



heavenly bodies

gregory halili

SILVERLENS

heavenly bodies

gregory halili

10 dec 2022 - 7 jan 2023

SILVERLENS

website

email

whatsapp

gregory halili



COMETS OF LIGHT AND LONGING

Gregory Halili creates a cosmos of images in *Heavenly Bodies*

Words by Floy Quintos

In these new works, Gregory Halili's inspiration is recognizable enough to comprehend at once: Comets, those celestial bodies with a nucleus consisting of ice, gas and dust. When passing close to the sun, the nucleus warms, and in a process called outgassing, produces the comet's most distinguished and fascinating feature, a visible tail of light. Science simplifies, explains, perhaps even makes mundane, what is essentially, a phenomenon, a mystery and source of endless fascination. Even the most simplistic and accessible explanations leave us in wonder. Dutch astronomer Jan Oort believed that comets originated from "a spherical shell made up of trillions of icy bodies believed to lie far beyond Pluto's orbit." It must come as surprise to find out that this shell—known as the Oort cloud—is a "theoretical concept" rather than an actual celestial body or place.

Halili's comets can claim no such fascinating theory of their origin. His very own Oort cloud was a potent mix of ennui and anxiety brought about by the worldwide pandemic in 2019. Though he was safely stuck at home, with his wife and young daughters, Halili was not insulated from the cycles of sickness and death that ravaged the world as it did his friends, family and the artistic community. Moved by both his own fear and the persistent will to create, Halili looked to the comet for inspiration.

For many indigenous and traditional societies, the sighting of a comet is a portent of impending change, of transition, even revolution. The same can be said of Halili's current works which mark a radical departure from his previous body of work as a miniaturist.

In an art scene that favors wall-sized, large-scale works, Halili chose the more intimate and meticulous discipline of a miniaturist painter. His years of study in the US allowed him to visit and re-visit museums where he was drawn to works in the small scale. Just as he studied Holbein and Vermeer, so too did he pore over Western medieval illuminated manuscripts, Byzantine texts, Mughal empire paintings, Persian works on paper.

Back in the Philippines, he discovered Damian Domingo, *Letras y Figuras*, filigree jewelry, pina and jusi embroidery. An important discovery that would impact his work were the small genre paintings done on mother-of-pearl, popular souvenir and decorative items in late 19th-early 20th century Philippines.

Miniaturismo combines a wealth of Western and Eastern artistic traditions that allow the painter to work with, or master the skills of, the jeweler, the gem cutter, the goldsmith, the ebeniste. Thus, there has always been an all-pervading sense of Luxe about miniatures. A miniature does not proclaim ownership and status in the same way a large-scale work does. Instead, the pleasure of a miniature is more tactile and personal. Miniatures captured the likeness of a loved one, the carnal pleasure of the erotic, the memory of secret pleasures or treasured times. Painted on ivory or silk, encased on crystal or gold and set with precious stones, miniatures were considered jewels to be held close to one's person and admired in secret.







Midnight Beacon (comet V)

2021-2022

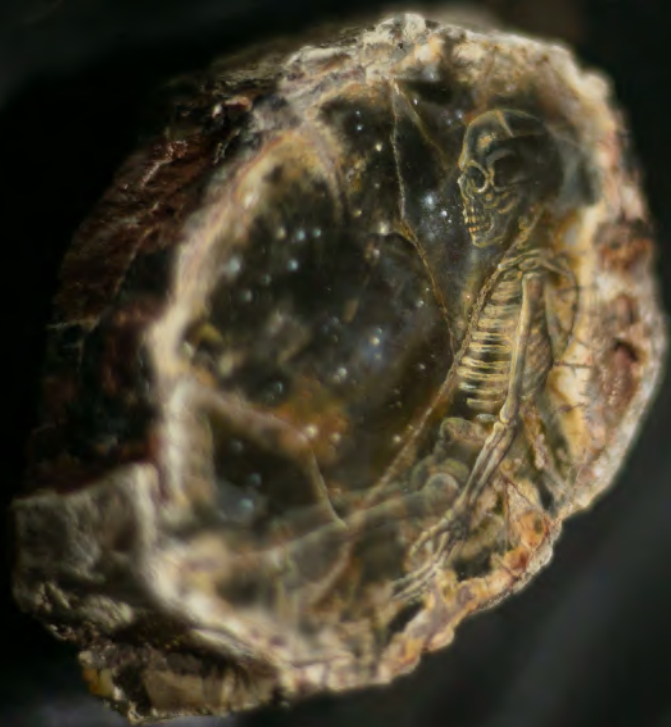
mixed media

88h x 49w x 12d in

223.52h x 124.46w x 30.48d cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)









