

The background is a highly textured oil painting of a forest. The brushstrokes are thick and expressive, creating a sense of depth and movement. The color palette is rich and varied, including deep greens, earthy browns, vibrant oranges, and cool blues. A small bird is perched on a branch in the middle ground, and the overall atmosphere is one of a sun-dappled woodland.

# CHASING SUNSETS

# **MARK ANDY GARCIA**

14 JANUARY - 11 FEBRUARY 2023

**SILVERLENS**

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# **MARK ANDY GARCIA**

14 JANUARY - 11 FEBRUARY 2023

email

whatsapp

website

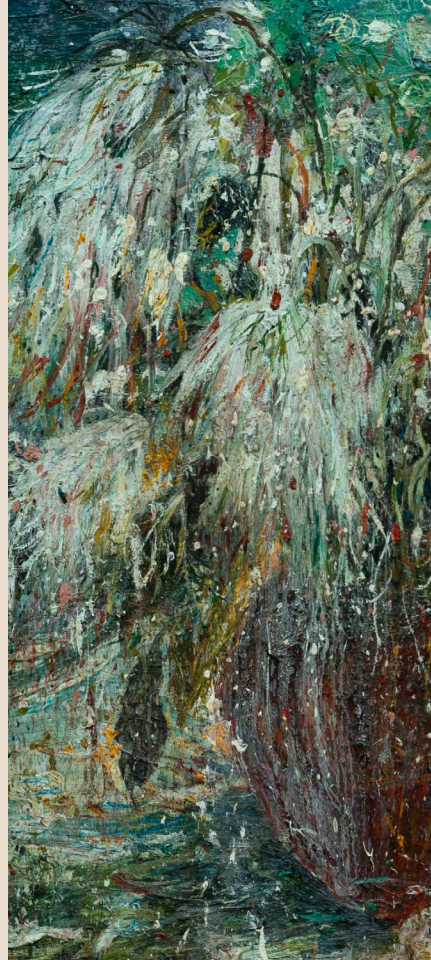
**SILVERLENS**



Mark Andy Garcia is a Filipino painter known for his layered, textured landscapes that connect geographies as places of spiritual belonging that make sense of the non-material. This exhibition to welcome the New Year continues to see him explore the possibilities of place as a means to recognize the unknown.

The anonymous, desolate figures in his work are not based on people he knows, but are a result of spontaneity and instinct during the act of painting. They are scribbled black or shaded white in the background or right in front of the viewer. Garcia says he does not plan what colors to use beforehand but lets the developing work guide him. This has meant the expressive use of mainly earth tones with blues and yellows rendered in gestural brushwork. In “Chasing Sunsets,” his second solo exhibition at Silverlens, the eye looks toward the middle of the canvas, towards a clearing in expectation, almost. The work does not occupy the entirety of the frame, but ends before the edges. The other dripping and splattered landscapes in the show seem to exist outside notions of setting, context or time. Be it a pathway, a parcel of forest, or an empty field.

A still life of sunflowers, an allusion to Van Gogh, is also included in the show. Sunflowers have been an enduring subject in Garcia’s art practice. In “Shattered,” instead of looking up, the bouquet of flowers, droops as if sullen. The petals are white and appear wilted. This is in contrast to his previous renderings of the same subject where the petals were mad with vibrant color. In this rendering, one can feel a perceptible sense of effortless action and eventual acceptance.

