



MARC GABA
 Meanwhile We Happen
 Photograph, mirror and wood
 40 x 28.5 cm. / 15.75 x 11.22 in.
 2011



MARC GABA
 Color, Volume, Motion on the Limits
 of Illustrating Memory and Back
 Oil on canvas and wood
 3.81 x 20.32 x 25.4 cm. / 1.5 x 8 x 10 in.
 2011



MIMI TECSON
 26 Wishes
 Mixed media
 60.96 x 60.96 cm. / 24 x 24 in.
 2009



TANG KWOK-HIN
 Spiraling Ships
 comics, MDF
 29.9 x 20 x 5.5 cm. / 11.77 x 7.87 x 2.17 in.
 2008

Anton del Castillo ■ Esther Yip Lai-Man ■ Irma Lacorte
 Joo Choon Lin ■ Marc Gaba ■ Mark Salvatus
 Mideo Cruz ■ Mimi Tecson ■ Tang Kwok-Hin
 Tang Ling-Nah ■ Thosapol Boriboon

small TALK:

Conversations of Cities

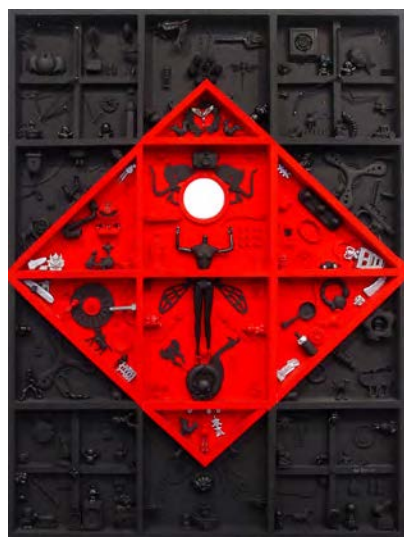
curated by
 Dayang Yraola



MARK SALVATUS
 Tank
 Ink on paper
 19.5 x 19.5 cm. / 7.68 x 7.68 in.
 2009



MARK SALVATUS
 Graffiti
 Acrylic on boards
 35.56 x 48.26 cm. / 14 x 19 in.
 2010



MIMI TECSON
 Sa Kelong Ng Tadhana li
 Mixed media
 91.44 x 122 cm. / 36 x 48 in.
 2009



TANG LING-NAH
 Grassbed #2 From The Series Self-portrait Ophelia
 Digital photograph on watercolour paper
 33.02 x 71.12 cm. / 13 x 28 in.
 2004



THOSAPOL BORIBOON
 Hush Series #1, # 3
 Acrylic on canvas
 52 x 52 cm. / 20.47 x 20.47 in.
 2011

13 - 28 January 2012



MIDEO CRUZ
 Untitled
 Mixed media
 26 x 34 cm. / 10.24 x 13.4 in.
 2011



MIDEO CRUZ
 Untitled
 Mixed media
 26 x 34 cm. / 10.24 x 13.4 in.
 2011



TANG KWOK HIN
 Lost In Eden
 comics, MDF
 20 x 18.5 x 7.3 cm. / 35.43 x 23.62 x 17.72 in.
 2008



Lost In Eden (detail)



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While in Bangkok, HongKong, Manila or Singapore, take the metro rail to observe the central business district. Where the rail ends, take a cab or walk to marvel over an older city where most homes and little businesses are. Cross side streets, follow the neon lights or bass of electronic players and one would see where people hang out. Stand in a corner and watch people move to and fro, here and there, everybody moving in all directions or trying to move—traffic. You need Coke, there it is. You want McDonald's meal, there it is. How about Starbucks or 7-11? It's all there. By ignoring scripts, one could barely tell which city is which. Histories aside, language aside and to some extent, quantum aside, one can map out these cities and feel that it is his own, or at least 'like' home. This feeling of recognition, we loosely attribute to the idea of glocal, wherein local can be located in the global and global is recognized as local.

In this exhibit the artists are given liberty to choose their own 'peg'; to identify which images they can relate to the doppelganger effect of this glocal phenomenon. Tang Ling-Nah, Marc Gaba and Esther Yip Lai-Man worked on capturing the infrastructure of cities. Irma Lacorte, Joo Choon Lin, Tang Kwok-hin and Mark Salvatus worked on capturing the people. Anton del Castillo, Mideo Cruz, Mimi Tecson and Thosapol Boriboon worked on capturing the objects. Implying that for the artists, glocal is a product of lived lives—by the ability of human to adapt while evolving.

