



**Sálig**  
Oil on Canvas  
18 x 15 Inches, 2020



NOEL ELICANA  
**KAPÁWÀ**

SAT. Sept 19, 2020  
exhibit runs until Oct 10, 2020



[www.artcubephilippines.com](http://www.artcubephilippines.com)

## Breaking Dawn

“Now Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Hebrews 11:1

There's an unfailing hope that comes with the dawning of a new day. The soft light of this dawn permeates all eight works in Kapáwà, Noel Elicana's 2nd solo exhibit. This exhibit comes directly after his residency at the Linangan Art Residency in Alfonso, Cavite where he was locked down due to the Covid-19 quarantine. Elicana emerges from this period of isolation and confinement with the confidence and clarity that comes with renewed faith. This is reflected in the sure strokes, sober palette and more stable compositions of his works for this exhibition.

In Kapáwà (Illumination) the title work, a dog with sharp spikes on his back rides a barely floating ship made of human bodies. He is flanked by heads of Anitos (spirits) with shining eyes and two boatmen with needle-like paddles who steer the human vessel over the aftermath of the storm that is the pandemic. They seem to search the devastated landscape for remnants to salvage, guided by a lantern held by a disembodied hand. There is peace in this new frontier, the way everything is crystal clear after the rain. Bright green grass starts to grow on the used-to-be cracked earth, vestiges of life emerge - from the plant springing from a corpse, the lightning-stricken trees growing ears and new branches, and the bright red heart pumping fresh blood, throbbing faintly at first, but steadily growing stronger.

At the crossroads after the deluge, the artist returns to his roots, where he sources his will and direction. We see this in works such as Gúgma (Love) which is a double portrait of his parents depicted as a dress-like tree trunk and a humanoid figure dancing as well as in Padayon (Moving Forward), where the artist depicts his childhood home, flimsy as it is, as the hearth from which their clan came from, but also a legacy, or maybe a baggage they bring with them as they journey onward. Family is still present in Kasánag (Clarity) which is about the artist's search for identity. Two piercing eyes look at the viewer from above. Below it is a glowing ball of light cupped in a hand and shielded by branches growing from a vertebral column - a symbol for his parents.

The light of faith, doesn't blind. Elicana uses his faith to search for his authentic Self. Even as he goes back to the familiar imagery of his youth, he examines them closely. He turns them inside out to prune away the stories and beliefs that no longer hold true, like weak and dried branches, so that something more lasting can grow.

Kapáwà is also luminosity, the inner glow that is in every one of us. The artist depicts it literally through the glowing balls of light and backlit figures in his works, as well as the clear, almost translucent treatment of his glazed paints. It is the light that we see in our kapwa, our fellow beings. Faith cannot exist if we do not see the purpose of our lives as connected to the rest of humanity. After all, we're all in the same boat. We can choose to follow the light of faith and reason to navigate this boat or we can let ourselves sink in the numbing darkness of apathy and fear. - AG



**Gúgma**  
Oil on Canvas  
48 x 36 Inches, 2020



**Kasánag**  
Oil on Canvas  
84 x 60 Inches, 2020





**Kapáwà**

Oil on Canvas

56 x 146.5 Inches, 2020





**Maisug**  
Oil on Canvas  
18 x 15 Inches, 2020



**Malig-on**  
Oil Canvas  
18 x 15 Inches, 2020



**Mapág-on**  
Oil on Canvas  
18 x 15 Inches, 2020



**Padayon**  
Oil on Canvas  
48 x 36 Inches, 2020