



# Corpografias

Featuring works by:

Lawrence Carlos  
Rhine Bernardino  
Sorin Choi  
Kulay Labitigan  
Noel Ed De Leon

28 – 31 October, 11am – 5pm

A-Side B-Side Gallery  
Hackney Downs Studios, E8 2BT

Opening Night: 27 October, 7pm – 9pm

Organised by  
Batubalani Art Projects

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A-side B-side  
gallery



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27 – 31 October 2016

A-Side B-Side Gallery

Curated by Batubalani Art Projects

"The body is our general medium for having a world."

- Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *Phenomenology of Perception*, 1945

Writing at the end of the Second World War, the French philosopher Maurice Merleau-Ponty put forward a powerful proposition: our bodies are not merely a medium for interacting with the outside world, our moods and sensations actively shape how we perceive ourselves and our surroundings. More than half a century later, Merleau-Ponty's words resonate strongly with a current generation of artists exploring how the body responds to digitisation, rapid travel and the pressures of a city driven by its fast pace of work.

This exhibition invited five contemporary - artists Rhine Bernardino, Sorin Choi, Lawrence Carlos, Kulay Labitigan, and Noel Ed De Leon - to respond to the notion of 'corpografia' - the human body as a site marked by the world around it and, simultaneously, a tool for shaping the space around it. Employing a range of physical and digital manipulations, as well as a creative play with light, the works presented here examine how physical presence may be relayed across time and space through objects, documentation and memory.

## Featured Works

Rhine Bernardino, Sorin Choi

### **Shrines**

2016

Laser print on acrylic, LED

*Shrines* is a marriage between two artists' practice and exploration. Rhine Bernardino's one year selfie project *Shellfish* merges with Sorin Choi's *Houses*. In *Shellfish* (2014-2015), Rhine took selfies and post them on Instagram, every hour on the hour for a whole year, while Sorin collected the most popular images using #selfie on the same social networking site that, that she then imprinted incorporating cyanotype on plaster for *Houses* (2016).



Taking self-portraits and photographs of moments is now beyond just treasuring or sharing them with loved ones. It is becoming a necessity, almost an obligation of which we live our lives around. As much as *Shrines* is a result of an exploration of our time's dependency on technology and the increasing need of validation and presence in social networking sites, it is also an inquiry on human frailty, a desire to be perceived or crave for the absolute being, an idol - of others or one's self.

*Shrines* (2016) by Rhine Bernardino and Sorin Choi.  
Photo © Lawrence Carlos Photography

Lawrence Carlos

## Kilapsaw: The Delirium Sequence

2016

C-type Fuji Matt photo print

50cm x 70cm (19 <sup>11</sup>/<sub>16</sub> in x 27 <sup>9</sup>/<sub>16</sub> in)

Photos taken on a 35mm film camera

Kilapsaw: The Delirium Sequence is the visual manifestation and extension of a ninety-minute performance by Noel Ed De Leon and Kulay Labitigan through the streets of central London entitled Kilapsaw: Everything Must Go (July, 2016). This durational live performance explored the existing traces of war through central London's commercial heartland.

Starting at Cavendish Square, and continuing its way along the entire length of Regent Street, with the journey culminating by the Eros statue at Piccadilly Circus, a double-exposure photo (achieved in camera) was taken every ten minutes to crystallise fragmentary gestures of both the protagonists and peripheral urban activity encircling the performance.

Kilapsaw: The Delirium Sequence (2016) by Lawrence Carlos.





Remnants (2016) by Noel Ed De Leon and Kulay Labitigan.  
Photo © Lawrence Carlos Photography

Kulay Labitigan, Noel Ed De Leon

## Remnants

2016

World War II helmets, flasks, gas masks, water container, nylon bags, rotating lights

*Remnants* is a multimedia installation incorporating the practices of Kulay Labitigan and Noel Ed De Leon. The work features original artifacts from the collaborative performance *Kilapsaw: Everything Must Go* (July 2016). Here, the artists staged a journey through central London, pushing along a cart filled with World War II helmets and flasks in a three hour performance. Their route traced a series of sites which were heavily bombed during the Second World War, highlighting how the history of these places has now been forgotten since the sites have been incorporated into London's commercial heartland.

