The artwork is a dark, textured composition. The top half features a large, multi-colored rainbow arching across the frame. Below the rainbow is a layer of white, fluffy clouds. The bottom half of the image shows a dark, choppy sea with a small, dark boat visible on the left side. The overall texture is grainy and layered, suggesting a material like paper or fabric that has been treated or painted. The title and author's name are printed in white, serif, all-caps font across the middle of the image.

*GLASS HORIZON*

GREGORY HALILI

**SILVERLENS**

*GLASS HORIZON* — GREGORY HALILI

5 to 23 December 2020



Once, on a visit to his home, I noticed an interesting contrast between Gregory Halili's two separate working spaces. The first one, on the lower level, is on a little corner at the back and partially outdoors. There are power tools, stacks of boxes, bottled chemicals, working gloves and goggles that suggest heavy manual work, along with, one could imagine, the corresponding dust, odors and noise that come with such implements. Indeed, this is the area where Greg cuts and grinds down various capiz shells and mother of pearl pieces, as he prepares them to be later used for his paintings.

Then there's the other space; up a flight of stairs and amongst the bedrooms. Well-lit and airy, the room is filled with books and interesting collectibles and could easily be mistaken for an anthropologist's study if not for the abundance of triple zero brushes on the work table. Here, I became acquainted with Greg's older pieces, saw various works in progress, and more importantly, had the chance to actually hold one of his capiz shell paintings by hand. As someone who thinks a lot about how exhibitions are put together in a space, I couldn't help but wonder if this intimate experience can somehow be recreated in a gallery setting: being able to hold the work up close, to hold it against a the light (*for those who remember, it's almost like looking at slide films*) allowed me to perceive all the subtle changes, the world of details that recede and emerge when varying the angles of viewing. Then again, this rare chance also confirmed just how delicate the pieces are; a heavy or unmindful hand may easily drop or snap it to pieces.

I find myself returning to the memory of these rooms as I prepare this text for Gregory Halili's show, *Glass Horizon*. With the workshop

below, I caught a glimpse of the amount of hidden or perhaps, imbedded labor that may not be so obvious in Greg's finished pieces. And while the room above provided insight into his thinking and painting process, it also highlighted the significance of the tiniest little marks and gestures that he, again, labors to encode into each work.

The 11 pieces currently on display at Silverlens Gallery are from a new series of works that Halili has chosen to paint on capiz shells rendered so thin and delicate, with edges frayed like handmade paper, brittle like wafer-thin crisps ready to break. They were conceived and made in the recent months, bookended by the eruption of Taal Volcano and the still raging health crisis. Of this period, the artist writes: "*Our world is in a state of fragility. We are in a time when all seems to be in chaos and in decline. A time of pandemic and political wars. A time of climate change and nature's steady decimation. A time when all is on the brink of collapse.*" Echoing themes from the idyll to nature morte, the paintings evoke a kind of inert silence and weight that belie their scale and materiality. Again, in his words: "*My aim is not to capture destruction or decline but evoke a melancholy reminder of our fragile existence. These new paintings on capiz shells, a type of shell that is deeply connected in Philippine culture, are thinned down to through many processes to the point of breaking. Through this fragile material, the paintings resonate glass-like surfaces, reminiscent of old daguerreotype photographs, which captures an ethereal memory and delicate state of fragility. These paintings also offer hope about nature and our existence, a portrait of the possibility of creation and restoration.*"

- Gary-Ross Pastrana



*A Moment's Afire*, 2020

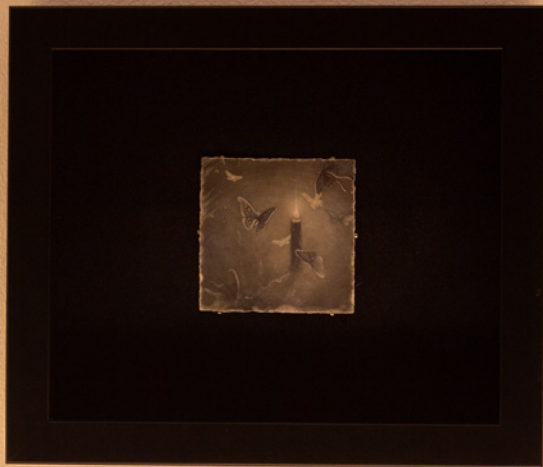
oil on capiz shell

2.56h x 2.56w in • 6.50h x 6.50w cm

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*After Anselm Kiefer (star/skeleton), 2020*

