



UGAT

RAFFY T. NAPAY

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***Ugat* by Raffy T. Napay**

by Anna M. Rosete

Raffy T. Napay gathers thread and textiles before he starts on his work. By hand, he makes his own spools of thread, creating unique combinations of color. The thread and textiles' colors, textures and patterns offer him a springboard from which to create the artwork. For the artist, the process is a stream of consciousness flow where materials, subject, and personal experience come together to make up the work.





Originally a painter, Napay engages in a tedious process, using threads that are combined and twisted together to express foliage, roots and flora, just as a painter employs brush strokes on a canvas. He breaks away from the dictated patterns of his chosen textiles by cutting each piece that will be part of his work, committing them to canvas by running them through a sewing machine, part of his process that is akin to collage. He then pierces his canvas with thread and needle, sometimes punctuating these marks in tassel-like “knots,” creating a confluence of texture and color. Ultimately, he renders a forest that is symbolic of all people, the experiences, joys, set backs and blessings that come their way.

Raffy T. Napay installing at
SILVERLENS Galleries



BUHAY, 2018
thread, acrylic, textile cloth
96h x 516w in
243.84h x 1310.64w cm



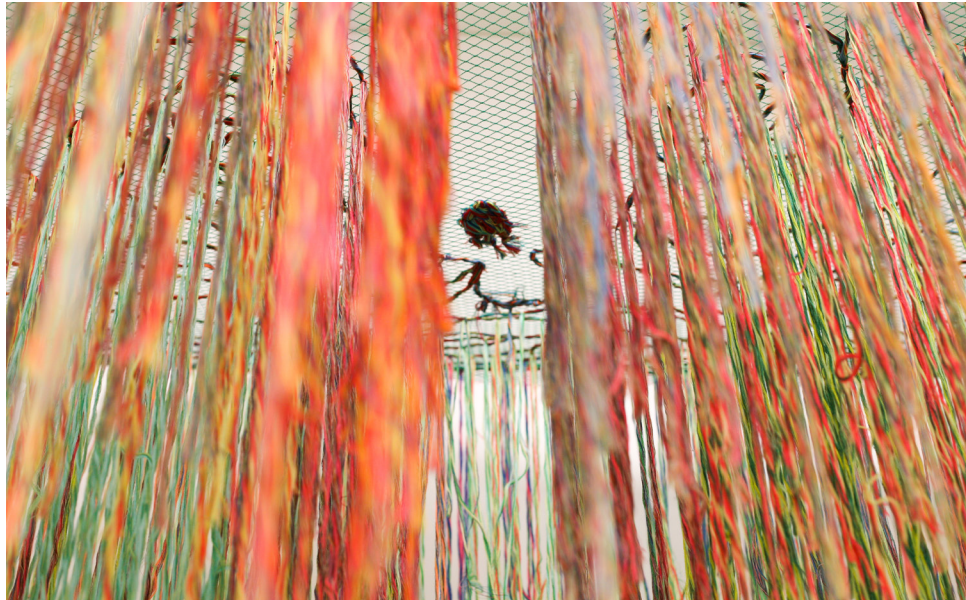


In Ugat, the artist continues his interest in nature, first rigorously explored in his Liverpool residency. He uses ugat (Filipino word for root or vein) as a metaphor for humankind's interconnectedness, owing to people's shared experiences, articulating the fact that no matter where people in the world are situated, their personal experiences enable them to take part in a common process of growth and evolution.





BUHAY, 2017
thread, nylon net
dimensions variable





L-R:

SEWING MACHINE AND I (FIELD), 2017
thread on denim fabric
12.25h x 470.50w in
31.11h x 1195.07w cm

SEWING MACHINE AND I (SEA), 2017
thread on denim fabric
12.25h x 470.50w in
31.11h x 1195.07w cm



GROUND, 2017
thread on acrylic glass
42.90h x 54.50w x 3.25d in
108.97h x 138.43w x 8.26d cm

RAFFY T. NAPAY

Bio

Raffy T. Napay (b. 1986) graduated from Eulogio Amang Rodriguez of Science and Technology (EARIST) in 2009 with a Fine Arts degree. Whilst in school, he started gaining recognition for his skill. He was one of ten finalists in the Philippine Art Awards in the national capital region in 2007, 2009 and 2011. In 2008, he won the Metrobank Art & Design Excellence Award. In 2008, 2012 and 2014, he was awarded the Juror's Choice Award of Excellence at the Philip Morris Philippine Art Awards on the national level, considered by many as a staggering achievement.