Rebirth (comet VII)

2021 - 2022

mixed media

88.50h x 63w x 28d in

224.79h x 160.02w x 71.12d cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)









***Crescent of Life and Light
(comet II)***

2021

mixed media

70.75h x 46w x 22d in

179.71h x 116.84w x 55.88d cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)









Renewal (comet I)

2021

mixed media

88h x 46w x 26d in

223.52h x 116.84w x 66.04d cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)







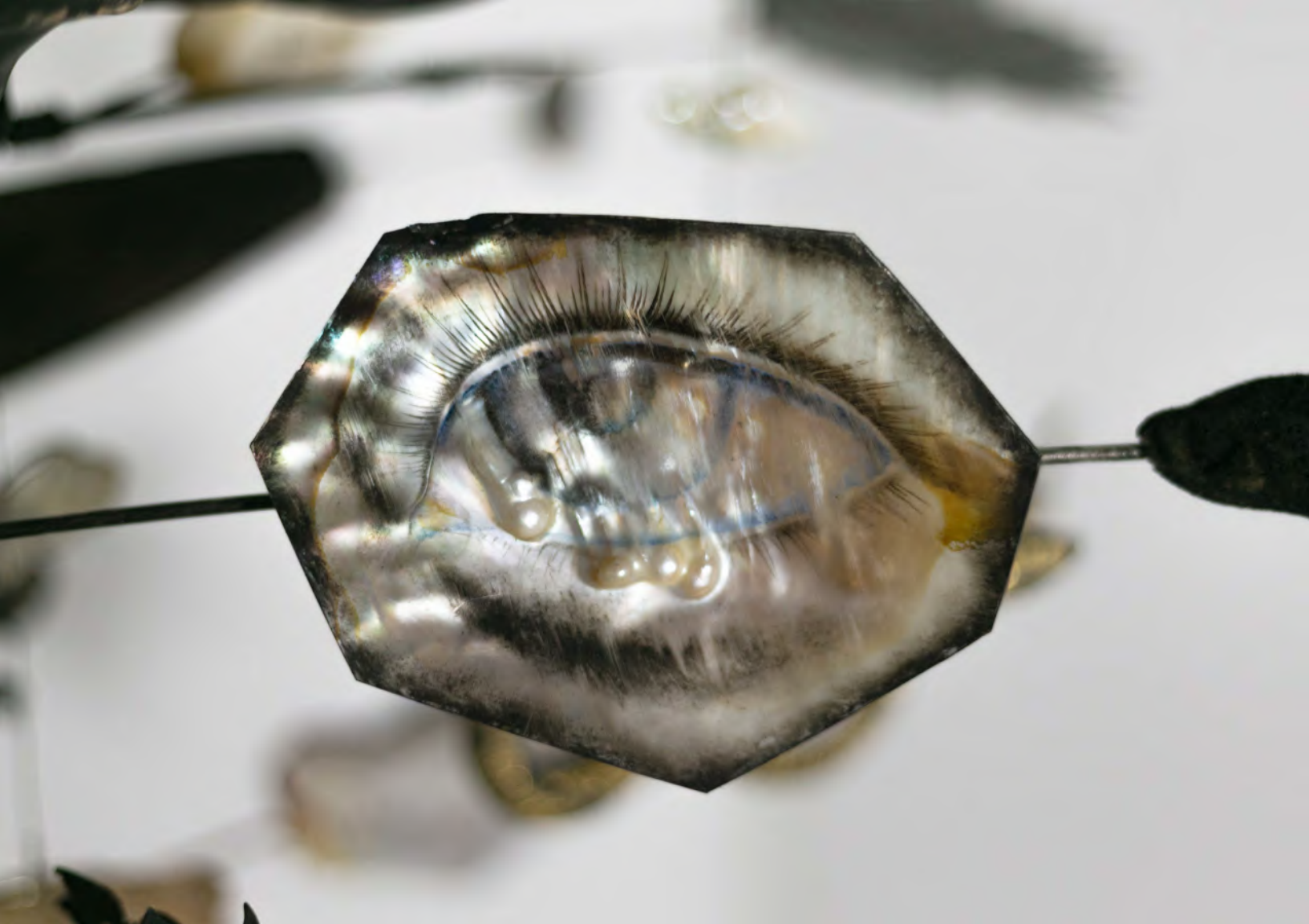


Mysterious Ways (comet III)

2021
mixed media
79h x 57w x 17d in
200.66h x 144.78w x 43.18d cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)









Celebration (comet IV)

2021 - 2022

mixed media

87.50h x 68w x 15d in

222.25h x 172.72w x 38.10d cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)







Light My Way (comet VI)

2021 - 2022

mixed media

77.50h x 65w x 26d in

196.85h x 165.10w x 66.04d cm

[email](#)

[whatsapp](#)









GREGORY HALILI BIO

Gregory Halili (b. 1975, lives and works in Manila) carves and paints mother-of-pearl shells, creating *memento moris*. Halili received his B.F.A. from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. He returned to the Philippines in 2013 after 25 years in the United States. Halili's work focuses on the art of miniatures with interest in the notion and idea of memory, life, death, and cycle.

His work has appeared in numerous exhibitions and shows, including the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Wisconsin; The Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio; The Hammond Museum and Sculpture Garden in Salem, New York; Ayala Museum in Makati City; Jorge B. Vargas Museum at the University of the Philippines in Quezon City; West Gallery in Quezon City; Silverlens in Makati City, and; Nancy Hoffman Gallery in New York City. In 2016, Halili was one of the Filipino artists who presented in the Singapore Biennale.



GREGORY HALILI Bio

b. 1975, Manila, PH



A Moment's Afire, 2020

AWARDS

- 1998 Millennium of Philippine Art, Outstanding Young Filipino-American Artist
United Nations Postal Administration, design for 21-cent stamp
- 1994 Art Institute of New Jersey, Outstanding Visual Artist
