



Flower Moon
Kitty Taniguchi

KITTY TANIGUCHI
2020

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14 May - 11 June 2021

Silverlens is pleased to present an exhibition of new works by Kitty Taniguchi. The show called *Flower Moon* continues the artist's experiments in unpacking universal symbols of mythology to articulate collective existential musings.

The collection begins with the oil painting, *Flower Moon and Desert Sky*. The title refers to a natural phenomenon in May when a full moon is at its closest approach to Earth and folklore beliefs celebrate flowers coming into full bloom and increased fertility. In Taniguchi's planetary vocabulary, the moon is an outline of lavender set in a blood-red sky dominating half the canvas. Below it are birds perched randomly with an assembly of unusual-looking flowers and plants. There is a solitary white wing in flight beside this confident moon looking curiously misplaced and not fitting in as if in a dream or hallucination.

Another iteration of this work in oil as well is called *Flower Moon and Desert Sky 2*. The moon is in the color of aged cheese tinged with red and spreading yellow brightness like the sun across the canvas. Here the recurring images in Taniguchi's oeuvre are introduced and repeated: lions, crows, and the odd botany. The images are shown as if they were taken out of their context, distorting their real origins while building the foundations of a new one.

In other works using acrylic and ink on paper, the lion is with a cheetah and a woman stands as if in the middle of a narrative with an unknown plot. The sun is drawn sparingly in concentric circles and there are sketches of buildings behind her. Another work on paper shows a woman in a red dress swooping down to a grey-tinged cityscape with a winged unicorn below her and crows lying on their back in mid-air.

The crows drawn downside up will be repeated in the rest of the exhibit set in urban backgrounds. If not flying, the crow is seen on the ground as if walking in one work while a masked woman standing with clasped hands is calm beside an orange unicorn and cheetah. Taniguchi draws on the crow's rich mythic past immortalized in literature and medieval art as a harbinger of magic and mysticism by linking it to our very human present day. Nor is this the first time the creatures figure in her art practice. It has also been present in her work as a poet.

The crow is placed in Taniguchi's drawings adjacent to the main image as if signalling the promise of hidden potential and change. The bird is seen listening beside a group of women in the middle of a conversation; at the side of a solitary figure on a park bench or under a tree. A crow can also be seen beside a woman poised in a dancing position. In one work the bird waits beside an enlarged sliced fruit and a miniature one with three women standing with their hands in prayer. The women are shown blank-faced yet their poses are one of waiting, relaxation, or meditation. They are not in a hurry and seem to be biding their time despite having face masks on. In some of the drawings, even the pets are masked like their human masters.

One work in black and white shows a landscape where all these totems meet in one fantastic setting with pyramids and the vista of a harsh city on the horizon. Taniguchi's line drawings here are loose and squiggly retelling these sacred stories for contemporary times. Looking at the pieces in the show now during a lockdown, one feels that these images are neither strange nor bizarre but rather comforting. We are still living inside a pandemic after all, in an in-between, liminal space where some are vaccinated while others are not. Myth-making has a way of clarifying our understanding of a world so chaotic; you would not blink if you encountered a lion lounging nearby a park bench but would even sit down calmly beside it.

Dumaguete-based Kitty Taniguchi is a widely exhibited visual artist, gallerist, and poet both locally and overseas. She also manages her own art space. Her show will be presented at Silverlens Gallery from May 14 to June 11, 2021.

Words by Josephine V. Roque







Untitled, 2021

acrylic and ink on paper
25h x 19.25w in
63.50h x 47.90w cm

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*Flower Moon and
Desert Sky 3, 2021*

acrylic on canvas
60h x 60w in
152.40h x 152.40w cm

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*Flower Moon and
Desert Sky 1, 2020*

oil on canvas
60h x 60w in
152.40h x 152.40w cm

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*Flower Moon and
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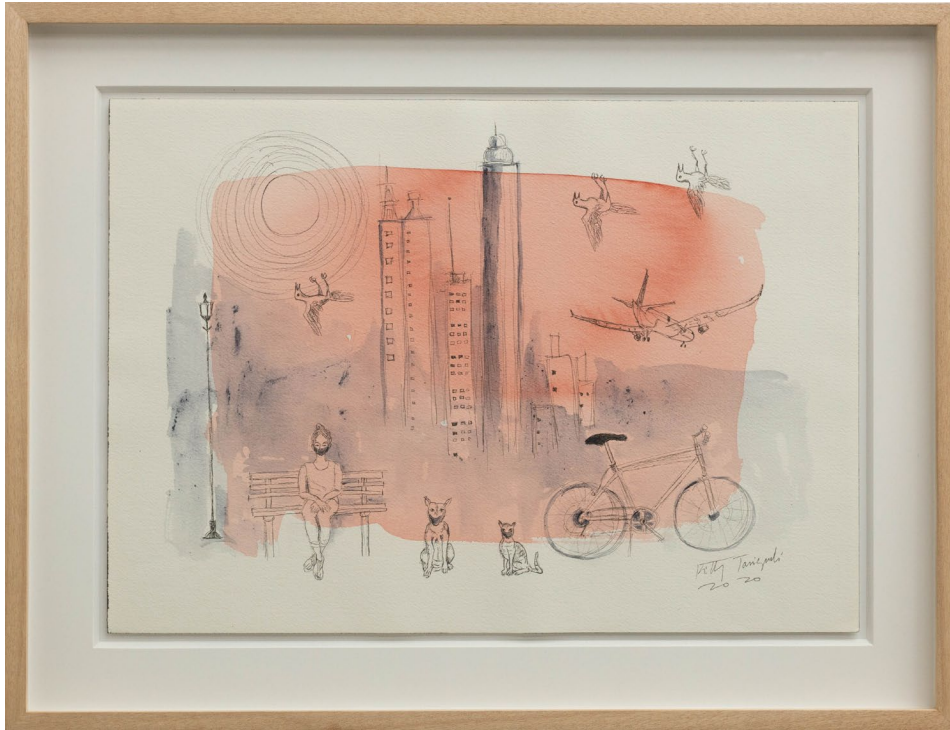
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KITTY TANIGUCHI

