



**Celestial Data  
for Daydreaming**

**CHATI CORONEL**

# **Celestial Data for Daydreaming**

## **CHATI CORONEL**

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## **In the Beginning | A Fixed Point**

It's an age-old human impulse to look up at the sky and search for our place in the cosmos. In *Celestial Data for Daydreaming*, Chati Coronel applies her passion for the timeless study of the stars to a vigorous rumination on modern existence. Each piece in this series pertains to one of the seven planets of classical Greek astrology, the heavenly bodies which represented the gods and whose patterns of movement were believed to influence human affairs. As Coronel puts it, she is "bridging the gap between the ancient myths and affirmation of human capacity to create a future."



**Mars: CourageXLoveXHope, 2021**

acrylic on canvas  
84h x 60w in  
213.36h x 152.40w cm

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**Moon/Luna-Sophia:  
From Knowledge to  
Wisdom, 2021**

acrylic on canvas  
60h x 84w in  
152.40h x 121.92w cm

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**Sun/Apollo:  
True Light, 2021**

acrylic on canvas  
60h x 84w in  
152.40h x 213.36w cm

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An abstract painting featuring large, overlapping shapes in shades of light blue, pale yellow, and dark charcoal black. The composition is dynamic, with some areas appearing to be splattered or dripped with paint, particularly with small yellow and orange specks scattered across the lighter background. The overall effect is one of movement and layered textures.

*Apollo*, the most powerful of all deities, is depicted as the Sun, the centre of the cosmos and the source of life. This was the only planned piece in the series, created to coincide with Christmas. The Season of Light. *Apollo* is Coronel's profound response to living during a pandemic—as she puts it, while in darkness dwelling, create the sun.





Venus—with her earthy corpulence and ethereal fragility —emanates the sacred integrity of universal love.