"Trenton Times" (New Jersey), All Academic Team
- 1993 Governor's School of the Arts Scholar (New Jersey)
Who's Who Among American Students
- 1991 AAA Nationwide Poster Contest, First Place
- 1990 NASA Mars Settlement Contest, Honorable Mention
- 1989 Citibank Calendar Contest, First Place

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Heavenly Bodies*, Silverlens, Manila
The Oceans That Separate Us, Fatima University, Valenzuela City
- 2020 *Glass Horizon*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2017 *SaLang #5: Phenomenon*, Project Space Pilipinas, Lucban, Quezon
Echo, Silverlens, Manila
- 2015 *Memento*, Silverlens, Singapore
- 2014 *Memento*, Silverlens, Manila
Memento, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- 2013 *Reflections*, West Gallery, Manila
- 2012 *LOVE and LOSS*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2011 *In Search of Paradise*, West Gallery, Manila,
- 2010 *Still Life*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia
- 2007 *Orchids*, West Gallery, Manila
- 2006 *Moment of Sanctuary*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
Relicarios, Jorge B.Vargas Museum, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Manila
- 2005 *Relicarios*, Ayala Museum, Manila
Homage to the People of the Philippine Cordilleras - II, West Gallery, Manila
- 2004 *Orchids*, Project Space, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
Homage to the People of the Philippine Cordilleras, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia
Homage to the People of the Philippine Cordilleras, West Gallery, Manila
The Butterfly Collection, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin
- 2003 *After Amorsolo*, Jorge B.Vargas Museum, University of the Philippines, Manila
Butterfly Collection: Bamboo Series, West Gallery, Manila
Conversation in Contemplation, Project Space, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
Conversation in Contemplation, Jorge B. Vargas Museum, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Manila
Watercolors in Miniature, South Brunswick Public Library, Monmouth Junction, New Jersey
- 2002 *The Butterfly Collection*, The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio
Nostalgia, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York