Bio

Cristina “Kitty” Taniguchi (b. 1952, Manila, Philippines; lives and works in the Philippines) completed an MA in English and American Literature at Silliman University in 1985, completing her thesis work titled Gothic Tales in Siquijor: Their Theological Implications. She has been painting since. She has had solo exhibitions at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Ayala Museum, Pinto Gallery, and at Mariyah Gallery, an artist-run space she founded in 1992. She has had numerous group exhibitions. She lives and works in Dumaguete City.



KITTY TANIGUCHI

Bio

b. 1952, Manila, PH



Flower Moon and Desert Sky,
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SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Flower Moon*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2014 *Christina Taniguchi*, Gallery Boem, Starchevo
- 2010 *The Anthology of Myths and Muses*, NOVA Gallery, Makati
- 2008 *Wrong Horizon*, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Blvd., Pasay and The 4th Dumaguete National Writers Workshop, Mariyah Gallery, Dumaguete
- 2006 *Womanmattercrow*, Mariyah Gallery, Dumaguete 2005 The Season of the Crows, Pinto Gallery, Antipolo
- 2003 *The Crows of Cristina Taniguchi*, White Gallery, Kulay Diwa Galleries, Manila
1994 Heroes and Dancers, Gallery III, Ayala Museum, Makati
- 1990 *Paper City and Other Paintings*, De La Salle University Library, Manila

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2013 *International Art Symposium*, Udaipur, India
- 2011 *Changchun International Sculpture Symposium*, Changchun 2010 The 11th Asian Arts International Festival, Sculpture Park, Ordos Pinky, Mariyah Gallery, Dumaguete, curated by Dr. Flaudette May Datuin 2009 The 11th Asian Arts International Festival, China
The Sculpture Creative Camp of the 11th Asian Arts International Festival, Beijing
Tenggara (Exhibition of Select Filipino, Indonesian, and Malaysian Artists), Novahs Gallery, Contemporary Urban Center, Liverpool
- 2006 The 3rd Beijing International Art Biennale
- 2008 The 4th Beijing International Art Biennale
Duwa Duwa, Witik Witik: A Duo Exhibition of Art Work And Poetry, Foyer Gallery, Luce Auditorium, Silliman University, Dumaguete
Mariyah Gallery Exhibition, Philippine Center Of South New Jersey, New Jersey
Wrong Horizon and Regiments: A Duo Exhibition, Mariyah Gallery, Dumaguete
- 2005 *Dula Sa Lapuk: A Traveling Art Exhibition on Terra Cotta Installations and Sculptures*, Pasilyo Edades, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Blvd. Pasay and Mariyah Gallery, Dumaguete
- 2004 The 2nd Beijing International Art Biennale
The 8th Visayas Visual Artists Exhibits, Bacolod Old Capitol Bldg., Bacolod
Balaybay @ Kasibulan.net, Main Gallery, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Manila
Ang Paglalahad ng Walong Filipina, Liongoren Gallery, Quezon City
The Corredor Gallery, University of the Philippines, Quezon City

