



painting

palettes

palette

paintings

elaine navas

ELAINE NAVAS

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painting palettes / palette paintings II
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Elaine Navas' *Painting Palettes / Palette Paintings II* bares the liminal phases of a painter's process --- unconscious pauses during the work's production phase prior to its release to the public. With palettes as evidence of this threshold, these artefactual objects from friends are unwitting witnesses to each individual's triumph, frustration, compulsion, and quotidian routines that are usually kept in secret in their intimate studio spaces. These palettes are abstracted visual chronicles to creative undertaking, with every stroke and erasure, every mixture and segregation of pigment archived on these surfaces – unique and specific for every piece created. The form, material and shape it takes also speak fondly and intuitively of the artist that utilizes it.

One becomes privy to the juxtaposition of the palettes with Navas' paintings in the exhibition. Although indirectly, as the palettes are set at differing corners, the works speak constantly to the paintings --- similar to an ongoing dialogue that the artist herself would have with colleagues and friends from whom the objects belong to. Much like an archeological endeavor, each piece tries to create faithful representations in order to reveal the personas and idiosyncrasies hidden beneath the hardened pigments on the surface. Distinct color schemes, strokes and idiosyncratic practices of the artists who have used the palettes, as well as the undeniable connection between the maker and the materials that surrounds him/her in producing a work come to fore. Levels of transference are applied --- from framing the objects themselves to turning them into dedicated portraits formed through her recognizable impasto technique.

This interest in these "unsung heroes" sparked from a talk with the artist's professor, mentor and confidant, the late Roberto Chabet. He told Navas of a dream where he envisioned her

creating paintings of palettes. Then began the artist's process of collecting from colleagues whose works had appealed to her, which was then sorted out, imitated and exhibited. This also brought up conversations, as an object that is often unmentioned and undeclared is now seen. The term "unsung heroes" came from an exchange between Navas and fellow painter Robert Langenegger. It acknowledges the value of an overlooked object despite its being crucial to the production of the works that one puts out in the public.

Palettes are rarely alluded to, as they are mundane things that are merely used and later on cleaned for the next series. Even the act of cleaning and rendering it anew with every work utters the transience of the markings and traces set on its surface, never again repeated no matter the similarity in range of hues or type of paint utilized. Each palette remains unmatched with every cleanse, however at the same time always leaving hints from its possessor --- making it as individual as the painter himself/herself.

In viewing a painting about using paint, through the lens of the palette, the separations that usually persist disappear as process turns into output, the object into subject, and the personal into public. This blurring made visible through Navas' own interpretation manifests it a life of its own, yet at the same time reinforcing the connections that it had from its creator. To exhibit the palette, that is ultimately at the core of the creative processes that yield one's paintings, is to commemorate the practice of painting itself, the person behind the canvas, and the freedoms and tensions that come with producing pieces. It is to prompt notice to and honor the unseen practices and invisible labors that bring out the art works that one is left to admire and appreciate.



Ariel, 2018
oil on canvas
72h x 48w in
(182.88h x 121.92w cm)



Ariel
artist's palette
18.50h x 14w in
(46.99h x 35.56w cm)



Jan, 2018
oil on canvas
48h x 48w in
(121.92h x 121.92w cm)



Jan
artist's palette
18.50h x 18.50w in
(46.99h x 46.99w cm)



painting palettes /
palette paintings II

John, 2018
oil on canvas
48h x 72w in
(121.92h x 182.88w cm)



John
artist's palette
20.50h x 17.50w in
(52.07h x 44.45w cm)



Manuel, 2018
oil on canvas
84h x 60w in
(213.36h x 152.40w cm)



Manuel
artist's palette
19.25h x 14.50w in
(48.90h x 36.83w cm)

elaine navas



Malang, 2018
oil on canvas
96h x 60w in
(243.84h x 152.40w cm)
diptych



Malang
artist's palette
14.37h x 19.96w in
(36.50h x 50.70w cm)



Pam, 2018
oil on canvas
60h x 48w in
(152.40h x 121.92w cm)



Pam
artist's palette
16h x 11w in
(40.64h x 27.94w cm)





Patty, 2018
oil on canvas
60h x 48w in
(152.40h x 121.92w cm)



Yasmin, 2018
oil on canvas
96h x 72w in
(243.84h x 182.88w cm)
diptych



Yasmin
artist's palette
11.61h x 15.35w in
(29.50h x 39w cm)



elaine navas

Elaine Navas (b. 1964) completed Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the Ateneo de Manila University in 1985 prior to taking up her second degree from University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts, graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts majoring in Painting in 1991. Navas was the recipient of Honorable Mention (2004, 2002) from Philip Morris Singapore Art Awards, Honorable Mention (1995) from Philip Morris Philippine Art Awards, and Juror's Choice (1995, 1994) from the Art Association of the Philippines.

