



BEA VALDES

FLUX

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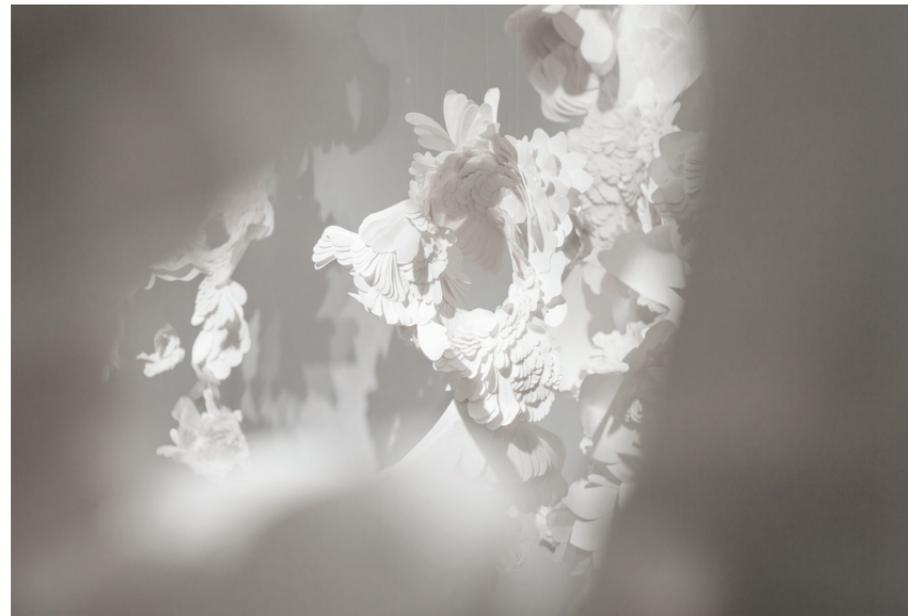


FLUX, 2019
FELT, THREAD, NYLON STRING
DIMENSION VARIABLE









Like Sound Before Words

The figures that comprise Bea Valdes' *Flux* are duplicitous. From afar, they appear strong and sculptural, suspended monuments crumbling elegantly to the ground. Closer inspection betrays that perceived denseness, revealing themselves to be thin and gauze-like, evanescent clouds held together by thread and a prayer. It's a trick of the light, clouds gaining reassuring solidity as they catch more brightness. The revelation is unexpected not because of the work itself, but because of the artist behind it.

As a world-renowned accessories designer, Valdes has spent the better part of the last 15 years cultivating a body of work obsessed with the idea of permanence, of beadwork so refined, materials so battle-tested, and hands so accomplished that they dare claim immortality. On her second solo exhibition for Silverlens Galleries, the artist pulls back the curtain and in a gesture that betrays both confidence and vulnerability, exposes the fragility of her work and process.

Valdes calls the pieces that comprise the show “carcasses.” In the workshop for her accessories business, this is the point in the process the creators live with every day—systematically cut felt in place of the beads and precious stones that eventually make up her *objects d'art*, pieced together with thread before the expert handiwork of the community of women that comprise her workshop. Bodies constantly changing, work that's never finished, a process forever in flux—one is tempted to call them the raw sketches that eventually provide the blueprint to her luxurious creations but the carcasses are not quite that. Having the whole lifecycle of each piece under one roof allows for a process

that isn't linear, of simultaneous creation and destruction. The ephemera is the artist's constant, the part of the creation that is the creator's before anyone else's.

Certain shapes from her career as an accessories designer subconsciously recur in *Flux*. These shapes form the vernacular of her studio, forms that appear in dreams, that the artist describes as almost embryonic. In certain corners of the exhibition, the figures block the light enough that shadows are cast on the wall, a kind of haunting by the predecessors of the shapes formed.