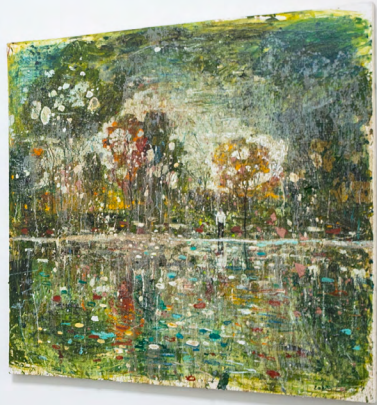


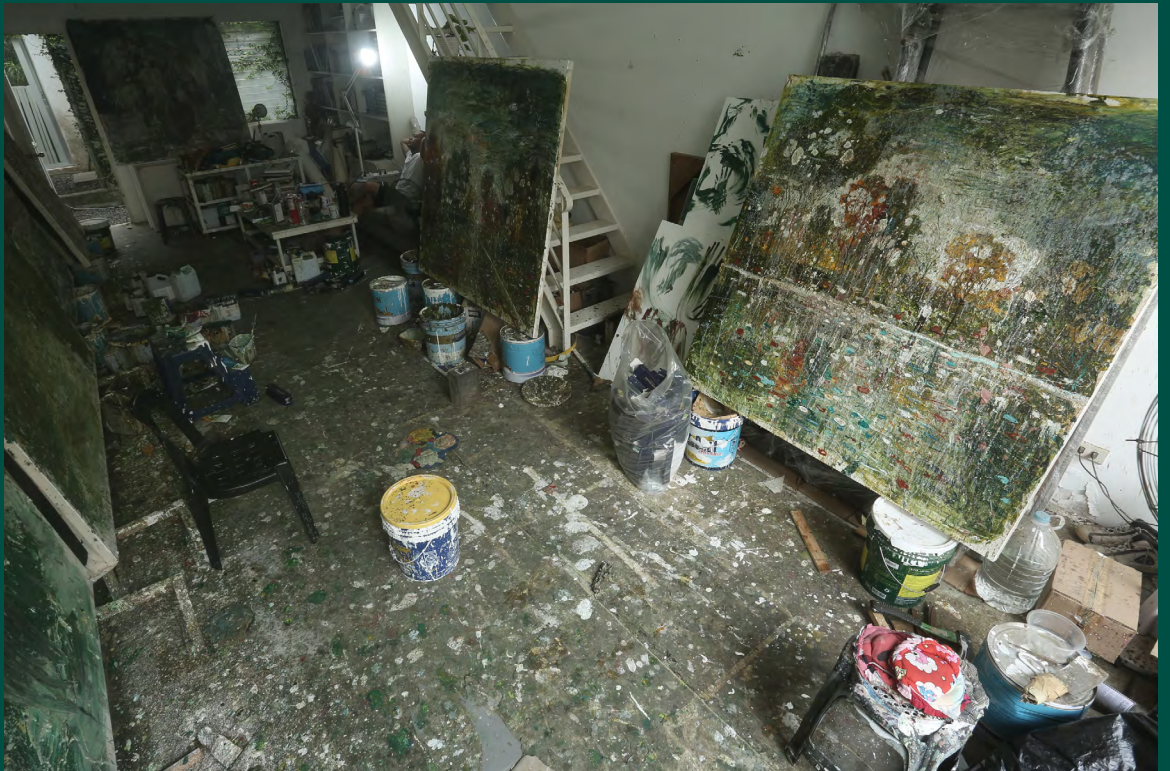


On another painting, there is a lighthouse in the background. Elements in this piece draw deeply from Garcia's own experience of struggle. It is said you can go through life twice: the first time as it happens and the second as an artist. The particularity of the work as a visual autobiography of sorts for the artist also lends it a universality that makes it relatable. If this is the case, could a black floating figure in another painting in the same show also stand for his avatar? Maybe. Garcia paints a landscape, but it is the varied perceptions and interpretations it evokes that give it a deeper meaning making it not a mirror of experience but a prism of it.

The artist's construct of place through the language of sky, land, and trees might just be a fragment of what is present in the natural and historically laden world we live in. But what it does is mine into the feelings we have about our environment, about the spaces that exist between everything; where spirituality and landscape can combine to resurrect old myths and create new ones.