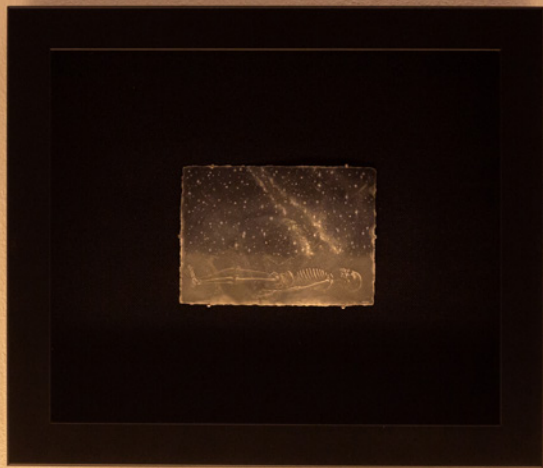
oil on capiz shell

2.36h x 3.25w in • 6h x 8.25w cm

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[book an appointment](#)





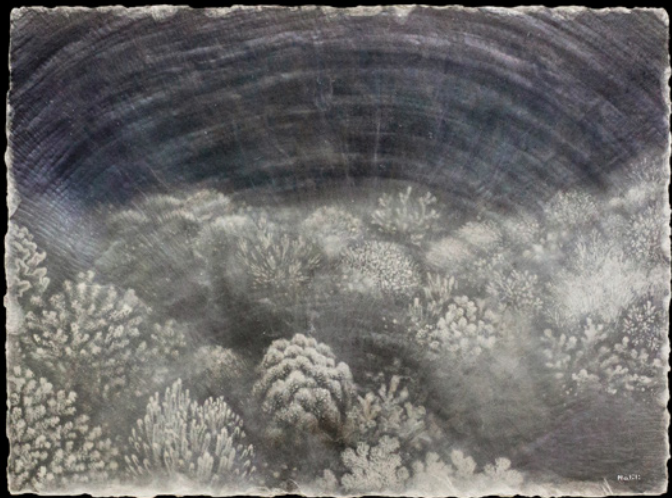
*Deep End II*, 2020

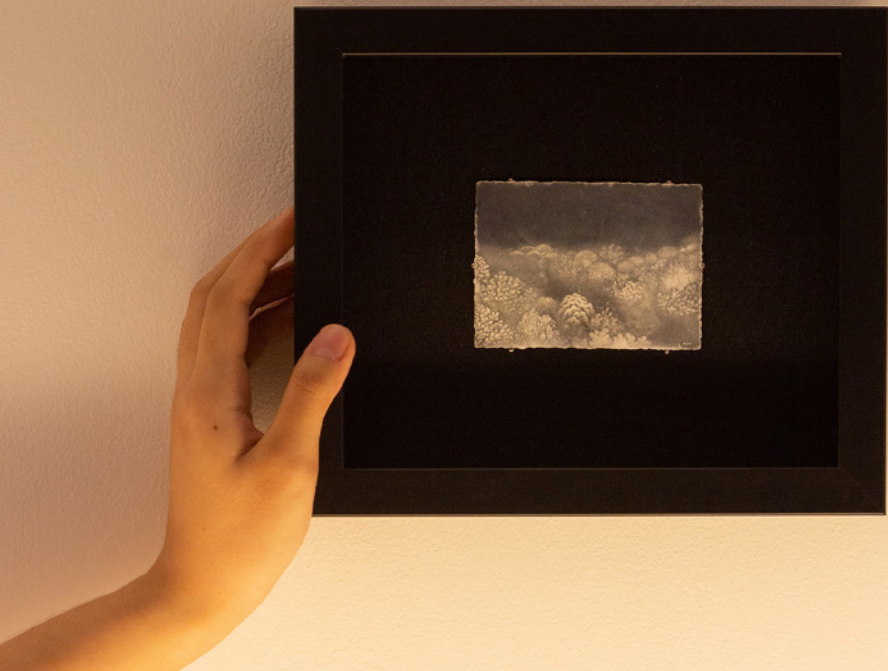
oil on capiz shell

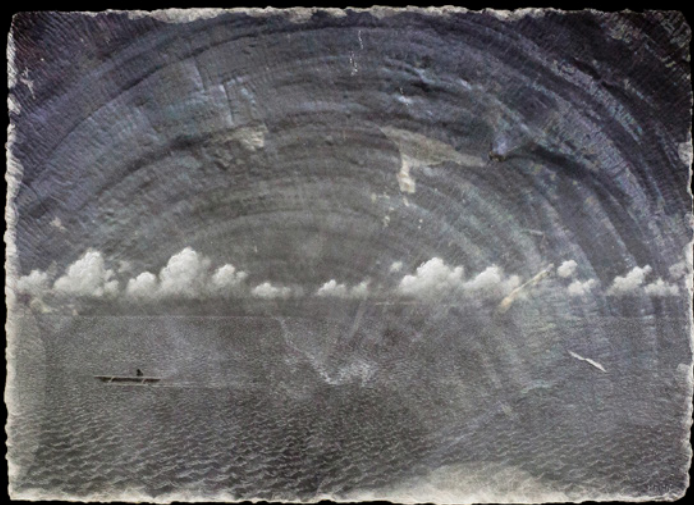