GREGORY HALILI Bio

- Nostalgia II*, West Gallery, Manila
Miniatures, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia
2000 *Miniatures*, West Gallery, Manila
1999 *Butterfly Collection*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
Miniatures, Consulate General of the Philippines, New York
1998 West Gallery, Manila
Project Space, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Phylogeny of Desire, curated by Ronald Achacoso*, MO_Space, Taguig
Fukuoka Art Fair, Tokyo Art Gallery + BTAP, Tokyo
Art Fair Tokyo, Tokyo Art Gallery + BTAP, Tokyo
2021 *The Circle*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
Hitherto IV: Lamentations, Project Space Pilipinas, Manila
S.E.A. Focus, Silverlens, Singapore
2020 *Placuna Placenta*, National Museum of the Philippines, Manila
Anticipating the Day, Silverlens, Manila
Searching Sanctuary, Silverlens, Manila
Art Fair Philippines, Silverlens, Manila
2019 *The Circle*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
WXXX, West Gallery, Manila
EXPO Chicago, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, Chicago
Art Fair Philippines, Silverlens, Manila
Taipei Dangdai, Silverlens, Taipei
2018 *Re:View 2018*, BenCab Museum, Baguio
Art Miami, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, Miami
16.52 SQM Open Sea, Galerie Ora-Ora, Hong Kong
SaLang, West Gallery, Manila
Countercurrents, Silverlens, Manila
Art Basel, Silverlens, Hong Kong
Art Fair Philippines, Silverlens, Manila
2017 *Curated by Federico de Vera*, Ayala Museum, Manila
DARK AND STORMY NIGHT: Gothic Influence in Contemporary Art, Lehman College Art Gallery, New York.
ArtStage Jakarta, Jakarta, Indonesia
Shared Coordinates, in collaboration with Edouard Malingue Gallery & ROH Projects, The Arts House, Singapore
Translaci3n, Inaugural Exhibition, Curated by Gary-Ross Pastrana, Silverlens, Manila
2016 *Singapore Biennale: An Atlas of Mirrors*, Singapore
Tiny Treasures, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
Art Fair Philippines, Silverlens, Manila
2015 *Bazaar Art Jakarta*, Silverlens, Indonesia
HEY! Modern Art & Pop Culture/Act III, La Halle Saint Pierre, Paris
Miniatures: Small Contemporary Works, University of Wyoming Art Museum,

GREGORY HALILI Bio

- Wyoming
- In the Pink*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- Art Basel*, Silverlens, Hong Kong
- Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2014 *Art Taipei 2014*, Silverlens, Taipei
- Triumph*, Ayala Museum, Manila
- Summer*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2013 *Winter Blues*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- Forty Years*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- Triumph of Philippine Art*, Montclair State University, New Jersey
- Triumph of Philippine Art*, Fisher Museum of Art, University of Southern California
- Theory and Practice of the Small Painting*, Equator Art Projects, Singapore
- 2012 *Women: By, Of, About*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- 2011 *Project Space: Black and White*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- Celebration of Music*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia
- All That Glitters*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- 2010 *REAL(ist)*, Selby Gallery, John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, Florida
- 2009 *Back to Cezanne*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia
- Art of the Still Life*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia
- 2008 Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia
- 2007 *Flying the Coop*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- Through the Palette's Eye*, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Manila
- New York - Manila - New York*, Ayala Museum, Manila
- 2006 *Drawing the Line*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- Visage*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- Circles*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- Small Works*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia
- 2005 *2005 Collector's Show*, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock
- Small Scale*, West Gallery, Manila, Philippines
- 2004 *Celestial Boundaries*, Montclair State University, New Jersey
- Miniature Portraits*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia
- 2003 *Landscape: Unique Views*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- Waterscape*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- 2002 *Celebrating 30 Years*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- Small Scale*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- Summer*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- Small Works Exhibit*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia
- The Miniature Show*, Graystone, San Francisco
- Collector's Show*, The Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock
- Winter Orchidarium*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- 2001 *Celebration of Art*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia
- I Love New York*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York