Words by Josephine V. Roque







## Empty Space in Between, 2022

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

[email](#)

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Detail from *Empty Space Between*, 2022



Detail from *Empty Space Between*, 2022





## Chasing Sunsets, 2022

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

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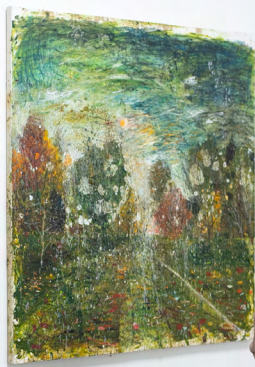
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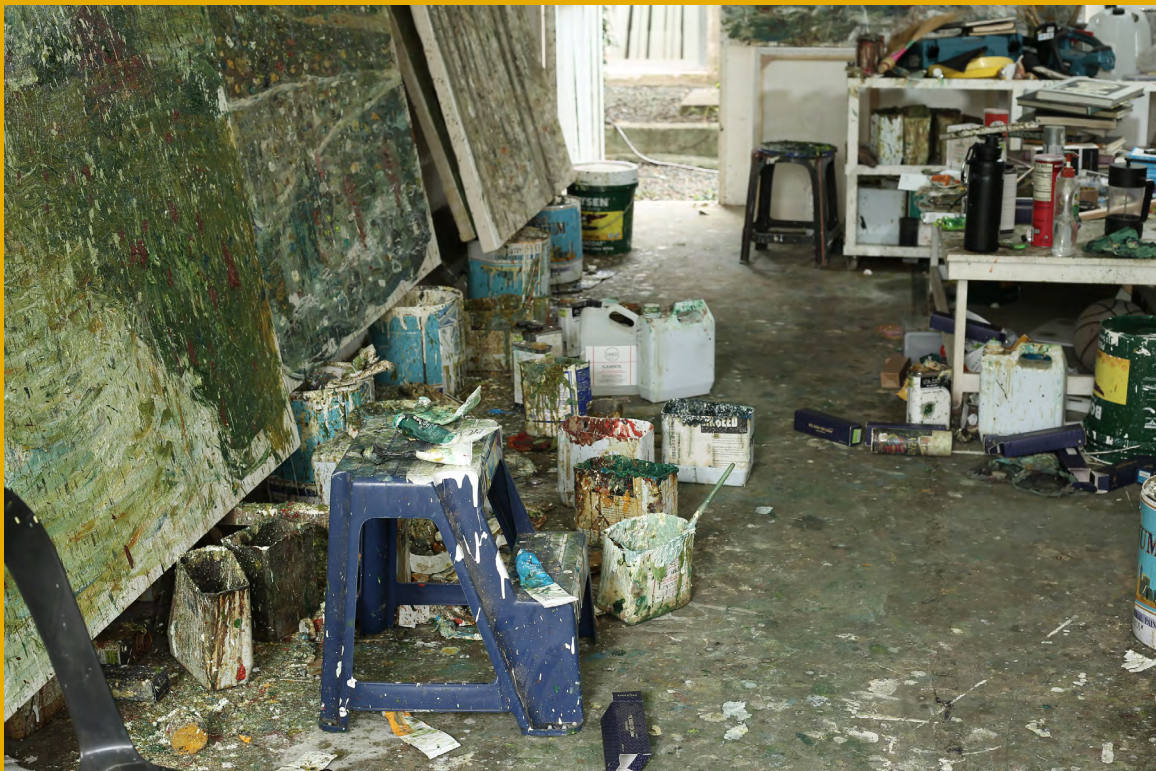


Detail from *Chasing Sunsets*, 2022



Detail from *Chasing Sunsets*, 2022









## Guide, 2022

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

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Detail from *Guide*, 2022



Detail from *Guide*, 2022







## Shattered, 2022

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

[email](#) [whatsapp](#)



Detail from *Shattered*, 2022



Detail from *Shattered*, 2022







## Underrated Silence, 2022

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

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Detail from *Underrated Silence*, 2022