AWARDS

2004 & 2002 Philip Morris, Singapore Art Awards, Honorable Mention, Singapore
 1995 Philip Morris, Philippine Art Awards, Honorable Mention, Manila
 1995 & 1994 Art Association of the Philippines, Art Awards, Juror's Choice, Manila

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2018 Door to Door, West Gallery, Manila
 Painting Palette/Palette Paintings, Silverlens, Manila
 The Distance Along The String, Art Informal, Manila
 2017 Nothing Moves Itself, Art Informal, Manila
 2016 Salt Water, Silverlens, Manila
 2015 Flower Arrangements, West Gallery, Manila
 2014 After Sir, Finale Art File, Manila
 Painting Palettes/Palette Paintings, Mo_Space, Manila
 2013 Exit This Way, Manila Contemporary, Manila
 2012 Interiors, West Gallery, Manila
 Innate, Mo_Space, Manila
 2011 Skyscapes, West Gallery, Manila
 2010 Wet Paintings, Silverlens, Manila
 2009 Edible Paintings, Utterly Art, Singapore
 Drawn Paintings, Mo_Space, Manila
 2008 Standing Room Only, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur
 Garage Sale, Finale Art File, Manila
 2007 Gated3, Finale Art File, Manila
 2006 Artifacts, Finale Art File, Manila
 Plastic, Utterly Art, Singapore
 2004 About Face 2, Finale Art File, Manila
 Gated, Substation, Singapore
 2001 Landscapes, Finale Art File, Manila
 Wallflowers, West Gallery, Manila
 2000 Bear Essentials, Artfolio Space, Singapore
 Face Value, Artfolio Space, Singapore
 Cotton Fiend, Lopez Museum, Manila
 About Face, Ayala Museum, Manila
 1996 Gates, Gallery 139, Manila
 1995 Life Paintings, West Gallery, Manila
 1994 Still Life, Still Spaces, West gallery, Manila

SELECTED TWO-PERSON & GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2018 The Absence of a Plan is Itself a Plan, Mo_Space, Manila
 Art Fair Philippines, Silverlens, Manila
 2017 Complex Rituals, Two-man Show with Pardo de Leon, Mo_Space, Manila
 Art Fair Philippines, Silverlens, Manila
 2016 Detour, A Two-man Show with Jonathan Ching, Blanc, Manila
 2015 Landscape, Curated by Dawn Justiniani, Tin-Aw Gallery, Manila
 You Must Change Your Life, Curated by Tony Godfrey, Equator Art Projects, Gillman Barracks, Singapore
 Do You Believe In Angels?, Curated by Tony Godfrey, Equator Art Projects, Gillman Barracks, Singapore & Mo_Space, Manila

2014 5 Stars, Art, Reflects on Peace, Justice, Equality, Democracy and Progress, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
 Art Fair Philippines, Manila
 Art Fair Philippines, Manila
 Tribute to Roberto Chabet, CCP, Manila
 Black Show, Finale Art File, Manila
 Do You Believe in Angels, Mo_Space, Manila
 2013 Monogashi, Silverlens, Singapore
 Art Fair Philippines, Manila
 2012 ArtHK, Hongkong
 No Conversation Point, Taksu, Singapore
 2011 Pulse New York, New York
 ArtHK, Hongkong
 ManilArt, Manila
 2010 Impasto Show, Manila Contemporary, Manila
 2009 Art and Food, Manila Contemporary, Manila
 Seeing You, Seeing Me: Contemporary Portraiture, Manila Contemporary, Manila
 Things Said Amongst Us, Nadi Gallery, Jakarta
 Headlights, VWFA, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur
 2008 All I Want For Christmas, Manila Contemporary, Manila
 Headlights, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Singapore Art Fair, Suntec Convention Centre, Singapore
 Singapore Art Show, Singapore Management University, Singapore
 2007 Cancelled Metaphors, Art Center, Manila
 2005 Fiv5, Art Center, Manila
 2004 Guilty Pleasures, Art Center, Manila
 2003 White on White, Odd Manila, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
 2002 True Confessions, Art Center, Manila
 2001 Cracks and Abysses, Art Center, Manila
 2000 Routes, Substation, Singapore
 1999 Vispartio, Artfolio Space, Singapore
 1998 ET. AL., SouMak, Manila
 Views From Elsewhere, Art Center, Manila
 1997 The Miter Box, The Plumbing Trap, God and Other Matters, West Gallery, Manila
 1996 48" x 19". Recent Works, West Gallery, Manila
 Dangerous Metaphors, Art Center, Manila
 9"x 12", Recent Works, West Gallery, Manila
 1995 Measure and Metaphor, Art Center, Manila
 Paintings By Numbers, Museum Hallway, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Manila
 Art Manila, Shangri-LA Plaza, Pasig City
 1994 Fear and Desire, Main Gallery, Cultural Center of the Philippines
 1993 Subject-Object, Object-Subject, Philam Life Museum, U.N. Ave.,
 1991 Figures of Speech: Five Artists in Conversation, Alliance Francaise, Phil

EDUCATION

1987-1991 University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
 AB Fine Arts, Painting Major
 1981-1985 Ateneo de Manila University, College of Arts and Sciences,
 Quezon City, Philippines, AB Psychology



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.