



**JONATHAN  
CHING**

**THEY  
MIGHT  
BE  
GIANTS**

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# SILVERLENS

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# JONATHAN CHING

# THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS





## **Jonathan Ching unveils *They Might Be Giants* and other works at Silverlens**

The elements seen in the streets of Manila where painter Jonathan Ching grew up are the inspiration of his six latest works with *They Might Be Giants* as centerpiece to be exhibited at Silverlens Gallery, 2263 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati, from July 13 – August 10.

Ching, whose works provoke and evoke a myriad of sentiments, unveils a collection that elevates the messy and blighted street scenes into larger-than-life art pieces. His massive works breathe life to urban myths and legends. Done in his distinctive panel works, this time in almost life-size dimensions, his master strokes capture Manila street scenes after dark or before dusk with all of its hurried and lurid details easing into throbs with diatribes to reinforce the theory that one's junk is another man's treasure.





*They Might Be Giants* is a tetrptych, a four-paneled work measuring 8 feet x 12 feet that shows three auto part surplus wrapped in tarpaulin. "It was a random shot that I took during a bike ride around my neighborhood some years back. I didn't know what to do with it," says Ching. The image is like a Schoenberg piece, piercing in its cacophony, yet leaving one bothered, by the lines, the blurs, the dark and stark tones, the confusion and the melding and clashing of hues and shades, that what palpably is the only missing sensation is smell. Yet, even this one can create in one's ethos.

*They Might Be Giants*, 2019

oil on canvas

96h x 144w in

243.84h x 365.76w cm





*Not My Father's Moustache* is not a paean to a famous watering hole but a piece that shows a heap of garish whatnots topped with a blue and white discarded tarpaulin. The whimsy comes in details with people walking pass it. The creases and the play of shadow, lend a deep mystery to what lies beneath the heap.



*Not My Father's Mustache*, 2019

oil on canvas

60h x 72w in

152.40h x 182.88w cm





One piece, titled *Living in Between Spaces*, is an allegory to the way society treats its own, whether foe or man's best friend, stuck between two structures covered by tarpaulins. The contrast of cared for and discarded hits as the white covered shape asserts its value versus the brown- blue pile, when both are covered in grime and sending off thoughts, grim and grumbling. The harsher commentary is that dog wedged between rubbish and redemption, as many lives are indeed.

*Living In Between Space*, 2019

oil on canvas

60h x 72w in

152.40h x 182.88w cm





But why Ching's fixation with tarpaulin? He muses if the rural scene is Amorsolo's fertile ground, he finds tarpaulins akin to it, and in the concrete jungle where he spends much of his life, objects covered, shrouded, hidden or simply safe-kept from the elements by tarpaulin offer a visage of mystery, mystic, and mistakes that can heal as much as bring hell whatever one's viewpoint is.

Other works featured in the exhibit are *A Certain Something*, *The King and The Pawn* and *Silent Shrouds*.

// Hernani Pizarro Geronimo

*A Certain Something, 2019*

oil on canvas

60h x 72w in

152.40h x 182.88w cm





*The King and The Pawn*, 2019

oil on canvas

60h x 72w in

152.40h x 182.88w cm



*Silent Shrouds*, 2019  
oil on canvas  
48h x 72w in  
121.92h x 182.88w cm







# JONATHAN CHING

Jonathan Ching (b. 1969, Dagupan, Philippines) obtained his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1991 before becoming a visual artist. He pursued his artistic interests in 1993 and took up University of the Philippines' College of Fine Arts – Visual Communication program. He is one of the founding members of the arts collective Surrounded By Water, which successfully established an artist-run space from 1998 to 2004.

Ching has exhibited extensively since his first solo exhibition in 2008 at West Gallery. His works were shown in several solo and group exhibition in the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia.