GREGORY HALILI Bio

- Living Minutiae*, Selby Gallery, John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, Florida
- Many Moons*, Hammond Museum and Japanese Stroll Garden, Salem, New York
- Object of Desire II*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- Re-Presenting Representation IV*, Arnot Art Museum, Elmira, New York
- 2000 *Celebration of Music*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia
- 1999 *Gateways*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- American Realism*, M.A. Doran Gallery, Tulsa, Oklahoma
- Magic of Venice*, Qualita Fine Arts, Las Vegas Nevada
- Object of Desire*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- Summer Light*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- 1998 *Collector's Show*, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock
- 64th Annual International Exhibition*, Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers Society of Washington, D.C., North Bethesda, Maryland
- 1997 *Small Works*, Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia
- 1996 *Collector's Show*, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock
- Artists' House Gallery, Philadelphia
- Small Scale*, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York
- Summer Pleasures*, Summer Treasures, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York

CURATED SHOWS

- 2020 *Searching Sanctuary*, Silverlens, Manila

EDUCATION

- 1998 B.F.A., University of the Arts, Philadelphia

PUBLICATIONS

Halili, Gregory & Sioson, Carmencita. "Maker's Musings: Artist Gregory Halili on fatherhood and creativity." Philippine Daily Inquirer Lifestyle. Accessed 20 June 2020. <https://lifestyle.inquirer.net/364502/makers-musings-artist-gregory-halili-on-fatherhood-and-creativity/>

De Veyra, Devi. "Q&A with Greg Halili: Creation is a form of mental exercise that keeps me happy, sane" ANC-X. Accessed 13 June 2020. <https://news.abs-cbn.com/ancx/culture/art/06/13/20/qa-with-greg-halili-creation-is-a-form-of-mental-exercise-that-keeps-me-happy-sane>

Uy, Hanna Jo. "Echoes From Nature." Manila Bulletin: Lifestyle. 16 January 2017. p. D4

Jaucian, Don. "Filipino Artists Triumph at the Singapore Biennale." CNN Life Philippines. Accessed 4 November 2016. <http://cnnphilippines.com/life/culture/arts/2016/11/04/singapore-biennale-2016.html>

Calasan, Pierre A. "The Everlasting Gaze." Town and Country Magazine. November 2016. p. 24.

"Karagatan (The Breadth of Oceans)." Exhibition Catalogue: An Atlas of Mirrors. 16 October 2016. p. 20.

Nollase, Renz. "Through the Looking Glass." Southern Living. August 2016. pp. 12-17

Lucenario, Danton & Quingco, Oliver II. "In the lowak's Embrace." Discover Philippines. Issue No. 1, Volume II. 2016. pp. 65-68

SILVERLENS

www.silverlensgalleries.com

GREGORY HALILI

Bio

Anne & Julien. Hey! Magazine. December 2014. pp. 72-75

Sunderberg, K. "An Eerie Beauty: Gregory Halili's Trompe L'oeil Eyes and Excavated Skulls." Artsy. Accessed 29 November 2014. <http://artsy.net/post/editorial-an-erie-beauty-gregory-halili-trompe-loiel>

"Triumph of Philippine Art." Catalogue.

Strickley, Sarah A. "Window to the World." Watercolor Magic. December 2007. pp. 2, 46-53

GREGORY HALILI

Copyright © Silverlens Inc. 2022

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or otherwise, without the prior written consent of the above mentioned copyright holders, with the exception of brief excerpts and quotations used in articles, critical essays or research.

FLOY QUINTOS

Text © Silverlens Inc. 2022

All rights reserved.

No part of this essay may be reproduced, modified, or stored in a retrieval system or retransmission, in any form or by any means, for reasons other than personal use, without written permission from the author.

SILVERLENS

2263 Don Chino Roces Avenue Extension

Makati City, Philippines 1231

T +632.88160044

F +632.88160044

M +63917.5874011

www.silverlensgalleries.com

inquiry@silverlensgalleries.com