Napay originally used oil paints, until he developed an adverse allergy to the medium. Whilst recovering, he explored the potential of other materials, and explored working with the available threads and textiles at home. Growing up with a seamstress mother, Napay was exposed to a wide variety of threads, cotton and fabrics and these materials gave him a strong ground into a different world of creativity. The artist realized the creative process, was quite similar - from early conceptualization to finishing touches on an artwork. His threaded works demanded just as much time and attention to detail as paintings. Now equipped with a needle for a brush, thread and fabric as his paint, the artist approaches his canvas as he would a painting. His composition stays true whilst playing with shadow and light, in effect transcending any intuitive boundary between painting and creating a tapestry.

In 2013, Napay was awarded the prestigious Ateneo Art Award, emerging as winner in the Contemporary Artists category, besting artists from all over the Philippines.

Napay's early works are whole yet intrinsically personal, drawing inspiration from his family, surroundings and experiences. The award granted Napay two artist-in-residence programmes at both Liverpool Hope University in the United Kingdom, and at Artesan Gallery + Studio in Singapore. He has held five solo exhibitions since., including a solo presentation at Art Stage Singapore with Artesan Gallery in January 2015, and a solo exhibition entitled Sanctuary at the Ateneo Art Gallery in August. In October 2015, Napay won first prize in the much coveted Il Lorenzo Magnifico art awards at the 10th Florence Biennale in Italy.

AWARDS

- 2015 1st Prize Lorenzo il Magnifico, Florence Biennale. Florence, Italy
- 2014 Juror's Choice Award of Excellence, Philippine Art Awards (National)
1 of 10 Finalist, Philippine Art Awards (NCR)
- 2013 Winner, Ateneo Art Awards 2013
Shortlisted (1 of 12 finalist), Ateneo Art Awards 2013
- 2012 Juror's Choice Award of Excellence, Philippine Art Awards (National)
- 2011 1 of 10 Finalist, Philippine Art Awards (NCR)
- 2009 1 of 10 Finalist, Philippine Art Awards (NCR)
Recipient, EARIST Special Citation and Special Awards for the Arts
Finalist, 23rd PLDT telephone Directory Cover Visual Art Competition
- 2008 Juror's Choice Award of Excellence, Philippine Art Awards (National)
Grand Prize, Metrobank Art and Design Excellence
Grand Prize, ManingningMiclat Art Foundation, Inc.
Grand Prize, 6th FEU Inter-University On-the-spot Art Competition
1st Honorable Mention, 41st Shell National Student Art Competition
Finalist, 41st Shell National Student Art Competition
Finalist, Figurative Painting Competition (Big and Small Art Co.)
2nd Place, Philippine Heart Center Painting Competition
3rd Place, 2nd AUP Inter School on the Spot Painting Contest
- 2007 1 of 10 Finalist, Philippine Art Awards (NCR)
Grand Prize, Artpetron National student Art Competition (Oil/Acrylic Category)
1st Honorable Mention, 40th Shell National Student Art Competition
Finalist, 40th Shell National Student Art Competition (Oil/Acrylic Category)
Honorable Mention, UST Inter-University On-the-spot Painting Competition
Honorable Mention, FEU Inter-University On the spot Painting Competition
- 2006 Grand Prize, Jazz Up your Shirt and Denim IP Philippines and Levi's
Finalist, 39th Shell National Student Art Competition (Oil/Acrylic)
Semi-Finalist, 6th Artpetron National Student Art Competition (Water Color)
Recipient, EARIST Special Citation and Special Awards for the Arts
- 2005 2nd Place, EARIST On-the-spot Painting Contest
3rd Place, TNK katuparan On-the-spot painting Competition