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *They Might Be Giants*, Silverlens, Manila  
 2018 *Seven Seas in a Puddle*, West Gallery, Manila  
 2017 *The Shape of Hills*, Tin Aw Gallery, Manila  
*Cut, Paste, Repeat*, Underground Gallery, Manila  
*La Strada*, Finale Art File, Makati  
 2015 *elsewhere*, Silverlens, Manila  
*Flotsam and Jetsam*, West Gallery, Manila  
 2014 *Tone and Tales*, Blanc Gallery, Manila  
 2013 *Sputnik Dreams*, Silverlens, Manila  
 2012 *The Space Between Raindrops*, Finale Art File, Manila  
 2011 *And They Say The Stars Are Worlds*, Richard Koh Fine Arts, Singapore  
*Inside*, Blanc Compound, Manila  
 2010 *Where in the World is Botero's Leg*, Video Room, Finale Art File, Manila  
*When the Saints Go Marching In*, Blanc Compound, Manila  
 2009 *If It's White and In A Bottle, It Must Be Milk*, West Gallery, Manila  
*Days of Thunder*, Valentine Willie Fine Arts, Kuala Lumpur  
 2008 *Nothing is Required, Except Happiness*, West Gallery, Manila  
*Whale Songs for the Disenchanted*, Blanc Gallery, Manila

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila  
 2018 *Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila  
 2016 *Detour*, with Elaine Navas, Blanc Gallery, Manila  
*Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila  
*Life Jacket Under Your Seat (Surrounded by Water*

*& Friends)*, Langgeng Art Foundation, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

- 2015 *Mrs. Sprout and the Gamekeeper (A Contemporary coupling of Flora and Fauna)* Tin-Aw Gallery, Manila  
*Regarding Views Views – A Contemporary Still Landscape Show*, Tin-Aw Gallery, Manila  
*The Last Dog Show*, Finale Art File, Manila  
*Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila  
 2014 *Picture Life - A Contemporary Still Life Group Show*, Tin-Aw Gallery, Manila  
*Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila  
 2013 *Over the Water*, Equator Art Projects, Singapore  
 2012 *The Great Outdoors*, Blanc Gallery, Manila  
*Postlocal: As Is Where Is*, Silverlens, Manila  
 2011 *A Flash and A Clap*, West Gallery, Manila  
*Accidents Repeated in Geography and Time*, Art In House, Picasso Boutique Serviced Residence, Manila  
 2010 *Road to Santiago*, West Gallery, Manila  
*These Are Days*, Blanc Gallery, Manila Peninsula, Manila  
 2009 *Headlights 2009*, Valentine Willie Fine Arts, Kuala Lumpur  
*In the Ocean Without a Boat or a Paddle*, Blanc Gallery, Manila  
 2008 *Young Contemporary Philippines*, Richard Kho Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur  
*Inaugural Show*, Finale Art File, Manila  
 2007 *Dog Show 07*, Green Papaya Project, Manila  
*Shoot Me: Photographs Now*, MO's Gallery, Manila  
 2004 *Closed for Inventory*, Cubicle Art Gallery, Manila  
 2003 *Partly Cloudy*, 80% Sunshine, Surrounded by Water, Manila

- 2002 *Multiple Portables*, Plastique Kinetic Worms, Singapore  
*Feast of Conversations*, Atelier Frank & Lee, Singapore  
*Recent Works*, Kulay Diwa Gallery, Manila  
*Conversation*, Art Center, SM Megamall, Manila  
 2001 *Mainstream*, Surrounded by Water Gallery, Manila  
*Portable Landscape*, Lunâ Gallery, Cebu  
*Cool Pieties*, SM Art Center, Manila  
*Surrounded*, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Main Gallery, Manila  
*Grand Royale*, Big Sky Mind, Manila  
 1999 *Daily Planet*, Surrounded by Water Gallery, Manila  
*Dogshow II*, Surrounded by Water Gallery, Manila  
*Today Show*, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Manila  
*Topology of Signs*, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Manila  
*Coordinates*, Boston Gallery, Manila  
*Kitschy Kitschy Coo*, Surrounded by Water Gallery, Rizal  
 1998 *Cross Roads (Terminal Baggage)*, Australia Centre, Manila  
 1996 *Delatong Pinoy:Yes! The Filipino Can*, Hiraya Gallery, Manila

## EDUCATION

- 1993 - 1997 University of the Philippines  
 Fine Arts Major in Visual Communication  
 1992 Passed the Civil Engineering Board Exam  
 1987 - 1991 De La Salle University  
 BS Civil Engineering  
 1979 - 1987 St. Jude Catholic School  
 Grade School and High School



## **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.