

Alaala

Virginia Woolf recalls one of the earliest memories of her mother with her wearing a black dress. Adorned with red and purple flowers, sitting on her lap as they were returning home to London. Material memories furnish our reminiscence of the past. Fabric in particular serve a distinct role in that it acts to disguise and yet also reveal much of who a person is.

Christian Culangan's figures, entangled limbs splayed like wheel spokes. They shamble toward their ultimate destination, guided by the light of the cross-lantern. The zipper's arranged in a yonic fashion, portray a story of birth and coming to age in a world of industrial cloth. Growing up around the cloth trade and seamstresses, fabric has been ever present in his youth. It is a reassuring presence, one that has been with him through life's uncertainties. Within the drapery he renders respecting elders, religion and maternal love from fond mnemonic memory.

Kim Gaceja reminisces on a more intimate relationship with fabric. Closed curtains and heavy blankets recall protective charms. They act as bulwarks for the personal to the social. A veneer that mediates between the inner self and the outside world. He depicts a warm and welcoming domicile in contrast to the hard edges and hard surfaces of the concrete world. Soft linen, mist-like curtains and wistful carpets recall days of peace and silence. Both tempting and threatening complete withdrawal. The silence and stillness implying the regret of loss and a longing.

Alaala approaches cloth as a the signified and as a signifier. They apply the question of tactile memory, in reverence to who the objects belong to, personal ideography and its significance to the present. Presenting a purview of material connection to hopeful though uncertain futures.

-Floyd Absalon



April 30, 2021

Alaala,

christian s culangan | kim gaceja

two-man exhibit



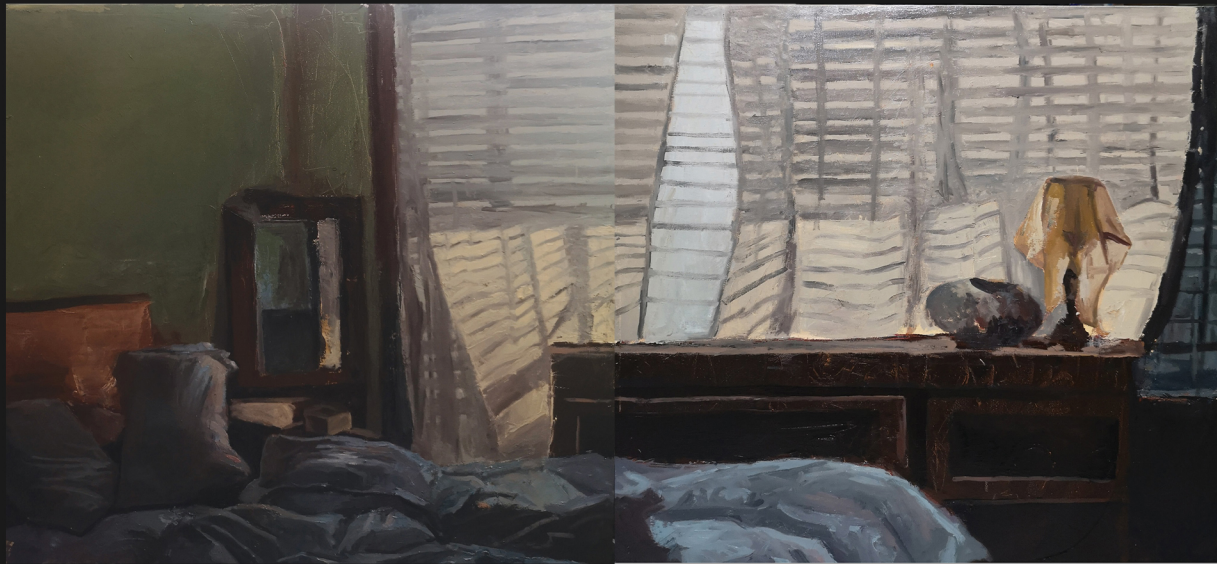


Rest
Kim Gaceja
Oil on Canvas

40.6 x 37.4 inches
2021



Sandalan
Kim Gaceja
36 x 42 inches
Oil on Canvas
2021



**At Least Let the Bed
Comfort You**

Kim Gaceja
81 x 37.4 inches
Oil on Canvas
2021



Gabay ni Lola Flor
Christian Culangan
72 x 53 inches
Oil and Zipper on Canvas
2021



Kapalit ni Lolo Ben
Christian Culangan
Oil and Zipper on Canvas

36 x 36 inches
2021



Sa likod ng Malinis na Kalooban

Christian Culangan
Oil and Zipper on Canvas

48 x 48 inches
2021



Karamay si Nanay

Christian Culangan
48 x 36 inches
Oil and Zipper on Canvas
2021