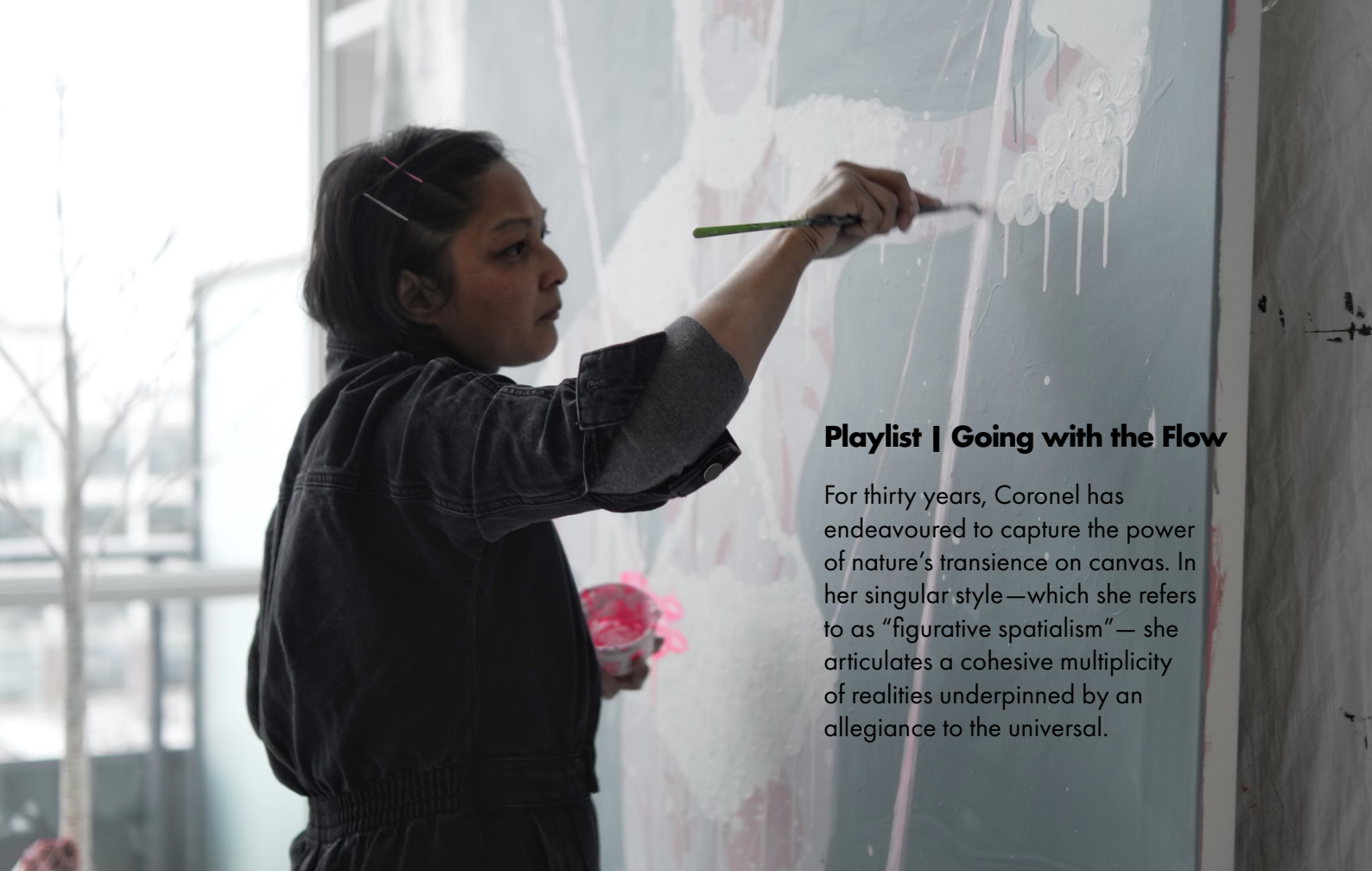


**Venus:  
Impossible Flowers Bloom  
in Impossible Landscapes,  
2020**

acrylic on canvas  
60h x 84w in  
152.40h x 121.92w cm

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## **Playlist | Going with the Flow**

For thirty years, Coronel has endeavoured to capture the power of nature's transience on canvas. In her singular style—which she refers to as “figurative spatialism”—she articulates a cohesive multiplicity of realities underpinned by an allegiance to the universal.










**Jupiter:  
Celestial Gifts, 2021**

acrylic on canvas  
84h x 60w in  
213.36h x 152.40w cm

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An abstract painting featuring thick, layered brushstrokes. The composition is dominated by large, dark, textured shapes in black and dark grey, which appear to be layered over lighter, more ethereal forms in white and light grey. A vibrant yellow-green shape is partially visible, along with small, scattered pink and blue speckles. The overall effect is one of depth and complexity, reflecting the 'layered' nature of the artist's process described in the text.

Known for layering her canvas, Coronel instinctively begins each piece by setting the atmosphere—she lays down a base colour or image which becomes the foundation for the anticipated work. Next, she adds any texts or ideas that may be playing in her mind. Then, she paints over that with figures or silhouettes, repeating the process five or six times until there is a rich, textured tapestry of concepts. Each stroke is like a musical note in a symphony, building on the others to be taken as a whole. And yet, each buried layer is also a testament to impermanence. Her canvases make sense at the end of their journeys. Like life.



In *Saturn*, named for the god of social order, embracing figures reflect the interdependent duality needed for balance and cosmic justice.

Ultimately, the sacred luminaries depicted offer a treatise on time, as they chart the inexorable movement of light across the heavens.



## **Saturn/Kronos: In the arms of time, 2020**

acrylic on canvas  
84h x 60w in  
213.36h x 152.40w cm

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Coronel believes that the universe is a song that resonates within, and throughout her creative process, she listens to music. Trained as an architect, Coronel works around a theme but trusts that the process of creation will lead her where it must. That thoughtful fluidity is the essence of her art. Her unique methodology can be likened to an exuberant dance with universal forces.



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CHATI COKONEK

## Re-moved | Returning to the Essential

Over a year ago, Coronel migrated to Canada with her family. Like the artist herself, the decision was a marriage of heart and mind—part structured consideration, and part impulse. The move shifted her colour palette which now reflects the softer light and varied textures of her new home. A stark contrast to Manila's intense equatorial heat.





The relocation—and resulting displacement—also reinforced her quest to understand the universe and find answers to the questions that drive her work. Why are things as they are? How can they be improved? What is one's place in this world?





