

SILVERLENS

# ELWAKA

Pow Martinez

SILVERLENS



Pow Martinez

3 nov - 3 dec 2022

website

email

whatsapp

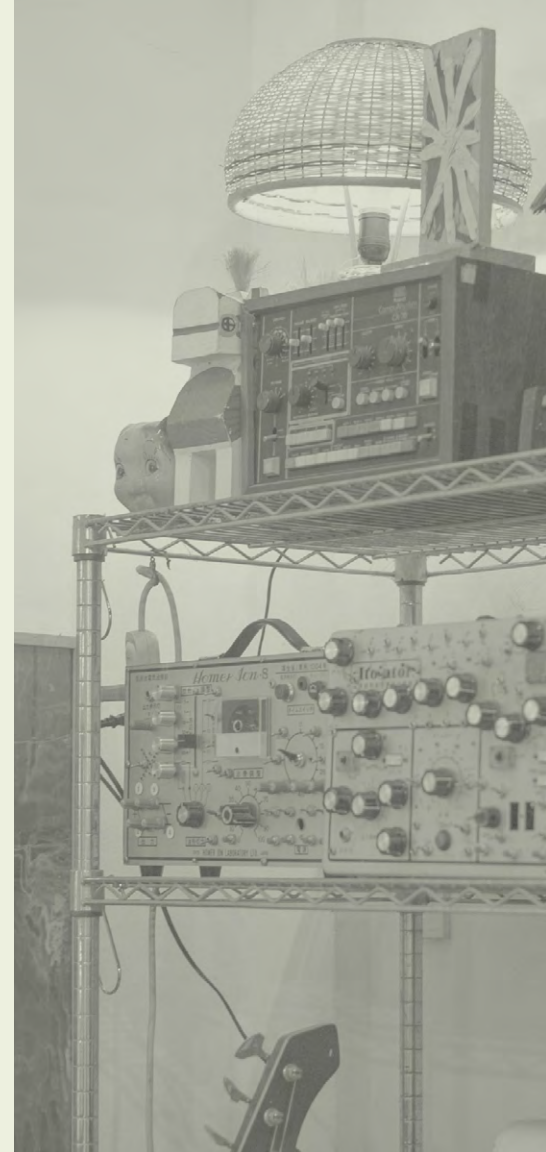




An interesting consequence of the development of oil paint tubes was that it allowed more artists to explore the outdoors and paint within the landscape. Prior to this, painters had to grind raw pigments to mix their own colors, making the idea of painting outside the studio somewhat inconvenient. Eventually becoming known as the *En Plein Air* School, these “landscape portraiture” painters aimed to capture nature under the changing qualities of light, in swift and loose brushwork, favoring softness over precision, impression over detail.

I find my thoughts drifting to this moment in Painting’s history as I talk with Pow Martinez about his upcoming show, *Clunker*. Half-jokingly, he suggests he’s just doing “what a nature painter might do in a digital landscape.” While the landscape painters of yore yearned to be outside, safety precautions of the past two years forced everyone, not just painters, to spend extended periods indoors. Confined in our domestic spaces, deprived of seemingly mundane things like everyday interaction and natural light, most of us turned heavily to our digital devices to afford us a glimpse of the outside world and keep us remotely in touch with friends and kin. This realm of the digital is the landscape that Pow navigates, wading through pages and scrolling endless feeds across multiple screens in search of that moment, that perfect frame to be captured by a screenshot.

Rejecting learned notions of skill or mastery, Pow celebrates the pleasure of painting as a primarily physical and analog act. Favoring the unsophisticated over the belabored, his works exude an air of innocence and play, scattered with a dose of mischief. His more recent pieces, smaller in scale and done in water-based acrylics on paper, take his pursuit of “painting in a direct and honest way” further and perhaps designed to mute the residual romantic sensibilities associated with thickly slathered oil paint.









In parts resembling single-frame comics, 8-bit graphic art, and adult magazine illustrations, the works on paper feature a larger cast of characters ranging from knights, soldiers, drifters, and cavemen, to angels, gods, monsters, and ghosts. Caught in unintelligible scenarios, their juxtapositions perhaps make sense as random snapshots of an upturned and jumbled museum.

The larger canvases broadly feature a more recognizable figure in Pow's body of work: though seemingly donning several personas, he remains unmistakable in each iteration. Set apart by the signature mullet, blank stare, and the permanently gaped expression of a blow-up doll, this unnamed character calls to mind that familiar '80s era fun uncle who never bought into the 9-to-5 lifestyle, and so just happens to be always at home. Personally, the paintings remind me of the feel and atmosphere of obscure Americana, gleaned from years if not decades of watching road movies and screwball comedies conjured by the likes of the Coen Brothers and Harmony Korine, all the way through the present-day YouTube blackholes, *WorldStar* clips and "fail vids." It also brings to mind stories of musicians or comedians on tour, performing in dingy dive bars and staying in roadside motels as they travel across the States, doing the grind.