2.50h x 3.50w in • 6.35h x 8.89w cm

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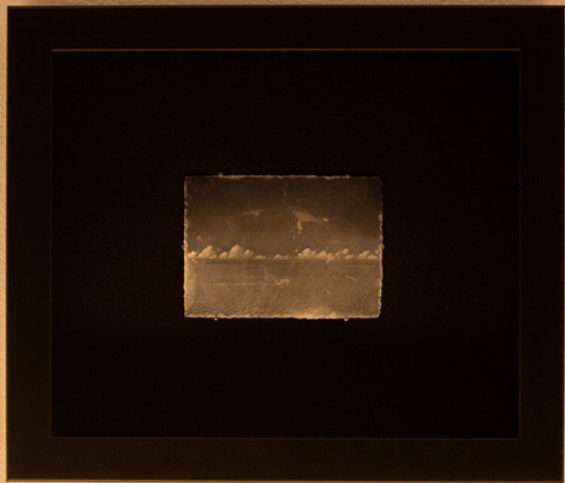
*Following the Equator*, 2020

oil on capiz shell

2.25h x 3.50w in • 5.71h x 8.89w cm

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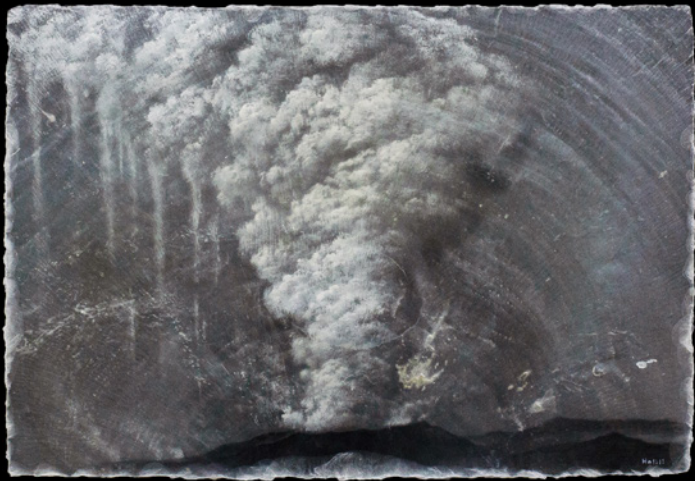
*Cruz*, 2020

