Blanc Gallery, Manila
- Beggars Fortress*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2013 *Mirages*, Silverlens, Manila
- Five Paintings*, Blanc, Manila
- 2012 *We Are Awake Elsewhere*, Richard Koh Fine Art, Singapore
- Satellites*, Art Informal, Manila
- 2011 *In the Year of Who Knows When*, Blanc, Manila
- 2010 *If You Fall, You Fall Alone*, Blanc, Manila
- 2009 *We Need No Fire to Warm Us*, Blanc, Manila
- Blackhole*, Hiraya Gallery, Manila
- 2008 *Spacing Out*, Blanc Compound, Manila
- When We Dead Wake*, 1/OF Gallery, Manila
- 2007 *Neighborhood*, Blanc, Manila

ALLAN BALISI
CV

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
Willowing Across the Sand, Xavier Art Fest, Blanc Gallery, Philippines
The Eye Cuts Where The Hand Lands, Curated by Pristine De Leon, Gravity Art Space, Philippines
- 2022 *They give them land. And bricks. And cement*, West Gallery, Philippines
Dream of The Day, Curated by Patrick Flores, Ilham Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Phylogeny of Desire, MO Space, Philippines
Synthetic Conditions, Curated by Carlos Quijon, Vargas Museum, Philippines
Art Fair Philippines, Silverlens, Manila
Thirteen Artist Art Awards, Cultural Center of The Philippines
- 2021 *Tracks and Marking*, Underground Gallery, Manila
End of Spectrum, West Gallery, Manila
- 2020 *Artery Art Space*, Manila, Art Fair Philippines, The Link, Makati City
Blanc Gallery, LT Art Fair, SMX Convention Center Aura SM Aura Premier BGC, Taguig City
Binding II, Blanc gallery Manila
Sampaguita projects Online Show, Sampaguita Projects, Manila
- 2019 *Variation of The Field*, Vargas Museum, University of the Philippines
Far Side of the Moon, Artery Art Space, Manila
Person Unseen, Limbo, Makati City
Yuta ug Pagburug: A solidarity Exhibit for the Negros 14, Ismael Bernal Gallery, University of the Philippines
WXXX, West Gallery, Manila
Blanc Gallery, Art Fair Philippines, The Link, Makati City
Artery Art Space, Art Fair Philippines, The Link, Makati City
Clear Gallery Tokyo, Art Fair Philippines, The Link, Makati City

ALLAN BALISI CV

- 2018 *You Don't Need A Room The Size Of A Football Field*, Sampaguita Projects, Manila
Copy, Echo, Shadow, Underground Gallery, Makati City
March: Group Show, Art Informal, Manila
Blanc Gallery, Art Fair Philippines, The Link, Makati City
Artery Art Space, Art Fair Philippines, The Link, Makati City
- 2017 *Rider*, w/ Dina Gadia, Artery Art Space, Manila
Allan Balisi & Dina Gadia, Clear Edition & Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Clear Edition & Gallery, Allan Balisi & Dina Gadia, ArtStage Singapore
Overland, Pinto Museum, Philippines
Gentlemen Take Polaroids, Artery Art Space, Manila
Withdrawal Syndrome, Project 20, Manila
Melted City IV, curated by Louie Cordero and Jordin Isip, Rhode Island School of Design
At Ease, Blanc Gallery, Manila
Melted City IV, curated by Louie Cordero and Jordin Isip, Blanc Gallery, Manila
- 2016 *Short Span: Works on Paper*, Post Gallery, Manila
Binding, Blanc Gallery, Manila
Indwelling, Blanc Gallery, Manila
West Gallery, Art Fair Philippines, The Link, Makati City
Blanc Gallery, Art Fair Philippines, The Link, Makati City
- 2015 *Dry Rub*, Post Gallery, Manila
There's A Story Here Somewhere, It Got Lost Along The Way, Silverlens, Makati
- 2014 *Art Fair Philippines*, Manila
- 2013 *Still, curated by Mariano Ching*, Blanc, Manila
Surface Area, curated by Mariano Ching, Finale Art File, Manila
ME.NA.SA Beirut Art Fair, Lebanon
Tones of Home, Blanc, Manila
The Mona Lisa Project, Cultural Center of The Philippines, Manila
Hollow Spaces, West Gallery, Manila
Art Fair Philippines, Manila

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2012	<i>End Result</i> , Light & Space Contemporary, Manila <i>Just Leave the Itch Alone</i> , Pablo, The Fort, Manila <i>STRIP 2012</i> , Silverlens, Manila <i>From the Black Lagoon</i> , D.A.G.C. (Department of Avante-Garde Cliches), Manila <i>The Great Ghastly</i> , Art Informal, Manila <i>Richard Koh Fine Art</i> , Art Stage, Singapore
2011	<i>It Doesn't Snow in Manila</i> , Art Informal, Manila <i>Hats On, Bottoms Off</i> , Blanc Compound, Manila <i>Flatfield</i> , West Gallery, Manila <i>Survivalism</i> , Light and Space Contemporary, Manila <i>Departure Area</i> , Republika Gallery, Manila <i>We Are Not Aimless</i> , Manila Contemporary, Manila
2010	<i>12 x 9</i> , West Gallery, Manila <i>His and Hers</i> , Blanc, Manila <i>Modern Life is Rubbish</i> , West Gallery, Manila <i>Siren's Hall</i> , MO Space, The Fort Global City, Manila <i>These are Days</i> , Blanc, Manila <i>Happily Unhappy</i> , Blanc, Manila
2009	<i>Saturday Fun Machine</i> , Finale Art File, Manila <i>Welcome to the Jungle</i> , Art Informal, Manila
2008	<i>Amor Solo</i> , Amores Muchos, Hiraya Gallery, Manila <i>This Time Tomorrow</i> , Blanc, Manila
2007	<i>Post Cards</i> , Utterly Art, Singapore <i>Boxed (2)</i> , Cultural Center of the Philippines, Manila
2006	<i>Through the Palette's Eye</i> , Vargas Museum, University of The Philippines, Manila <i>Beyond Borders</i> , The Substation, Singapore <i>Boxed</i> , Big Sky Mind, Manila <i>Strange Things & Other Life Forms</i> , Chunky Far Flung Gallery, Manila
2005	<i>Definition of Undefined Colors</i> , Pablo Gallery, Manila <i>Wallpaper</i> , Big Sky Mind, Manila <i>Stories that End With Letter I</i> , Big Sky Mind, Manila <i>Deklarasyon</i> , The Cubicle Gallery, Manila