Lodged in their respective rooms, the protagonists in *Self-Portrait April 12, 2022* and *Solitary Confinement* enact the strange contortions of the sedentary body; isolated, inert, and slowly melding and disappearing into the contours and habits of the furniture. Further still, the solitary figure in *falling down* has been totally removed from any context of place and merely laid out naked, with an impossibly twisted torso and limbs and digits stretched out. With no couch to melt into, his body is seemingly being pushed directly against glass, perhaps from the other side of the screen, aching to break out.

**Words by Gary-Ross Pastrana**













## Solitary Confinement

2022  
oil on canvas  
60h x 72w in  
152.40h x 182.88w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)

mercenary

2022  
acrylic on canvas  
72h x 60w in  
182.88h x 152.40w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)







good conversation is hard  
to find in this town

2022  
acrylic on canvas  
72h x 72w in  
182.88h x 182.88w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)







second nature 4

2022  
acrylic on paper  
25.59h x 19.69w in  
65h x 50w cm



second nature 2

2022  
acrylic on paper  
25.59h x 19.69w in  
65h x 50w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)



falling down

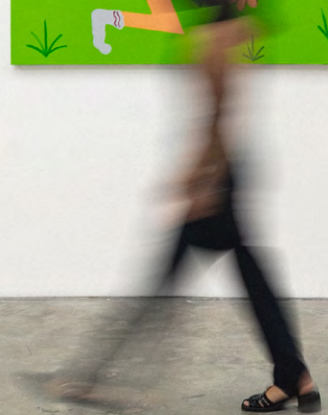
2022  
oil on canvas  
72h x 60w in  
182.88h x 152.40w cm



[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)







second nature 18

2022  
acrylic on paper  
17.95h x 12.01w in  
45.60h x 30.50w cm



second nature 16

2022  
acrylic on paper  
17.95h x 12.01w in  
45.60h x 30.50w cm



second nature 19

2022  
acrylic on paper  
17.95h x 12.01w in  
45.60h x 30.50w cm

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second nature 21

2022  
acrylic on paper  
17.95h x 12.01w in  
45.60h x 30.50w cm



second nature 22

2022  
acrylic on paper  
17.95h x 12.01w in  
45.60h x 30.50w cm



second nature 24

2022  
acrylic on paper  
17.95h x 12.01w in  
45.60h x 30.50w cm

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[whatsapp](#)

## drifter

2022  
acrylic on canvas  
60h x 60w in  
152.40h x 152.40w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)









## second nature 11

2022  
acrylic on paper  
15.67h x 11.85w in  
39.80h x 30.10w cm



## second nature 1

2022  
acrylic on paper  
25.59h x 19.69w in  
65h x 50w cm

email

whatsapp





second nature 7

2022  
acrylic on paper  
15.67h x 11.85w in  
39.80h x 30.10w cm



second nature 12

2022  
acrylic on paper  
15.67h x 11.85w in  
39.80h x 30.10w cm



second nature 9

2022  
acrylic on paper  
15.67h x 11.85w in  
39.80h x 30.10w cm

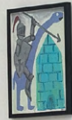


second nature 14

2022  
acrylic on paper  
15.67h x 11.85w in  
39.80h x 30.10w cm

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[whatsapp](#)







the weight of the world

2022  
acrylic on canvas  
60h x 60w in  
152.40h x 152.40w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)



second nature 17

2022  
acrylic on paper  
17.95h x 12.01w in  
45.60h x 30.50w cm



second nature 13

2022  
acrylic on paper  
15.67h x 11.85w in  
39.80h x 30.10w cm



second nature 20

2022  
acrylic on paper  
17.95h x 12.01w in  
45.60h x 30.50w cm

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## second nature 8

2022  
acrylic on paper  
15.67h x 11.85w in  
39.80h x 30.10w cm



## second nature 5

2022  
acrylic on paper  
15.67h x 11.85w in  
39.80h x 30.10w cm

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Self portrait April 12,  
2022

2022  
oil on canvas  
48h x 48w in  
121.92h x 121.92w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)



second nature 6

2022

acrylic on paper  
15.67h x 11.85w in  
39.80h x 30.10w cm



second nature 15

2022

acrylic on paper  
17.95h x 12.01w in  
45.60h x 30.50w cm



second nature 10

2022

acrylic on paper  
15.67h x 11.85w in  
39.80h x 30.10w cm

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puff, gasp

2022  
acrylic on canvas  
60h x 60w in  
152.40h x 152.40w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)

second nature 23

2022  
acrylic on paper  
17.95h x 12.01w in  
45.60h x 30.50w cm



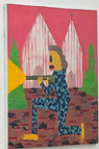
second nature 3

2022  
acrylic on paper  
25.59h x 19.69w in  
65h x 50w cm



email

whatsapp







## Inner Voice

2022  
oil on canvas  
60h x 60w in  
152.40h x 152.40w cm



[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)