## **Mercury/Hermes: Wilful Devotion, 2020**

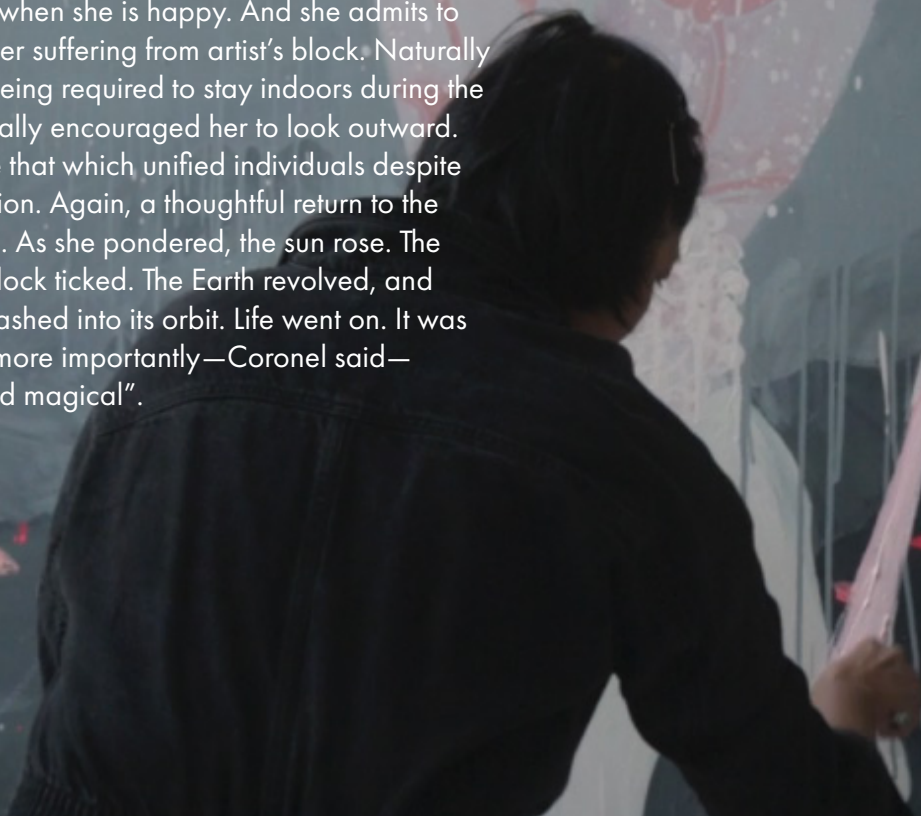
acrylic on canvas  
60hx48win  
152.40h x 121.92w cm

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## New Cycle | Always an Outsider


Subverting the stereotype of the tortured artist, Coronel can only paint when she is happy. And she admits to fortuitously never suffering from artist's block. Naturally introspective, being required to stay indoors during the pandemic actually encouraged her to look outward. To contemplate that which unified individuals despite enforced isolation. Again, a thoughtful return to the essential forces. As she pondered, the sun rose. The night fell. The clock ticked. The Earth revolved, and no asteroids crashed into its orbit. Life went on. It was mundane, but more importantly—Coronel said—“miraculous and magical”.







"It made me feel at once big and small," the artist expounded. "You are connected to something much, much larger. For me, that is hopeful."