oil and volcanic ash on capiz shell

2.60h x 3.70w in • 6.60h x 9.40w cm

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*Gaia*, 2020

oil on capiz shell

2.13h x 3.98w in • 5.40h x 10.10w cm

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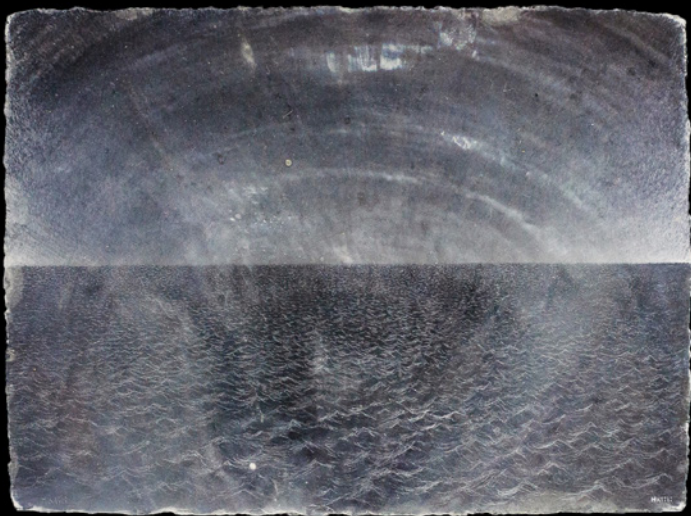
*Endless Sea*, 2019

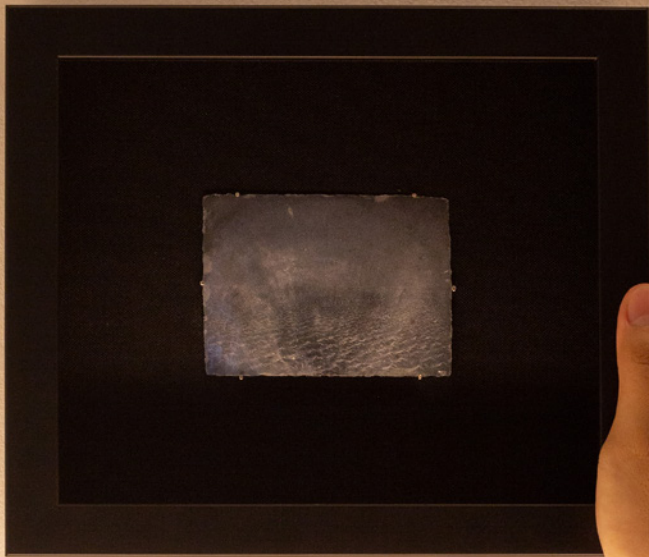
oil on capiz shell

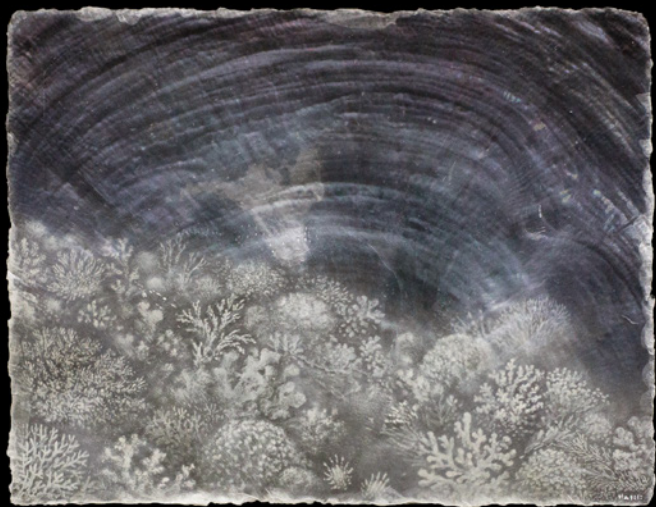
2.50h x 3.50w in • 6.35h x 8.89w cm

[inquire](#)