## Palace Guard

2022  
oil on canvas  
60h x 60w in  
152.40h x 152.40w cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)



## funny Games

2022  
oil on canvas  
60h x 60w in  
152.40h x 152.40w cm



[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)



## POW MARTINEZ

### Bio

Pow Martinez (b. 1983) is a recipient of the 2010 Ateneo Art Award for his exhibition *1 Billion Years* at West Gallery, Philippines. He exhibits internationally and has worked with different media, from painting to sound. His recent exhibitions include *City Prince/sses* (2019) at Palais de Tokyo in Paris; Art Jakarta 2019 with Silverlens and ROH Projects; *50 Years in Hollywood* (2019) at Pinto Art Museum in New York; Art Basel Hong Kong 2019 with Silverlens; *WXXX* (2019), West Gallery, Manila; Art Taipei 2017; *WASAK! Reloaded* (2016) in Arndt, Singapore; and *WASAK!* (2016) in Arndt, Berlin. Martinez has also held a number of solo shows in major galleries in Manila, the most recent of which is *Sustainable Anxiety* (2020) in Silverlens. Early in 2022, Martinez had his first solo exhibition in Madrid entitled *Underground Spiritual Unit* at Galeria Yusto/Giner. In 2018, he had a solo exhibition in Indonesia. Titled *Aesthetic Police*, the exhibition is an outcome of his month-long residency program at OPQRStudio in Bandung.

Martinez's paintings belie their grotesque subject matter with the indelibly beautiful surfaces and a wide-ranging, daring use of color. Mutants, monsters, demons, deviants, and freaks lurch, sit, and appear to transform amidst weirdly lit landscapes or disintegrating urban scenarios, or emerge from a painterly graffiti mess, but, as his more abstracted works insist, Martinez's ability to render intriguing relationships between forms and surfaces ensure his works are endlessly compelling—an experience akin to a beautiful nightmare.

Pow Martinez lives and works in Manila, Philippines.





## POW MARTINEZ Bio

b. 1983, Manila, PH



*Pingpong, 2022*

### RESIDENCIES

2018 OPQR Residency, Bandung, Indonesia

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Clunker*, Silverlens, Manila  
*Underground Spiritual Unit*, Galería Yusto/Giner, Madrid
- 2020 *Sustainable Anxiety*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2018 *Aesthetic Police*, ROH Projects, Jakarta
- 2017 *Techno-utopian*, Silverlens, Manila  
*and now back to our regular programming*, Art Informal, Manila
- 2016 *Advanced Human*, Random Parts, Oakland  
*a man without a hobby is worthless*, TAKSU Gallery, Singapore
- 2015 *psychedelic behavior*, West Gallery, Manila  
*From the bitter abyss*, Megumi Ogita Gallery, Tokyo
- 2014 *May Cause Profound Mental Retardation*, Pablo Gallery, Manila  
*Caught between honor and revenge, how far will one man go*, Silverlens, Manila  
*dogs playing poker*, Manila Contemporary, Manila
- 2013 *1 bit*, Mo\_Space Project Room, Manila  
*Losing my edge*, Pablo Gallery, Manila  
*Medieval woodcuts*, Finale Art File, Manila
- 2012 *Sploshing*, Finale Art File, Manila  
*Low Res*, West Gallery, Manila  
*Cyborg Scallops*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2011 *Nature Paintings*, NOW Gallery, Manila  
*Destroyed Planets*, Pablo Gallery, Manila  
*Cut Hands has the Solution*, West Gallery, Manila  
*Easy Listening Paintings*, Mag:net Gallery, Manila
- 2010 *march of the pigs*, Lost Projects, Manila  
*hyper blast abomination*, Mag:net Gallery, Manila
- 2009 *the brutal gardener*, Mag:net Gallery, Manila  
*one billion years*, West Gallery, Manila
- 2007 *pathetic doggy paddle*, Mag:net Gallery, Manila

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS AND PROJECTS

- 2022 *The Sea and The Jungle: Frieze Seoul*, South Korea  
*OVR: Art Basel Hong Kong*  
*Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2021 *Art Basel*, Silverlens, Hong Kong  
*'Only a Joke Can Save Us'* Present Projects Gallery, Sham Shui Po, Hong Kong  
*Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila  
*S.E.A. Focus*, Tanjong Pagar Distripark, Singapore  
*SOUTH SOUTH VEZA*, SOUTH SOUTH Platform
- 2020 *Anticipating the Day*, Silverlens, Manila  
*Searching Sanctuary*, Silverlens, Manila