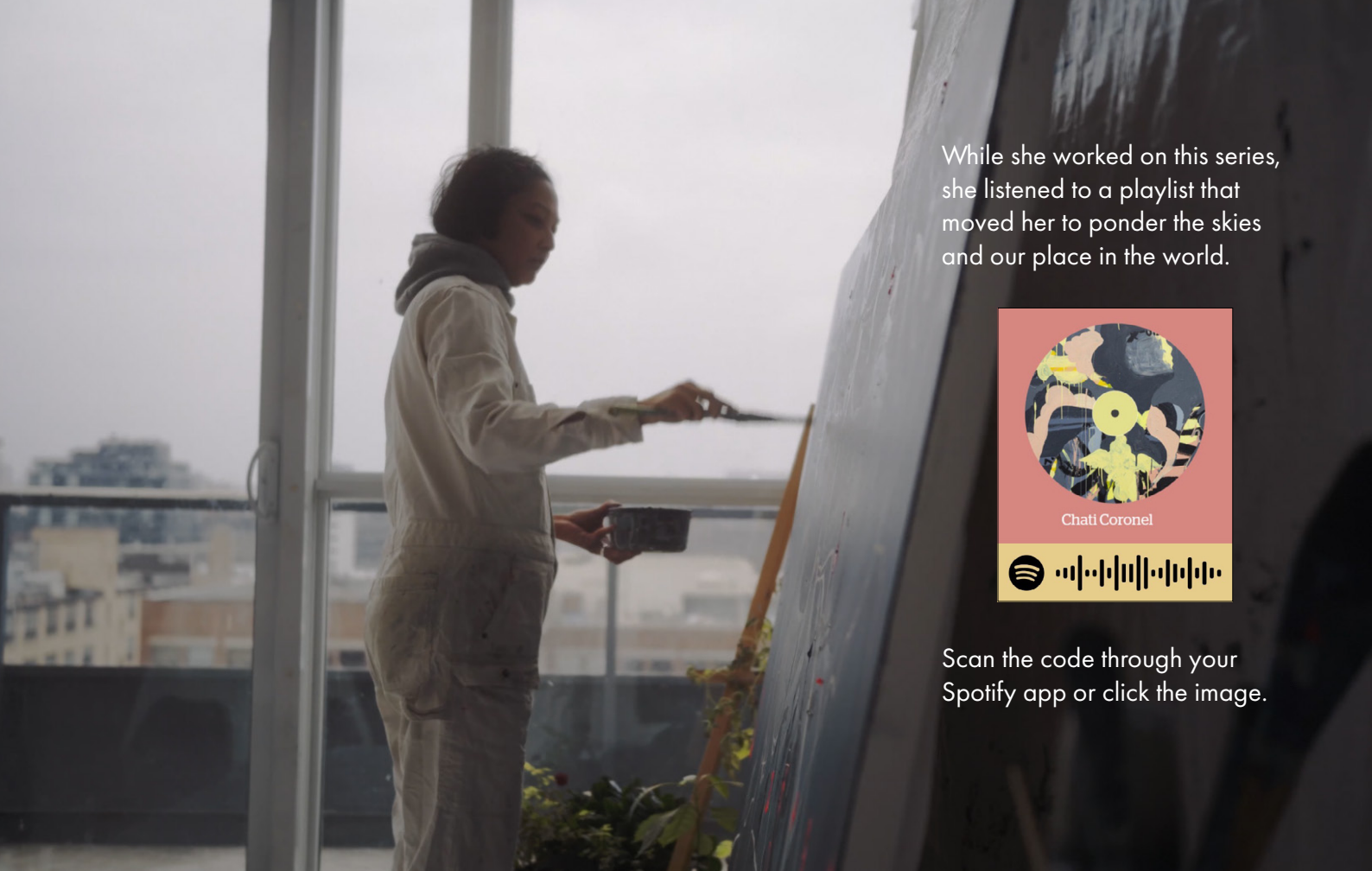
A person with dark hair, seen from behind, wearing a black quilted jacket and dark pants. They are standing in front of a wall covered in abstract graffiti. The graffiti consists of various shapes, lines, and letters in white, blue, and red. The top half of the image is a plain, light-colored wall, while the bottom half is the graffiti-covered wall. The person's shadow is cast onto the graffiti wall.

## After | Hope

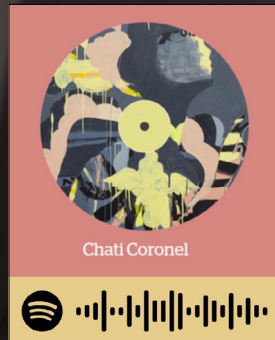
This is what Chati Coronel aims to remind the world as it comes out of lockdown: that there is a rhythm, a balance to the everyday. A sense in chaos, a peace in noise, though initially obscured. That despite the darkness, the essence of life remains unchanged—and the greatest force of all still shines above and lies within.

**Text by Marga Ortigas**





While she worked on this series, she listened to a playlist that moved her to ponder the skies and our place in the world.



Scan the code through your Spotify app or click the image.



## CHATI CORONEL

### Bio

**Chati Coronel (b. 1970, Manila, Philippines; lives and works in Toronto, Canada)**

**After receiving her degree in Architecture from The University of Santo Tomas in the Philippines in 1991, Chati Coronel deviated from that path and built in its stead a painting practice that has now spanned 3 decades.**

**Coronel has found her artistic voice in a process she calls, *Figurative Spatialism* in which she paints layers of abstract movement and contains them in a color space that forms the silhouette of a human figure.**

**Influenced by the principles of Philosopher, Rudolf Steiner and Architect, Louis Khan, Coronel explores a subject by understanding its beginning and then engages it in a futuristic form of myth making through her art. Her work has been exhibited in galleries and art fairs in Los Angeles, Manila, Florence, Singapore and most recently, Art Basel Hong Kong. Chati Coronel is based in Toronto and is represented by Silverlens Galleries.**