[book an appointment](#)







*Deep End*, 2020

oil on capiz shell

2.56h x 3.25w in • 6.50h x 8.25w cm

[inquire](#)

[book an appointment](#)



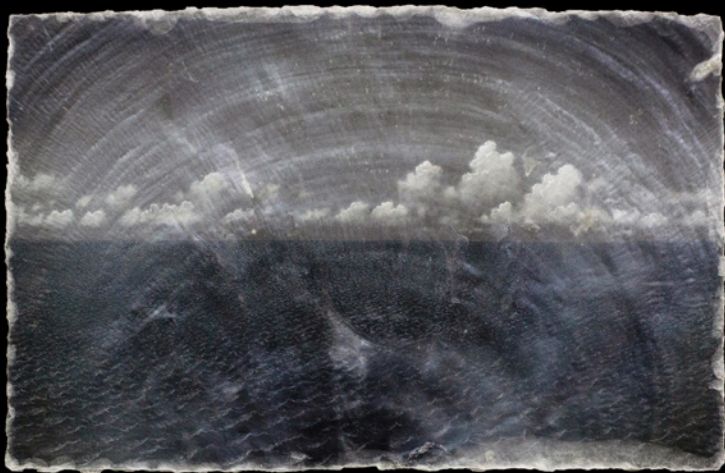
*Way Home*, 2020

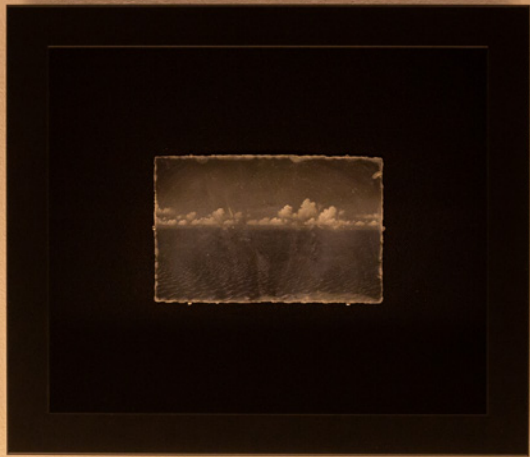
oil on capiz shell

2.52h x 3.94w in • 6.40h x 10w cm

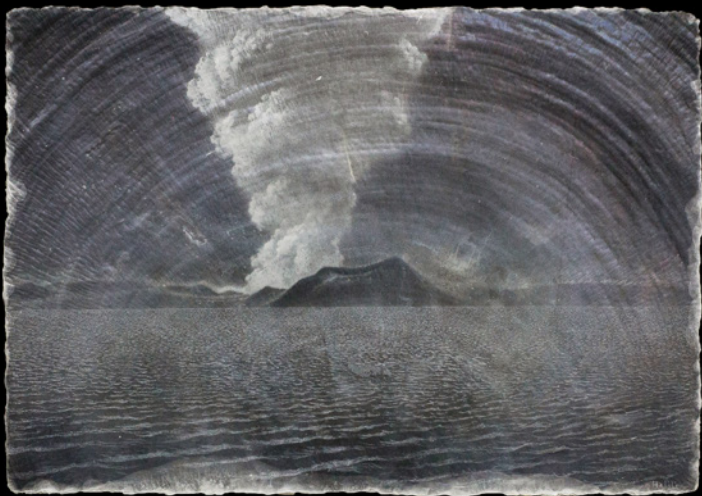
[inquire](#)

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*Taal Volcano, 2020*

oil on capiz shell

2.30h x 3.30w in • 5.84h x 8.38w cm

[inquire](#)