RESIDENCIES

- 2014 Liverpool Hope University's Department of Fine Arts and Applied Arts, United Kingdom
- 2013 Artesan Gallery, Singapore

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 *Ugat*, Silverlens, Manila

- 2017 **Bukid**, West Gallery, Manila
Pugad, 57th Venice Biennale 2017, Palazzo Mora, Venice, Italy
- 2016 **Extant**, The Solo Projects 2016, Basel, Switzerland
Unbroken, Special exhibition, Art Fair Philippines 2016, Makati City
- 2015 **See & Silence**, Artist Space Ayala Museum, Makati City
Sanctuary, Ateneo De Manila University, Quezon City
Sacred Thread, Art Stage Singapore, Singapore
- 2014 **Lifeline**, West Gallery, Quezon City
Light, Art Informal, Mangaluyong City
Hope Springs, Liverpool Hope University Creative Campus, Great Hall United Kingdom
 Finalist, 39th Shell National Student Art Competition (Oil/Acrylic)
 Semi-Finalist, 6th Artpetron National Student Art Competition (Water Color)
 Recipient, EARIST Special Citation and Special Awards for the Arts
- 2005 2nd Place, EARIST On-the-spot Painting Contest
 3rd Place, TNK katuparan On-the-spot painting Competition

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 **RE:VIEW**, BenCab Museum, Baguio City
Pinto: Manhattan Manila, Urban Zen, New York City, New York, USA
Art Fair Philippines, Silverlens, Manila
Art Fair Philippines, West Gallery, Manila
- 2016 **Common Thread**, Drawing Room, Makati City
- 2015 **URBANO**, Florence Biennale, Florence, Italy
- 2014 **TEN**, The Cornerstone Gallery, Liverpool Hope University, United Kingdom
RE:VIEW 2014, BenCab Museum, Baguio City
Mona Lisa Project, West Gallery, Solaire Hotel, Pasay City
- 2013 **Marking time, Ateneo Art Awards**, Exhibition Wing Ateneo Art Gallery
Marking time, Ateneo Art Awards, Grand Atrium, Shangri La Plaza
The Monalisa Project, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Manila
- 2012 **27th Asian International Art Exhibition (AIAE)**, - Rajchadamnesn Contemporary Art Center, Bangkok, Thailand
RE:VIEW 2012, BenCab Museum, Baguio City
ALAY 15, Boston Gallery, Cubao Quezon City
Art for a Cause, - Art Verite, Serendra Art Space, Taguig City
No Where To Run, Lights and Space, Quezon City
Retrato, Pinto Art Museum, Antipolo City
MADE-NOW, Le Pavillion, Pasay City
Sekretong Usapan sa Madilimna Area, CSCVA, P.Tuazon Quezon City
Night and Day, Art Verite, Serendra Art Space, Taguig City

- 2011 **RE:VIEW 2011**, BenCab Museum, Baguio City
14plus, Art for a Cause, Art Verite, Serendra Art Space, Taguig City
- 2010 **MADE-NOW**, Blanc Gallery, Peninsula Manila, Makati City
12 x 9, West Gallery, Quezon City
- 2009 **Wild**, Big and Small Art Co., Mandaluyong City
Philippine Art Awards, National Museum of the Philippines, Manila
- 2008 **Philippine Art Awards**, National Museum of the Philippines, Manila
41st Shell National student Art Competition, Ayala Musuem, Makati City
Metrobank Art and Design Excellence, Le Pavilion, Pasay City
Philippine Art Awards, National Museum of the Philippines, Manila
7th Art Petron, Petron Mega Plaza, Makati City
40th Shell National student Art Competition, Ayala Museum, Makati City

EDUCATION

- Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts, Advertising
 Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology (EARIST)



SILVERLENS

SILVERLENS (Manila), Through its artist representation, institutional collaborations, 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.