

BROWN STUDY: The wanderings of Juan Pikas

Salvador Joel Alonday

The tableau of life-size sculptures is the first of a series of tableaus that aim to chronicle the further wanderings of Juan Pikas, a character from an old Visayan folktale, so called “the one-sided man” because he was born with only one leg, an arm, an ear and one eye. Juan initially went on a quest to seek out God so that he may be made “whole”. The original story by an anonymous author was fashioned as a fable about animals conversing and various human characters all with their inquiries about morality – intended as a missionary tool to teach Christian values to the common folk.

The image of Juan Pikas is one often revisited by the sculptor for its potential depth of narrative with the addition of more novel tropes. This is the first set of characters Juan would encounter in this reconfiguring of a fictional quest – not for the purpose that it was originally intended but as a means to approach other themes and introspections. Juan is willfully absent here and in the subsequent tableaus as he is yet to be transformed by this journey.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Salvador Joel Alonday is a Sculptor, Potter, Art Teacher and a Father to five children. Early in his career, he did freelance projects and was also employed as an Industrial Designer in several Export Companies where he learned to work with a variety of materials especially clay, wood, fibers, metals, and synthetics. This experience nurtured his desire to become a sculptor. He taught materials and processes at the School of Fine Arts and Design, PWU and at the Philippine High School for the Arts. Alonday co-founded the Artinformal Galleries and between 2004 and 2013, in addition to his role as gallery curator, facilitated art workshops in sculpture and maintained a studio in the same premises. He has since moved to his Parañaque residence and is regularly engaged in both private and public art commissions, exhibitions, and experimentations with a variety of materials. In 2008, he was awarded the Metrobank Prize for Achievement in Sculpture by the Metrobank Foundation. A permanent collection of his works are installed at the Pinto Art Museum.