*Remnants* incorporates the performance's original artifacts into a new assemblage featuring a light installation by Kulay Labitigan. This material exploration fuses two spatial realms - the physical and the imaginary. Similar to Lawrence Carlos's documentation of the live performance, the banal objects in this installation now appear in a manner that is both familiar and strange, challenging our ability to make sense of the visual perception in our everyday presents.

## Artists' Biographies:

Rhine Bernardino

Rhine is currently undertaking an MA in Sculpture at the Royal College of Art, for which she was awarded the Abraaj RCA Innovation Scholarship. Her collaborative approach to her craft is based on her belief that art is a catalyst for social change. She founded \_inventory, a platform that organises shows in alternative and public spaces, showcasing young artists' works and offers a residency program to engage communities in art through public performances, events and discussions. Her work looks to challenge social convention and provoke discussion. Rhine also strives to promote the idea that art is non-exclusive, educational, utilises local resources and is more accessible to people, especially in rural areas.

Lawrence Carlos

Lawrence is a London-born photographer of Filipino descent. Having completed his architecture degree at the University of Sheffield, he worked at various architectural practices in Hamburg and London between 2009 and 2012. After graduating with a masters in architecture from the University of Westminster in 2014, he has been pursuing photography full-time, developing personal film photography projects and working on commissions across London. Lawrence's ongoing interests revolve around well-known examples of architecture and how they are visually perceived within the city. Additionally, his street photography is observant to people within their urban contexts – mostly a reflection of how mundane, tranquil and interstitial moments reveal their sense of place. Lawrence has recently returned from the Philippines where he has been photographing aspects of Filipino culture with the eye of a critical and discerning second-generation balikbayan.

Sorin Choi

Sorin Choi holds a BFA in painting from the Rhode Island School of Design. She is currently enrolled in Royal College of Art in London. Her solo exhibitions have included 靑陽 at Blue Sun in Paju, S.Korea 2015 and 'Our Twisted " \_\_\_\_ "' at Gallery Jireh, Paju, S.Korea in 2016. Sorin's work has also featured in group exhibitions in Korea, the USA and Italy. Her sculpture and installation practices explore the subtle relationship between light and material substances, often dealing with the theme of how loss, commemoration and remembrance may be evoked through art.

### Noel Ed De Leon

London-based Philippine born artist Noel Ed De Leon holds a degree in architecture and has worked as a professional artist since coming to the UK in 2007. His artistic practice spans installation, multimedia sculpture, art made with readymade and found objects and live performance art. Much of Noel's work deals with the themes of memory, remembrance and mapping traces of history through material objects. An avid collector of memorabilia and original artifacts from the Second World War, Noel frequently incorporates these artifacts into his installations and performances which explore how memories are kept alive in the social fabric, as well as erased through changing political, religious and social developments. Since 2011, Noel has exhibited as part of the London Biennale, holding a major solo show in 2014 at the Philippine Embassy of London. Noel is currently working as a freelance artist alongside co-directing Batubalani Art Projects.

### Kulay Labitigan

Kulay obtained a BA in Fine Art from the University of the Philippines and is currently taking up his Masters at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London. Kulay's creative pursuits deal with spatial interventions, installation works and object-making. Through site-specific, playful installations, he investigates how man-to-man, man-to-objects, and man-to-space interactions may be fostered through art. He has been commissioned to design a number of community theatre productions and has collaborated with various performance makers in the Philippines. He is also a member of 98B Collaboratory, an independent artist-run initiative and multi-disciplinary art platform based in Manila. Kulay has participated in several group exhibitions in Manila, Jakarta and Venice, and is presently based in London, UK.





Corpografias (2016). Photographs © Lawrence Carlos Photography