While it is so easy to charge this whole glocal phenomenon to the invasion of multinational companies, to the commodification of cities and easier access to information highways, this exhibit encourages the viewers to wonder if there is more to it than reconfiguration of boundaries. With Small Talk, let the conversations of cities begin.

- DAYANG YRAOLA

Small Talk: Conversation of Cities is part of the Project Glocal. Project Glocal is a discourse initiative among artists from Bangkok, Manila, HongKong and Singapore on the phenomena of contemporary life in cities. A series of shows will run from 2012 to 2013, starting in Tin-aw Art Gallery. Participating artists are: Anton del Castillo, Black Baroque Committee, Bundith Phunsombatlert, Joo Choon Lin, Esther Yip Lai-Man, Francis Yu, Genevieve Chua, Ho Siu-Kee, Irma Lacorte, Jaffa Lam, Jason Wee, Jittagarn Kaewtinkoy, Lukas Tam Wai Ping, Luke Ching, Mac Valdezco, Marc Gaba, Mark Salvatus, Michael Lee, Mideo Cruz, Mimi Tecson, Preeyachanok Ketsuwan, Riel Hilario, Ruthairat Kumsrichan, SongMing Ang, Tang Kwok Hin, Tang Ling Nah, Thanarit Thipwaree, Thosapol Boriboon, Vichaya Mukdamanee, Wantanee Siripattananuntaku, Warawut Tourawong.

Conversations of Cities: Manila
RIEL HILARIO

A few years ago in Jakarta, I was part of a panel of young curators from Europe and Asia and we had just concluded a week of exchanges on what we perceived were critical and key issues of contemporary art in our respective regions. But after a public presentation of our conclusions (and prescriptions) to an audience of Indonesian artists and curators, our European counterparts were confused when no one asked any questions, no one opposed our views and no one raised their hands for a clarification. Yet during the cocktails, artists and writers sought after each one of us to present their reactions in private, often between snatches of clubhouse, sips of wine or beer and even an occasional puff from another "social lubricant". It was then that I understood the normative habits of most Asian cultures favouring small talk as the most polite vehicle of discourse. Not that there is an incapacity for public discussion but the exchange of information and ideas seem to be more preferred in this part of the world. A Korean curator called this "the preference for tactile contact of discourse". It seems that keeping the conversation within a tighter circle make ideas seem more palpable, and more personal. Therefore, more real.

I often thought that this idiosyncrasy of discursive structure is due to the tendencies of Asian artists to be more concerned with sharing experiences and insights, rather than with theory or manifestos. As such this leads to occasions when artists gather in groups because of common empathy rather than common ideology, or aesthetics. Relationships between Asian artists are more bound through shared experiences rather than shared politics. Therefore in gathering artists from Asia whose practices are grounded in different loci there is always an initial movement in searching for something common, something shared, something familiar, something similar and something intimate, personal, small enough, to be seen in close proximity.

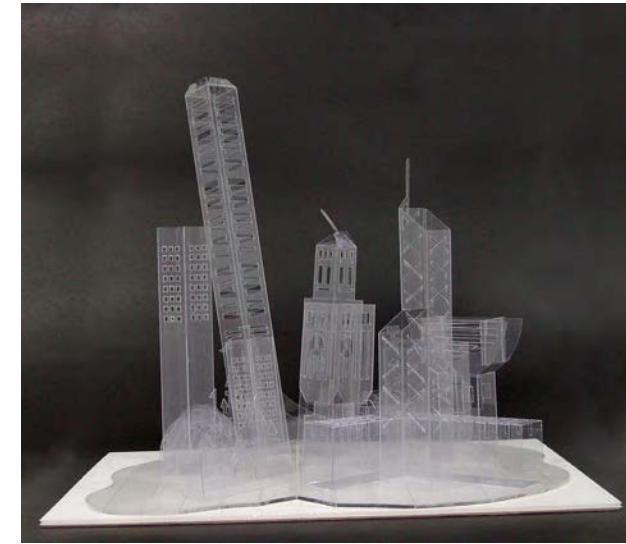
Small Talk: Conversation of Cities is not just a themed exhibition with participating artists from Bangkok, Hongkong, Singapore and Manila, it is first and foremost an inquiry: How does contemporary urban life compare from one city to another? What aspects of the contemporary do you re-cognize in each city? The target artists therefore must have experience in transience and mobility, a symptom of the contemporary Asian artist's practice.