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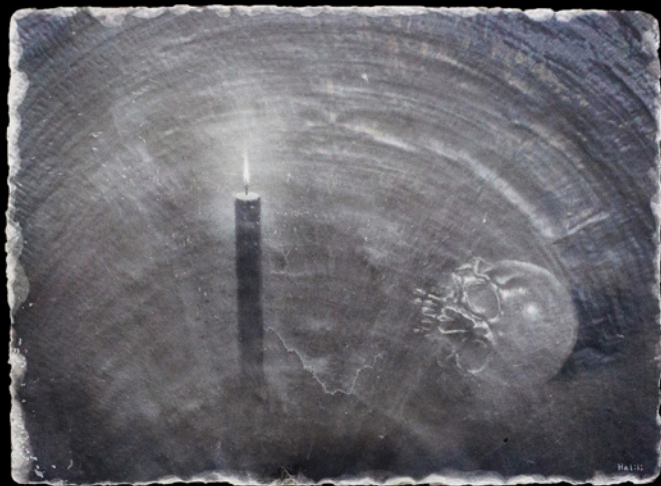
*Ghost*, 2020

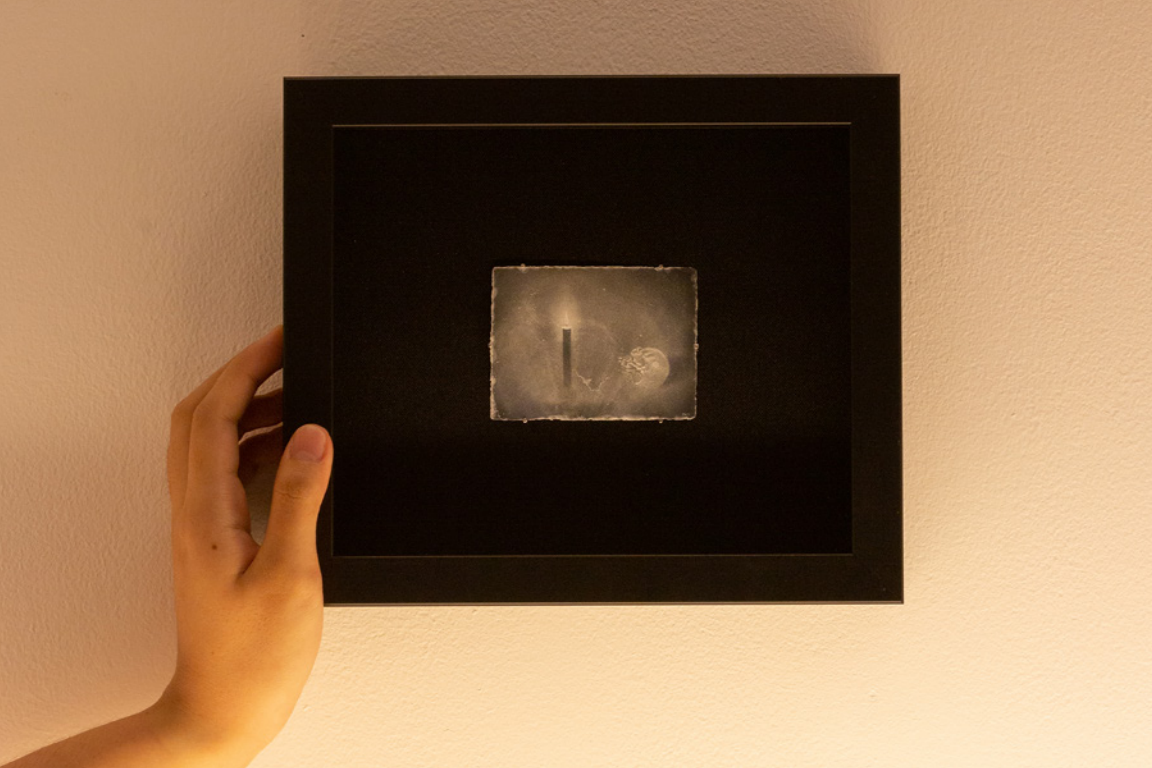
oil on capiz shell

2.25h x 3w in • 5.71h x 7.62w cm

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# SILVERLENS

[www.silverlensgalleries.com](http://www.silverlensgalleries.com)

## GREGORY HALILI BIO

Gregory Halili (b. 1975, lives and works in Manila) carves and paints mother-of-pearl shells, creating memento moris. Halili received his B.F.A. from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. He returned to the Philippines in 2013 after 25 years in the United States. Halili's work focuses on the art of miniatures with interest in the notion and idea of memory, life, death, and cycle.