The ghosts of past works turn up in *Flux*. And by allowing the process to lead her not just forward but also backwards, Valdes allows herself to be truly exposed. She lets it all hang—her aesthetic inclinations, the obsessions of her subconscious, the inescapable force of habit. She braves exposing her limitations—that as inventive and peerless as her design work has been, there are certain patterns she cannot escape from. Repetition allows for her fabled consistency but in *Flux*, it allows for the vulnerability of admission, a confession.

Flux is a meditation on the ephemera of things, a concession to mortality—that while the well-made pieces that come out of her workshop have a chance at eternity, the hands that create them don't. It's the ultimate subsuming of ego, of an artist admitting defeat to her own process. The artist has never been more exposed than in *Flux*. But in confession, the artist has also never been more present.

In the same way that her fabled fashion objects are collected, *Flux* is meant to be acquired—it is, after all, presented in the context of an art gallery. But there's a crucial difference between the fine jewelry and embroidered handbags that her workshop produces and the works here. The part that is the creator's before anyone else's—in *Flux*, the artist allows herself to be emancipated from the parameters and hurdles that she so elegantly jumps as a designer. Early in the conceptualization of the exhibition, Valdes decided to let the work exist outside the frame, to let the work escape definition or an expression of finality. It's as close as her public is going to get to understanding Bea Valdes at work, not the public face that greets them after the fact of work, but the flesh-and-blood human who sits on the floor of her workshop, staring at the stitched-together pieces of felt in the air and wondering where they're going. In other words, the artist's mind mid leap.

As an accessories designer, Bea Valdes is immersed in an industry forever in pursuit of buzz, perennially on the bound to capture beauty, going from creator to creator in pursuit of louder and louder noise. Valdes long ago found that quiet work would be the clearest path to self-preservation, of protecting the purity of process from an industry tormented by velocity, of having a community of enormously skilled women both as instrument and cocoon. In that way, *Flux* is a sound not a song. Not notes on a scale but vibrations traveling through the air. The work goes on.

- Raymond Ang







BEA VALDES

Beatrice Panlilio-Valdes was born on August 30, 1973 and grew up in Manila, Philippines. Coming from a family which had been in the fine jewelry trade for three generations, she was fascinated with embellishments from a young age.

Today, she is a recognized and much celebrated accessories designer who continues to take inspiration from various cultures and countries, sourcing materials, patterns and ideas from around the world. While Bea receives global recognition and respect for her distinctive hand embroideries, she remains in the Philippines, working with modern local artisans and perfecting her craft at her Manila-based studio. She chooses Manila over New York as it is important to maintain a creative environment that allows for the time-intensive hand embroidery work to be carried out. The bags, belts and jewelry can take up to oten weeks to be made.

Bea maintains her focus on traditional embroidery and continues to support local artisans and their craftsmanship. In her words,

"In a factory you just do a piece of something, you don't get to own the whole. in our atelier - my girls take a lot of pride in their work. Everything is created in-house, from concept, to design, to production. Everything is proudly made in the Philippines."

ACCESSORIES DESIGN AND ART

2019 (upcoming) Commissioned public art installation for the SEA Games to be hosted in Manila, Philippines.

(upcoming) To celebrte the 30 year anniversary of Premiere Classe, Paris Fashion Week's most iconic and most attended tradeshow, BEAVALDES is personally selected by the principal organizer to be part of a roster of international designers to create a singular piece as part of global collection of 30 pieces in celebration of this landmark occasion in fashion.

FLUX, Solo artist exhibit for Silverlens, Manila

The designer's signature accessory pieces are displayed at the personally curated corner of the longtime fashion direction, Linda Fargo's List Collection at Bergdorf Goodman. The mythic fashion emporium is a luxury department store based at the iconic Fifth Avenue in Midtown Manhattan in New York City.

The designer's signature accessory pieces are displayed prominently at the Hotel Crillon, the historic ultra-luxury hotel and iconic landmark in Paris which opened in 1909 in a building dating to 1758.

2018 Accessories designer Bea Valdes x Ryan Villamael, the multi-awarded international paper artist and the designer collaborate on a commissioned art installation for the Shangri-la Hotel Group.