## POW MARTINEZ Bio

- Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2019 *An Artinformal Christmas Group Show*, Artinformal, Manila  
*Art Jakarta*, ROH Projects, Jakarta  
*WXXX*, West Gallery, Manila  
*City Prince/sses*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France  
*50 Years in Hollywood*, Pintô International, New York  
*Art Basel*, Silverlens, Hong Kong  
*Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila  
*Taipei Dangdai*, Silverlens, Taipei
- 2018 *Recent Works*, Underground Gallery, Manila  
*Art Basel*, Silverlens, Hong Kong  
*Chaos*, Silverlens, Manila  
*Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2017 *Art Taipei*, Taipei World Trade Center, Hall One, Taipei  
*Translación*, Inaugural Exhibition, Curated by Gary-Ross Pastrana, Silverlens, Manila
- 2016 *WASAK! Reloaded*, Arndt, Singapore  
*WASAK!*, Arndt, Berlin
- 2015 *No Singing Allowed*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2014 *Brave New Worlds*, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Philippines
- 2013 *manila vice*, MIAM, Sete, France  
*pirates*, Megumi Ogita Gallery, Tokyo
- 2012 *bastards of misrepresentation*, Topaz Arts, New York
- 2011 *Confessions of a sinner*, Manila Contemporary, Manila  
*Post local*, Silverlens, Manila  
*Greatest Hits, Bastards of Misrepresentation, doing time on Filipino time*, 8 Salon, Hamburg  
*Hide the Women and Children*, Mo\_Space, Manila  
*Salvation in a nest of vipers*, Y3K, Melbourne  
*Complete and Unabridged*, Osage Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2010 *bastards of misrepresentation, doing time on Filipino time*, Fries Museum, Berlin  
*serial killers from tate modern to taksu Singapore*, Taksu, Singapore  
*beautiful inside my head forever*, Silverlens, Manila  
*sirens hall*, Mo\_Space, Manila  
*in fairness*, Finale Art File, Manila  
*happily unhappy*, Blanc Gallery, Manila
- 2009 *selected memory*, Richard Koh Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur  
*one small step for man, one giant leap for woman*, Mag:net Gallery, Manila  
*welcome to the jungle*, Art Informal, Manila
- 2007 *shoot me*, Mo\_Space, Manila  
*i have nothing to paint and i'm painting it*, Manila Contemporary, Manila  
*Sungdu-an 4"extensions"*, Cagayan de Oro University
- 2006 *the blank show*, West Gallery, Manila  
*long goodbye*, Mag:net Gallery, Manila  
*Strait from the source*, Future Prospects, Manila  
*missing vocabularies*, Green Papaya Art Projects, Manila

## POW MARTINEZ Bio

2005 *common and uncommon goods*, Future Prospects, Manila  
*other matters*, Future Prospects, Manila

### EDUCATION

2004-2006 *Kalayaan College*, Painting

2002-2004 *University of the Philippines*, Visual Communication

### PUBLICATIONS

Gomez, Jerome. "Pow Martinez just painted these staircase walls of Palais de Tokyo in Paris." ANC-X. Accessed 2 May 2020. <https://news.abs-cbn.com/ancx/culture/art/07/16/19/pow-martinez-just-painted-these-staircase-walls-of-the-palais-de-tokyo-in-paris>

Ladrado, Portia. "Filipino artists showcase works at one of Europe's top contemporary art museums." CNN Philippines Life. Accessed 2 May 2020. <https://cnnphilippines.com/life/culture/arts/2019/6/25/palais-de-tokyo-filipino-artists.html>

New Frontiers." Art Republik. #16, November - December 2017. pp. 44-45

Chung Chin Hsin. Art Taipei. Catalogue. 2017

Chen, Junni. "2 Young Filipino Artists to Watch: Pow Martinez and Dina Gadia." Art Radar Journal. Accessed 31 July 2017. <http://artradarjournal.com/2017/07/31/2-young-filipino-artists-to-watch-pow-martinez-and-dina-gadia/>"Exploring the Diversity of Expression." Business Mirror. Accessed 16 Januray 2017. <http://businessmirror.com.ph/exploring-the-diversity-of-expression/>

Cabiles, Janroe. "Pow Martinez: Hedonistic Pop." Status Magazine. Accessed 5 February 2016. <http://statusmagazineonline.com/features/pow-martinez-interview-february-2016/>

McGovern, Eva. No Chaos No Party. 2016.

Bastards of Misrepresentation. Re:Surgol. 2012.



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**GARY-ROSS PASTRANA**

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