Detail from *Underrated Silence*, 2022



## MARK ANDY GARCIA

### Bio

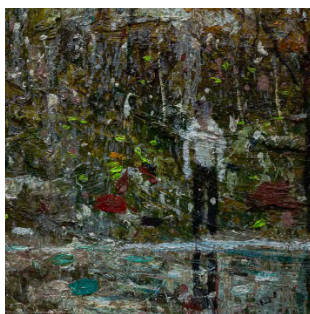
The anti-trend, painterly style of Mark Andy Garcia (b.1984) serve to impart emotional honesty to paintings that operate like entries in journals. His various one-man shows since 2008 have detailed his life as an overseas contract worker in Saudi Arabia, laid bare his emotional anguish over the passing of his father, and operated as keepsakes of memories of his daily life. These bring out various intense transformative experiences and also more ordinary, blissful moments. His approach towards painting has something of a child-like sincerity to it, charged with an undercurrent of religious intensity that churns both his content and brushwork, whether for lighter or darker autobiographical periods, and to portray joy or despair.

Garcia graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts major in Advertising from the Technological University of The Philippines, Manila, in 2005. He is also the recipient of many awards such as the Grand Prize for 2007 Metrobank Art and Design Excellence National Art Competition (Oil Painting Category); Juror's Choice Award of Excellence, 2008 Philippine Art Awards. He had chosen as one of the recipient of the 2015 Thirteen Artist's Award by the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

## MARK ANDY GARCIA

### Bio

b. 1984, Nueva Ecija,  
Philippines



*Chasing Sunsets, 2022 (detail)*

### SELECTED AWARDS

- 2019 Recipient, Metrobank Foundation's Award for Continuing Excellence and Service (ACES) for Visual Arts
- 2015 Recipient, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Thirteen Artists Award
- 2011 Finalist, top 10, Philippine Art Awards NCR
- 2008 Juror's Choice Award of Excellence, National Philippine Art Awards  
Finalist, top 10, Philippine Art Awards NCR
- 2007 Grand Prize, Metrobank Art and Design Excellence, National Art Competition (oil painting category)  
Finalist, top 10, Philippine Art Awards NCR
- 2005 Grand Prize, 5th Art Petron National Student Art Competition (water media category)
- 2004 First Runner-up, 4th Art Petron National Student Art Competition (oil painting category)  
First Runner-up, 4th Art Petron National Student Art Competition (water media category)  
Grand Prize, UST Inter-University On-the-spot Chalk-Fest. Drawing Competition
- 2003 Grand Prize, 36th Shell National Student Art Competition (oil painting category)  
First Runner-up, 3rd Art Petron, National Student Art Competition (oil painting category)

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Chasing Sunsets*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2022 *In Due Time*, West Gallery, Quezon City, Philippines
- 2020 *Basic Painting*, Art Cube Gallery, Makati City, Philippines  
*To Live*, West Gallery, Quezon City, Philippines
- 2019 *Promised Land*, Finale Art File, Tall Gallery, Makati City, Philippines  
*Chest To Heart*, BenCab Museum, Baguio City
- 2018 *Stand Still*, Art Cube Gallery, Manila
- 2017 *Wonder*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2016 *Human Nature*, 1335 Mabini Gallery, Manila  
*The Painter*, Secret Fresh Gallery, Ronac Art Center, San Juan, Manila
- 2015 *Recent Works: Mark Andy Garcia*, Ayala Museum, Artist Space, Makati City  
*Blessings In Disguise*, West Gallery, Quezon City
- 2014 *Two Edged-Sword*, Secret Fresh Gallery, Ronac Art Center, San Juan, Manila  
*Passage of Time*, Cultural Center of the Philippines; Pasilyo Guillermo Tolentino, Manila
- 2013 *Better Days Ahead*, Pinto Art Gallery, Antipolo City  
*Things Are Different Now*, Art Cube, Ayala Center, Makati City
- 2012 *Somewhere to Lay My Head*, West Gallery, Quezon City  
*Beyond Words*, (Book launching & exhibition) Light and Space Contemporary, Quezon City
- 2011 *Acquainted with the Night*, West Gallery, Quezon City  
*For Dear Life*, Blanc Compound, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
- 2010 *Permanent*, West Gallery, Quezon City
- 2009 *Under the Watchful Eyes*, Blanc Compound, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
- 2008 *So Near Yet So Far*, West Gallery, Quezon City