Bea Valdes collaborates with Roche Bobois International, a French luxury retailer of furniture collections, to re-interpret the classic silhouette of ther modual Mah Jong sofa. The auctioned piece, done in Valdes' distinct signature embroidery, raised funds for the Asian Cultural Council

of the Philippines which aims to create opportunities for cultural scholars and greater visibility for Philippine arts internationally.

Launch of BEAVALDES X LANAI - A lifestyle showcase of exclusive jewelry pieces, luxe handcrafted accessories, and distinctive city to resort - wear hosted by Lanai, Manila

Design Anthology feature on Bea Valdes and her cross-over from accessories and fashion into the applied arts.

Collaboration with Swiss-Filipino furniture makers Philux on a capsule collection of furniture and soft furnishing celebrating Filipino artisans and craft.

2017 Completion of her commissioned art installation at the newly launched Clark International Airport. The artwork was unveiled at the ASEAN World Leaders Summit in November welcoming major world leaders into the host country for 2017, the Philippines.

Patek Philippe invites Bea Valdes to launch its series of Artists Talks by hosting an intimate exhibit focusing on her craft, personal design process and thoughts on heritage luxury.

2016 Launch of BEAVALDES X LANAI- a cultivation of Philippine style and botanical lore. A lifetstyle showcase of exclusive jewelry pieces, luxe handcrafted accessories , and distinctive city to resort- wear hosted by Lanai, Manila. A first in a series of collaborations to welcome the holiday season.

Launch of the designer's collaboration with a local luxury resort brand, Pio Pio, to produce a sustainable and exclusive accessory collection of handmade earrings and clutches crafted out of local Filipino native weave.

Invited by the Shangri-la Group to realize the art direction for the "The Table", a concept of the hotel group to be rolled out to over 99 of its properties across the globe. The designer created various floral landscapes and sculptural pieces to launch the event in Manila.

Launch of the designer's first collaboration with local boutique to produce one of a kind hand-painted clothes.

Shangri-la Hotel Group commissions the designer to create an art piece to be displayed at the lobby for the launch of their newest hotel in Manila. The designer is also asked to render her signature hand embroidered work across the panels of the grand and junior ballroom of the hotel.

2015 The Designer invited to host a private trunkshow for the APEC Leaders and Business CEOs spousal visit in Manila to showcase the best in Philippine design to visiting world dignitaries.

The Asia Society Museum New York hosts the Philippine Gold exhibit in tandem with an artist talk and designer appearance by Bea Valdes.

APEC and CITEM: Women and the Economy: showcases "Icons of Industry", an exhibit honoring the designer for her talent and contribution to her industry.

CNN Philippines' features Bea Valdes as part of its' Leading Women series that focuses on the country's most inspiring, professional and influential women, their amazing careers, lives and remarkable ideas.

2014 Bea Valdes' SWAROVSKI commissioned showpiece is selected to be part of the Victoria Secret Fashion Show 2014 in London.