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Bio

- 2003 ***Buklod***, Kulay Diwa Art Galleries, Manila
Philippine Art Awards Exhibition, Metropolitan Museum of Manila
Letras y Figuras: Contemporary Idioms on Idea & Identity: an exhibit by Contemporary Filipino Gallery, Ayala Museum, Manila
- 2002 ***Auditor***, The National Writing Workshop, Directed by Dr. Edith L. Tiempo Artists, The Front
Visayas Exhibition and Convention Exhibit, Center for Culture and Arts Development, Tagbilaran
- 2001 ***Pag-usbong Kalangitan: Kitty and Maria Taniguchi***, Silliman University Centennial Celebration Silliman University Main Library, Dumaguete
Launching Exhibition of the Miriam College Gallery of Women's Art, Manila
- 2000-2002
Who Owns Women's Bodies, Travelling exhibition to various parts of Metro Manila, Luzon, and Southeast Asia: Main Gallery, Cultural Center of the Philippines; Chiang Mai University Art Museum, Chiang Mai; Chulalongkorn University Art Center, Bangkok; Main Gallery, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Pasay
Philippine Art Awards Exhibit, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Manila
- 2000 ***Larawan ng Artista Bilang Pilipino***, Vargas Museum Gallery A, University of the Philippines, Quezon City
- 1999 ***Buglasan Cultural Exhibit***, Macias Sports and Cultural Complex, Dumaguete
Philippine Sculptures'99: An exhibition of the Society of the Philippine Sculptors, Greenbelt Park, Makati
- 1998 ***Women Imaging Women: Home, Body, Memory Four Filipino Women Artists***, Vargas Museum, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City
Eight Artists Exhibit, Bacolod Museum, Bacolod
- 1996 ***Collage, An art exhibit of four women artists***, Cebu Museum, Cebu 1995
Three Large Paintings, Hiraya Gallery, Malate, Manila
- 1994 ***Philippine Arts Awards Exhibit***, Glorietta Ayala Center, Makati
- 1993 ***A group exhibit by Dumaguete and Cebu Artists***, Casa Gorordo Museum, ***Cebu 1992 Lihì***, Mariyah Gallery, Dumaguete
- 1989 Paintings, Silliman University Library, Dumaguete

CURATORIAL AND TEACHING WORK

- 2008 Artistic Director, Filipino Heritage Festival, Inc., Negros Oriental
- 2005/2007
Director, Open Dumaguete Biennial Terracotta Art Festival Exhibit and Competition 2000-2001 Faculty, English and Literature Department, Central Polytechnic College, Dumaguete 1984-1989 Faculty, English and Literature

KITTY TANIGUCHI

Bio

Department, Silliman University, Dumaguete

1992 Present Proprietor/Curator, Mariyah Gallery, Dumaguete

PUBLISHED WORK

2005 "Mariyah Gallery Experience: An artist runs a gallery, a private venture in a small community," LOCUS: Interventions in Art Practice. Lopez Memorial Museum and Pananaw ng Sining Bayan, Inc., NCCA.

2005 "Crow," Poetry Vives, ed. Nancy M. Johnson, Poetry Vives.

2002 "I Went To Tokyo to Know Its Crows," and "Blue Space For The crows Painted White," Poetry, Philippine Free Press.

AWARDS/ DISTINCTIONS

2009 Garbo sa Bisaya Award, Visayas Exhibition and Convention Biennale

1994, 2000, 2003

Honorable Mention and Finalist, Philip Morris Philippine Art Awards

AFFILIATIONS

Member, Kasibulan: Philippine Women Artist's Association

Member, National Commission for Culture and Arts: National Committee on Art Galleries Board of Directors, Dumaguete Open Biennial Terra Cotta Art Festival

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bronze Age Ancestors, Grassland Scions: The Asia Sculpture Park (vol.2), Ordos, China 2010 Catalogue of the 2nd Beijing International Art Biennale China, 2005 Catalogue of the 3rd Beijing International Art Biennale China, 2008

Dessa Quesada, "Conversing with Kitty's Women" Newsbreak, Pasig City,

December 20, 2004 Guillermo, Alice G., "Eve's Paradise," Today. June 29, 2003

Datuin, Flaudette May. The Spaces of Masculinity and Femininity in the Visual Arts: Bohol, Dumaguete, Palawan. University of the Philippines Center for Womens Studies, 2002

Datuin, Flaudette May. Home, Body, Memory: Filipina Artists in the Visual Arts, 19th Century to the Present, UP Press, Diliman, Quezon City, 2002

Tanedo, Rochit and Rosario Cruz Lucero, Eds. Who Owns Women's Bodies. The National Library of the Philippines. CIP Data. Creative Collective Center, 2001

Datuin, Flaudette May, Women Imaging Women Catalogue, ISIS/ CCP, 1999

Canta, Marilyn, "Christina Taniguchi: Pricked But Not Bleeding", Transit: Quarterly of Art Discussion, Vol.2, 2000 Creative Collective Center, Inc. Who Owns

Women's Bodies? Catalogue, Manila, 2001

Guillermo, Alice G., "Philippine Sculptures '99 at Greenbelt Park", World Sculpture News, 1999.

KITTY TANIGUCHI

Bio

SPECIAL PROJECTS

2018 Organized Earth Has Wet Dreams, an outdoor group exhibition on the beachfront of Baler

EDUCATION

1978 BA Mass Communication, Silliman University, Dumaguete City

1985 MA English Literature, Silliman University, Dumaguete City, Philippines - Thesis: Gothic Tales in Siquijor: Their Theological Implications

AWARDS

2017 shortlisted for Ateneo Art Awards

2015 shortlisted for the Ateneo Art Awards

RESIDENCY

2019 TRADES AiR, Honolulu, Hawaii

2015 Baler Artist Village, Aurora Province

2014 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Maine, USA

2013 1335 Mabini, Philippines

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JOSEPHINE V. ROQUE

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