## MARK ANDY GARCIA

### Bio

b. 1984, Nueva Ecija,  
Philippines

#### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2021 *Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila  
*ALT Philippines*, West Gallery/Finale Art File, Makati City, Philippines  
*Alternating Atmosphere*, Finale Art File, Tall Gallery and Video Room, Makati City, Philippines  
*Grayscale*, West Gallery, Quezon City, Philippines  
*Phosphenes*, Whitewalls Gallery, Makati City, Philippines
- 2020 *Searching Sanctuary*, Silverlens, Manila  
*Try Pushing a Big Tree*, Silverlens, Manila  
*Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila  
*ALT Philippines*, West Gallery, Manila
- 2019 *How to Make A Body Without Me Possible*, Artery Art Space, Quezon City  
*Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2018 *Pinto-Manhattan Manila II*, Pinto International, TriBeCa, New York City  
*Strange Attractors*, Artery Art Space, Quezon  
*Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2017 *O2NOW*, Art Cube, Manila  
*Art Fair Philippines*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2016 *Daloy*, Vargas Museum, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City  
*Art Fair Philippines*, 1335 Mabini Gallery, Manila  
*RE:VIEW*, BenCab Museum, Baguio City
- 2015 *Imago Mundi*, Luciano Benetton Collection, Mappa dell'arte nuova, Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice, Italy  
*Stop Look Listen*, 1335 Mabini Gallery, Manila
- 2014 *Interval*, West Gallery, Quezon City
- 2013 *The Head of the Matter*, Art Center, Mandaluyong City  
*Surface Area*, Finale Art File, Makati  
*Bound*, West Gallery, Quezon City  
*Perdido Eden*, Ode to Art, Raffles City, 252 North Bridge Road, Raffles City, Singapore  
*The Mona Lisa Project*, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Manila
- 2011 *Alay 14*, Boston Art Gallery, Quezon City  
*Flatfield*, West Gallery, Quezon City  
*The Drawing Show*, Avellana Art Gallery, Pasay City
- 2010 *MADE-NOW*, Blanc Peninsula Manila, Makati City  
*Implode*, (T.U.P. Alumni Exhibition), Cultural Center of the Philippines, Manila
- 2009 *Buang*, Alliance Total Gallery, Makati City  
*Figures in Extremis*, Art Verite, Bonifacio Global, Taguig City  
*If We Only Walk Long Enough*, Studio 83, 83 Kim Yam Road, Singapore  
*Love Rules!*, Boston Art Gallery, Quezon City



## MARK ANDY GARCIA

### Bio

**b. 1984, Nueva Ecija,  
Philippines**

2008 *Eight Faces*, Avellana Art Gallery, Pasay City  
*8 x 8 x 8*, Avellana Art Gallery, Pasay City  
*Philippine Art Awards*, National Museum of the Philippines, Manila  
*Survey 8*, Avellana Art Gallery, Pasay City  
*This Time Tomorrow*, Blanc Compound, Mandaluyong City

#### **EDUCATION**

2005 Technological University of the Philippines, Manila  
BS Fine Arts/Advertising

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Manila Bulletin  
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Estrada, M.R. 2014 "Passage of Time" catalogue/essay published by the Cultural Center of  
the Philippines  
Uy, H.J. 2013 "From the Depths of their Soul" Manila Bulletin  
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Blanc Gallery  
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Marquez-Manaois, J.R. 2010, "Rage and Beyond" Permanent. Catalogue/essay  
Chikiamko, C 2009, "Art is Like a Journal" catalogue/essay  
Bautista, J 2008, "Spiritual Remittance: One Warrior Under God", catalogue/essay

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**JOSEPHINE V. ROQUE**

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