His work has appeared in numerous exhibitions and shows, including the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Wisconsin; The Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio; The Hammond Museum and Sculpture Garden in Salem, New York; Ayala Museum in Makati City; Jorge B. Vargas Museum at the University of the Philippines in Quezon City; West Gallery in Quezon City; Silverlens in Makati City and Nancy Hoffman gallery in New York City. In 2016, Halili was one of the Filipino artists who presented in the Singapore Biennale.



## GREGORY HALILI BIO

b. 1975, Manila, PH



*A Moment's Afire, 2020*

### AWARDS

- 1998 Millennium of Philippine Art, Outstanding Young Filipino-American Artist  
United Nations Postal Administration, design for 21-cent stamp
- 1994 Art Institute of New Jersey, Outstanding Visual Artist  
"Trenton Times" (New Jersey), All Academic Team
- 1993 Governor's School of the Arts Scholar (New Jersey)  
Who's Who Among American Students
- 1991 AAA Nationwide Poster Contest, First Place
- 1990 NASA Mars Settlement Contest, Honorable Mention
- 1989 Citibank Calendar Contest, First Place

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 *Glass Horizon*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2017 *SaLang #5: Phenomenon*, Project Space Pilipinas, Lucban, Quezon  
*Echo*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2015 *Memento*, Silverlens, Singapore
- 2014 *Memento*, Silverlens, Manila  
*Memento*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- 2013 *Reflections*, West Gallery, Manila
- 2012 *LOVE and LOSS*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2011 *In Search of Paradise*, West Gallery, Manila,
- 2010 *Still Life*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia
- 2007 *Orchids*, West Gallery, Manila
- 2006 *Moment of Sanctuary*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*Relicarios*, Jorge B.Vargas Museum, University of the Philippines,  
Diliman, Manila
- 2005 *Relicarios*, Ayala Museum, Manila  
*Homage to the People of the Philippine Cordilleras - II*, West Gallery, Manila
- 2004 *Orchids*, Project Space, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*Homage to the People of the Philippine Cordilleras*, Artists' House Gallery,  
Philadelphia  
*Homage to the People of the Philippine Cordilleras*, West Gallery,  
Manila  
*The Butterfly Collection*, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin
- 2003 *After Amorsolo*, Jorge B.Vargas Museum, University of the Philippines, Manila  
*Butterfly Collection: Bamboo Series*, West Gallery, Manila  
*Conversation in Contemplation*, Project Space, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*Conversation in Contemplation*, Jorge B. Vargas Museum, University of the  
Philippines, Diliman, Manila  
*Watercolors in Miniature*, South Brunswick Public Library, Monmouth Junction,  
New Jersey
- 2002 *The Butterfly Collection*, The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio  
*Nostalgia*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*Nostalgia II*, West Gallery, Manila  
*Miniatures*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia



## GREGORY HALILI BIO

- 2000 *Miniatures*, West Gallery, Manila
- 1999 *Butterfly Collection*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*Miniatures*, Consulate General of the Philippines, New York
- 1998 West Gallery, Manila  
Project Space, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *S.E.A. Focus*, Silverlens, Singapore
- 2020 *Placuna Placenta*, National Museum of the Philippines, Manila  
*Anticipating the Day*, Silverlens, Manila  
*Searching Sanctuary*, Silverlens, Manila  
*Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2019 *The Circle*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*WXXX*, West Gallery, Manila  
*EXPO Chicago*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, Chicago  
*Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila  
*Taipei Dangdai*, Silverlens, Taipei
- 2018 *Re:View 2018*, BenCab Museum, Baguio  
*Art Miami*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, Miami  
*16.52 SQM Open Sea*, Galerie Ora-Ora, Hong Kong  
*SaLang*, West Gallery, Manila  
*Countercurrents*, Silverlens, Manila  
*Art Basel*, Silverlens, Hong Kong  
*Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2017 *Curated by Federico de Vera*, Ayala Museum, Manila  
*DARK AND STORMY NIGHT: Gothic Influence in Contemporary Art*, Lehman College Art Gallery, New York.  
*ArtStage Jakarta*, Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Shared Coordinates*, in collaboration with Edouard Malingue Gallery & ROH Projects, The Arts House, Singapore  
*Translación*, Inaugural Exhibition, Curated by Gary-Ross Pastrana, Silverlens, Manila
- 2016 *Singapore Biennale: An Atlas of Mirrors*, Singapore  
*Tiny Treasures*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2015 *Bazaar Art Jakarta*, Silverlens, Indonesia  
*HEY! Modern Art & Pop Culture/Act III*, La Halle Saint Pierre, Paris  
*Miniatures: Small Contemporary Works*, University of Wyoming Art Museum, Wyoming  
*In the Pink*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*Art Basel*, Silverlens, Hong Kong  
*Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2014 *Art Taipei 2014*, Silverlens, Taipei  
*Triumph*, Ayala Museum, Manila  
*Summer*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York

## GREGORY HALILI BIO

- Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2013 *Winter Blues*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*Forty Years*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*Triumph of Philippine Art*, Montclair State University, New Jersey  
*Triumph of Philippine Art*, Fisher Museum of Art, University of Southern California  
*Theory and Practice of the Small Painting*, Equator Art Projects, Singapore
- 2012 *Women: By, Of, About*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- 2011 *Project Space: Black and White*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*Celebration of Music*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia  
*All That Glitters*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- 2010 *REAL(ist)*, Selby Gallery, John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, Florida
- 2009 *Back to Cezanne*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia  
*Art of the Still Life*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia
- 2008 Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia
- 2007 *Flying the Coop*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*Through the Palette's Eye*, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Manila  
*New York - Manila - New York*, Ayala Museum, Manila
- 2006 *Drawing the Line*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*Visage*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*Circles*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*Small Works*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia
- 2005 *2005 Collector's Show*, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock  
*Small Scale*, West Gallery, Manila, Philippines
- 2004 *Celestial Boundaries*, Montclair State University, New Jersey  
*Miniature Portraits*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia
- 2003 *Landscape: Unique Views*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*Waterscape*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- 2002 *Celebrating 30 Years*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*Small Scale*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*Summer*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*Small Works Exhibit*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia  
*The Miniature Show*, Graystone, San Francisco  
*Collector's Show*, The Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock  
*Winter Orchidarium*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- 2001 *Celebration of Art*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia  
*I Love New York*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*Living Minutiae*, Selby Gallery, John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, Florida  
*Many Moons*, Hammond Museum and Japanese Stroll Garden, Salem, New York  
*Object of Desire II*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York  
*Re-Presenting Representation IV*, Arnot Art Museum, Elmira, New York
- 2000 *Celebration of Music*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia
- 1999 *Gateways*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York

## GREGORY HALILI BIO

*American Realism*, M.A. Doran Gallery, Tulsa, Oklahoma

*Magic of Venice*, Qualita Fine Arts, Las Vegas Nevada

*Object of Desire*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York

*Summer Light*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York

1998 *Collector's Show*, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock

*64th Annual International Exhibition*, Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers Society of Washington, D.C., North Bethesda, Maryland

1997 *Small Works*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia

1996 *Collector's Show*, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock

Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia

*Small Scale*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York

*Summer Pleasures*, Summer Treasures, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York

### CURATED SHOWS

2020 *Searching Sanctuary*, Silverlens, Manila

### EDUCATION

1998 B.F.A., University of the Arts, Philadelphia

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*GLASS HORIZON* — GREGORY HALILI

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5 to 23 December 2020

**GREGORY HALILI**

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**GARY-ROSS PASTRANA**

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