## CHATI CORONEL

### Bio

b. 1970, Manila, PH



*Venus: Impossible Flowers Bloom in Impossible Landscapes, 2020*

### RECOGNITIONS AND RESIDENCIES

- 2005 Biennale Internazionale dell'Arte Contemporanea, Florence  
Featured in MOCA-sponsored catalog for GhettoGloss Gallery, Los Angeles
- 2000 Residency, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, Vermont

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 *BE THE\_*, Online Viewing Room, Silverlens, Manila
- 2018 *The Infinite Yes*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2016 *The Way In/The Way Out*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2015 *Word Paintings*, Manila FAME, SMX Convention Center, Manila  
*How to Open a Mountain*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2014 *The First Kiss on Earth*, Silverlens, Singapore
- 2013 *UnPortraits*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2012 *SkinSkin*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2010 *An Hour in a Glass Balloon*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2009 *Primal Prayer*, Groundfloor@Santeecourt Gallery, Los Angeles
- 2007 *Minus*, Groundfloor@Santeecourt Gallevvry, Los Angeles
- 2003 *The Dakini Principle*, The Podium, Manila  
*Lila: Divine Play*, Big and Small Gallery, Manila
- 1997 *Supershine*, Surrounded by Water Gallery, Manila

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITION

- 2021 *Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila  
*Art in the Park*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2020 *Collectors Plus*, Silverlens, Manila  
*Anticipating the Day*, Silverlens, Manila  
*Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2019 *The Hybridity and Dynamism of the Contemporary Art of the Philippines*, HansaeYes24 Foundation, Seoul  
*Art Basel*, Silverlens, Hong Kong  
*Zero Infinite*, Silverlens, Manila  
*Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2018 *Art Basel*, Silverlens, Hong Kong  
*Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila  
*Shared Coordinates*, a collaboration of Edouard Malingue Gallery, ROH Projects, MSAC and SILVERLENS, The Arts House, Singapore
- 2017 *Translación*, Inaugural Exhibition, Curated by Gary-Ross Pastrana, Silverlens, Manila
- 2016 *Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila

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#### b. 1970, Manila, PH

- 2015 *Bazaar Art Jakarta*, The Ritz Carlton Jakarta Pacific Place, Indonesia  
*Surrounded by Water*, Finale Art File, Manila  
*Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2014 *Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2013 *Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila  
*A Tribute to Heroines, Louis Vuitton 20th Anniversary Exhibit*, Manila
- 2011 *Hybrids*, curated by Rachel Rillo, Blanc, Manila  
*Munifestation*, Blanc, Manila  
*Working in Progress*, curated by Adeline Ooi, Silverlens, Manila
- 2006 *Far and Wide*, MJ Higgins Gallery, Los Angeles
- 2005 *Florence Biennale*, Basso Fortress, Florence  
*Anniversary Show: Group Exhibit*, MJ Higgins Gallery, Los Angeles
- 2003 *Escapes*, Frame Concepts Gallery, Toronto
- 1999 *Transmodern Transgressions*, Group Exhibit, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Manila
- 1997 *Gallery Artists 2*, Brix Gallery, Manila

#### EDUCATION

- 1991 University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines  
Bachelor of Science in Architecture

#### PUBLICATIONS

- Kanga, Lara. "Artist Chati Coronel Talks First Kiss." Accessed October 1 2015.  
<http://www.news.artnet.com/art-world/10-must-see-international-gallery-shows-63264>
- Pinggot Zulueta. "Art Comes From A Feeling of Happiness." Manila Bulletin 31 March, 2014
- "Louis Cuitton at 20: A Tribute to Heroines" Philippine Star Online. Accessed December 2013. <http://ph.hola.com/events/louis-vuitton-at-20-a-tribute-to-heroines.html>
- D'Bayan, Igan. "Louis Vuitton Highlights Filipino Artists." Philippine Star Online. Accessed 18 December, 2013
- Atienza, Mikey. "Skin Deep." Contemporary Art Philippines Issue 22 2012. p. 34
- Davila, Bea. "An Hour In A Glass Balloon." BluePrint. Volume 6, 2010. pp. 114-115
- "Paintings+Words." Blurb. 2009
- Castrillo, Ovvian. "Chati Coronel, Goddess Manifest." Philippine Daily. 18 October, 2003. G-2

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**MARGA ORTIGAS**

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