	Voted "Accessory Designer of the Year" by the Philippine Tatler Magazine in recognition of her indelible mark in the local fashion community.		Accessories Fair in Hong Kong and at Swarovski's World Jewelry Facets Show in Beijing.		Town and Country Magazine honors Bea Valdes with a plaque of appreciation. The award is given in recognition of exceptional women of style and substance who have excelled in their chosen field and who continue to bring pride and honor to the country.		BEAVALDES' sculptural exhibit <i>Bedtime Stories</i> , participates at ART HONGKONG 2009.
2013	German Vogue and SWAROVSKI ELEMENTS 2013 horoscope calendar features Swarovski crystallized jewelry pieces on the cover by BEAVALDES.		The Center for International Trade Exposition and Missions (CITEM) with the Department of Trade and Industry Philippines invites Bea Valdes to be part of their new government campaign called Traditional Materials / New Directions.		For a third year in a row, Bea Valdes is handpicked by Swarovski Elements to represent Asian Design by creating a fourth commissioned showpiece for their exclusive jewelry and accessory platforms showcased in Paris, New York and Hong Kong.	2008	BEAVALDES voted "ASIA'S MOST STYLISH" by TATLER MAGAZINE, Asia.
	" <i>The Art of the Handbag</i> ", creations by Alexander McQueen, Louis Vuitton, Lulu Guinness and several BEAVALDES clutches are featured in the book as part of a gallery of wearable works of art.	2010	Recipient of The Outstanding Young Men Award (TOYM). The TOYM award is widely recognized as the country's most prestigious recognition for young men & women whose selfless dedication to their field resulted to significant contributions to the country and our countrymen. Guest of Honor gracing the awarding ceremony was His Excellency, President of the Republic, Benigno Simeon Aquino.		Established fashion house J. Mendel partners with Manila-based luxury accessories designer, for the international launch of BEAVALDES for J. Mendel Fall and Resort 2010 jewelry collection.		BEAVALDES hailed as Designer of the Year for 2008 by the JC Report.
2012	BEAVALDES invited to be part of an exclusive exhibit curated by Première Classe, the leading European accessory designers tradeshow entitled " <i>Les Accessoires Ayant Marqué l'Histoire de la Mode</i> " and " <i>Accessories that have marked the History of Fashion</i> "		Metro Home & Entertaining's "Tree of Life Event"- Bea Valdes and her workshop is invited to create a Christmas Tree from 100% recycled material that will be auctioned off in support of ABS-CBN's Kapit Bisig para sa Ilog Pasig.	2009	Filipino accessories designer, BEAVALDES' necklace featured on the cover of British Vogue, worn by Kate Moss for the September issue.		SLAB Silver Lens Art Gallery, Manila hosts an Artist Talk entitled: <i>Lessons From Things</i> by Bea Valdes. A one-hour interactive session with the Designer and Her Process.
	20 cutting-edge international fashion and accessory designers, including BEAVALDES, have been chosen to showcase their iconic work at the heart of the JARDIN DES TUILERIES during Paris' landmark Fashion Week.		30.20.10: Manila's Premiere Fashion Designer, Inno Sotto celebrates his 30th Anniversay with a Gala Fashion Show at the Cultural Center of the Philippines with accessories provided by one of his favorites muses, BEAVALDES.		BEA VALDES invited by CRYSTALLIZED™ - Swarovski Elements to showcase her one-of-a-kind showpiece entitled "THE FOUNTAINHEAD" at the CRYSTALLIZED™ Multi-Segment Platform at Porte de Versailles, Paris, France.		BEAVALDES designated BEST LUXURY DESTINATION SHOPPING in the Philippines by TIME MAGAZINE.
2011	The "EQUUS" hero-piece created by Bea Valdes is chosen out of 150 designs to open Swarovski's exclusive Beijing catwalk show. Along with designs by Versace and John Paul Gaultier, the "EQUUS" will be one of the top focuses of this international PR event, with 200 strong media in attendance, including international flagship publications in China such as Vogue and Elle magazine.		Sponsored by FIRMA and Swarovski Elements, "The Burden of Silk" by Bea Valdes is a private exhibit of the designer's work and a rare glimpse into her world of craft.		BEA VALDES invited by CRYSTALLIZED™ - Swarovski Elements to showcase her one-of-a-kind showpiece entitled "THE FOUNTAINHEAD" at the CRYSTALLIZED™ Platform at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York, USA.		Silverlens Art Gallery, Manila launches the "emerging artist"-series with <i>Bedtime Stories</i> by BEAVALDES' sculptural concept pieces. Her fully- beaded taxidermy animals were photographed by renowned photographer Neil Oshima and will be on display from November to December 2008.
	For a fourth year in a row, Swarovski Elements handpicks Bea Valdes to represent Asian Design and commissions the Filipino designer to create a fifth hero-piece to launch at their jewelry platform at Asia's Fashion Jewelry &		Iconic Japanese designer Hiroko Koshino collaborates with Bea Valdes for her Spring/Summer 2011 collection shown at the CITE DE L'ARCHITECTURE ET DU PATRIMOINE, Paris, France. The exhibit welcomed over 1,000 guests and over 400 international press correspondents.		For a second year in a row, celebrated accessories designer, BEA VALDES invited by CRYSTALLIZED™ - Swarovski Elements to create a hero-piece, that will be showcased exclusively at CRYSTALLIZED™ - Swarovski Elements Jewelry Platform at Asia's Fashion Jewelry and Accessories Fair in Hong Kong.		In celebration of its 25 years, Department of Trade and Industry along with Manila F.A.M.E. shall acknowledge Filipino fashion designer, BEAVALDES who has earned global recognition for the Philippines. The Special Showcase shall focus on the designer's work as a tribute to Filipino fashion designers who have earned global recognition for the Philippines.
							First ever recipient of "The Pearl of the Orient Award" by the Rotary Club of the Philippines. This honor recognizes distinguished individuals who have given pride and honor to the Philippines.