ALLAN BALISI
CV

2004 *November Rhapsody*, Art Center, SM Megamall, Manila
Stolen Dialogues, The Cubicle Gallery, Manila

RESIDENCY

2008 July-December, Blanc Compound, Mandaluyong City,
Philippines

EDUCATION

2005 Far Eastern University, Manila, Philippines
Bachelor of Fine Arts Major in Advertising

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Dugo at Tubo: Mga alaala ng Escalante Maasacre sa panibagong
rehimeng Marcos, UMA. SAKA, July, 2022

For Christ Sake, Put That Down, Comrade. Self-Published, February,
2021

Painting Study: Excerpts, Self-Published, December, 2020

Braving Wild Winds, exhibition catalog, published by Blanc Gallery,
December 2019

Pathfinder, Self Published, April, 2019

Diver, Published by Bad Student, 2019

Painting Study: Passing of Time, Self-Published, November 2018

Against The Adjacent Ones, Exhibition Catalog, Published by
Saturnino Basilla, May 2018

'Ease Your Eyes at the Sun', exhibition catalog, published by Blanc
Gallery, Oct 2017

Rider, published by Saturnino Basilla, 2017

'People I Don't Know & Places I've Never Been' exhibition catalog,
published by Blanc Gallery, Nov 2016

Everyone Exists Forever, self-published, March 2016

Indwelling, published by Blanc Gallery, 2016

'In Between Open Fields' exhibition catalog, published by Blanc
Gallery, Nov 2015

Philippines: Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), Fabrica, 2015

Painting Study, published by Saturnino Basilla, 2015

Allan Balisi: We Are Mere Appearance, Dreamt By Another, published
by RAM HOTEL, 2014

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We'll Never Make It, I'll Raise The White Flag Now, self-published, Dec 2014

Before Us, Nothing Existed Here, published by Saturnino Basilla, Aug 2014

Not of This Earth, published by Saturnino Basilla, June 2012

Stock, Marybeth, 'Allan Balisi at Richard Koh Fine Art', Asian Art News, Nov/Dec 2012

Dayao, Dodo, 'Reverse Déjà Vu & Memory as Verb' ('Satellites' Catalog/Essay), 2012

Mahino, September, 'Stripped', Garage Magazine, Aug/Sept 2010

'Caution: Men Falling', ('If You Fall, You Fall Alone' Catalog/Essay), 2010

Flores, Karen, 'The Next Wave' Ateneo Art Awards Catalog (notes on 'Spacing Out'), 2009

Dayao, Dodo, 'The Presence of Absence' ('We Need No Fire To Warm Us' Catalog/Essay), 2009

Marcelo, Sam, 'Desolation Row', Business World, April 2009

Tejero, Costantino, 'The Extra Dimension of Reality in Art', Philippine Daily Inquirer, Sept 2008

Suárez, Angelo, 'Space Out, Clear the Space, Clear the Territory, Deterritorialize' ('Spacing Out' Catalog/Essay), 2008

'When We Dead Wake, Art as Story', Philippine Daily Inquirer, June 2008

Jalandoni-Robillos, Jessica, 'Painting to "A Song on the End of The World"', Philippine Daily Inquirer, Sept 2007

Tejero, Costantino, 'Beyond the Musty Air of Academism', Philippine Daily Inquirer, Sept 2007

CARLOS QUIJON, JR.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Carlos Quijon, Jr. is an art historian, critic, and curator based in Manila. He was a fellow of the research platform Modern Art Histories in and across Africa, South and Southeast Asia (MAHASSA), convened by the Getty Foundation's Connecting Art Histories project. He writes exhibition reviews for Artforum. He has published in *Southeast of Now: Directions in Contemporary and Modern Art* (SG), *Frieze* (UK), *Afro-Asian Visions* (UK), MoMA's *post* (US), *Queer Southeast Asia*, *ArtReview Asia* (Singapore), *Art Monthly* (UK), *Asia Art Archive's Ideas* (HK), and *Trans Asia Photography Review* (US), among others. He is an upcoming resident at the International Studio and Curatorial Program in New York (funded by the Asian Cultural Council) in 2023 and the Singapore Art Museum in 2024. He is curating the Philippine Pavilion for the 60th edition of the Venice Art Biennale in 2024.

ALLAN BALISI

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CARLOS QUIJON, JR.

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