The goal of the project goes beyond a catalogue of comparisons to create groundwork for critical stances on contemporary life and culture in the region. It is to create a field of creative thought where urban blight in Manila can be fully understood as the filter of its blood-red sunsets; or where the cosmopolitan edge of Singapore is but the vessel of its openness to all denizens; or where HongKong is seen as an example of contemporary urbanity that keeps in touch with heritage and where Bangkok is discovered as a region of plenitude, and as a nexus for travellers that does not exhaust the senses nor the travel fund. Or it can be a venue to air out grievances and bad memories: of lousy accommodations and cheating taxicab drivers; of lost luggage and bad bargains; of horrid humidity and fretful thunderstorms; of deadlock traffic jams and late-night revelry and its attendant hang-over; greasy bar tops, dark alleyways and difficult concierge services, connecting flights...

Whatever the subject, a conversation in this structure can go on as long as the beer holds its dew. **Small Talk** is but an entry point to a promising variety of dialogue, where the works are equally provocative to other trajectories of thought. Like an urban traffic of creative projections, we revel: the smell of diesel fumes on our clothes, wafts of roast, chilli and curry, to the saccharine textures of a stretch of highways, the cold concrete greys of our alleyways and the circus primaries of our local politics. We swap stories of our everyday lives. ©



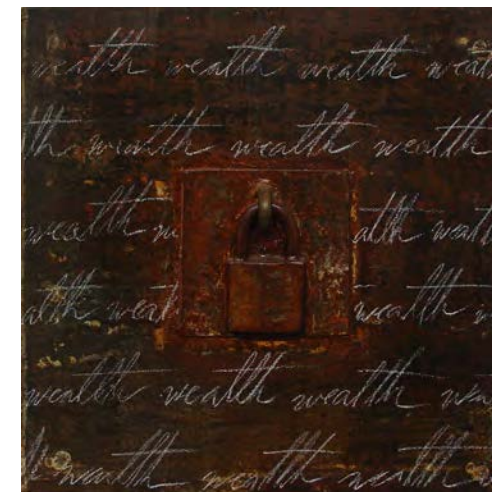
ESTHER YIP LAI-MAN
Folding Hongkong (Black)
Mixed media
90 x 60 x 45 cm. / 35.43 x 23.62 x 17.72 in.
2010



ESTHER YIP LAI-MAN
Folding Hongkong (White)
Mixed media
90 x 60 x 45 cm. / 35.43 x 23.62 x 17.72 in.
2010



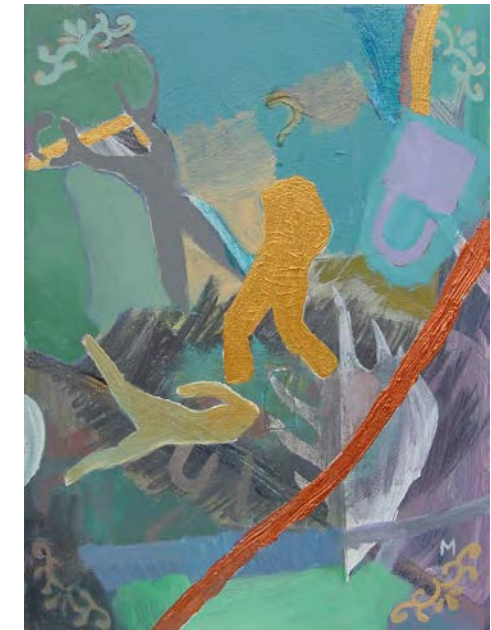
ANTON DEL CASTILLO
Face Off
Light box
122 x 122 cm. / 48 x 48 in.
2012



ANTON DEL CASTILLO
Vault Series - 2
Metal, board, paint
30 x 30 cm. / 11.75 x 11.75 in.
2010



IRMA LACORTE
Three Ships 2/12
Acrylic on canvas
39.37 x 29.21 cm. / 15.5 x 11.5 in.
2010



IRMA LACORTE
Three Ships 3/12
Acrylic on canvas
39.37 x 29.21 cm. / 15.5 x 11.5 in.
2010



JOO CHOON LIN
Come Out And Play! 2 76/100
Video, 6:03 mins.
2009



JOO CHOON LIN
I Saw You Sing Series # 01 Singapore + Malaysia
Video, 11 mins.
2011