Chosen to represent Asian Designers in Swarovski's CRYSTALLIZED™ COSMOS project launch in Hong Kong and in Bijorca, Eclat in Paris for Spring/Summer 2009. Swarovski commissioned a one-of-a-kind showpiece by the Designer that would be showcased at the event.

International fashion show launch in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Manila-born designer, Bea Valdes, took centre stage during an exclusive by-invitation only fashion show held in her honor; marking the BEAVALDES brand's first official foray into the UAE.

Reuters International feature chronicling the designer's success at marketing her crystal- encrusted up-scale bags to New York icons and Hollywood Celebrities.

BEAVALDES lends her support to Bravo Filipino! a celebration of the Filipino's innate ability to create and embrace art and music of world-class caliber.

BEAVALDES as part of Go Negosyo: Joey Concepcion's 50 Inspiring Stories of Entrepreneurs (Celebrity Edition). The book is a collection of portraits of 50 of the country's top icons in their respective industries who embody "The Entrepreneurial Spirit".

First ever haute couture fashion show in Manila in collaboration with the Philippine's premiere designer, Inno Sotto.

Part of Marie Claire Magazine's "10 Women of the World for 2007" in recognition of the designer's international success and outstanding contribution to the Philippine Fashion Industry.

BEAVALDES Newsweek International Feature entitled *HANDBAG HEAVEN*.

Chosen to represent Asian Designers in Swarovski's CRYSTALLIZED™ COSMOS project launch in Hong Kong and in Bijorca, Eclat in Paris for Fall/Winter 2008. Swarovski commissioned a one-of-a-kind showpiece by the Designer that would be showcased at the event.

2006 Chosen as Lead Design Consultant for the Accessories Division of the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM) with the Department of Trade and Industry of the Philippines.

Received the KATHA Award for Creative Excellence in the Accessories Division April 2006, MANILA FAME AWARDS.

2005 BEAVALDES necklace collection launched and featured in the December issue of American Vogue of the same year.

BEAVALDES becomes an official member of Accessories Council of America.

BEAVALDES bags launched in the USA and immediately featured in American Vogue and dubbed "This years must-have evening bags."

2004 Launch of first couture handbag collection at Firma, Manila.

EDUCATION

1995 The Inchbald School of Design, London, United Kingdom
Master's Certificate in Interior Design

1994 University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
College of Arts and Letters: English - Creative Writing
College of Fine Arts: Industrial Design





ABOUT SILVERLENS

Through its artist representation, institutional collaborations, art consultancy, and exhibition programming including art fairs and gallery partnerships, **SILVERLENS** aims to place its artists within the broader framework of the contemporary art dialogue. Its continuing efforts to transcend borders across art communities in Asia have earned it recognition from both artists and collectors as one of the leading contemporary art galleries in Southeast Asia. **SILVERLENS** was founded by Isa Lorenzo and Rachel Rillo in 2004.