

Centre A is proud to present *Bulaklak ng Paraiso (Flower of Paradise)*, an exhibition by Filipino-Canadian multidisciplinary artist Patrick Cruz.

VANCOUVER, BC (February 25, 2016) – Centre A is pleased to announce the March 4th opening of *Bulaklak ng Paraiso (Flower of Paradise)* by Patrick Cruz.

For *Bulaklak ng Paraiso (Flower of Paradise)*, Filipino-Canadian artist Patrick Cruz will transform the main gallery of Centre A into an elaborate immersive environment that weaves together personal, political and historical narratives that meditate on the conditions and processes of displacement, cultural hybridity and the material excess of our global culture. Driven by folk sentiment and animist proclivities, his maximalist oeuvre mimics the destabilizing forces of modernity to consider traditions and practices of ornamentation and patterning as strategies for re-enchantment and de-stabilization. Informed by his experiences of being transplanted into another culture *Bulaklak ng Paraiso (Flower of Paradise)*, compounds narratives and conversations between art and culture, media and institutions, race and identity, while measuring the capacity of art to generate an inquiry within the process of globalization. In his installation, Cruz facilitates a diasporic cultural exchange through collaborative projects with local and international cultural producers.

Highlights of the exhibition include new paintings and sculptures by **Patrick Cruz**, presented with numerous local and international artists in collaboration including: a sound performance by **Andrew Lee (public program)**, and video pieces in the installation by **JP Carpio (PH)**, **Casey Wei (CA)** and **Dada Docot (PH/CA)**.

A first survey book of Cruz's artwork will be published in conjunction with the exhibition. The book features essays from academics, artists and curators, compiled by Cruz.

Bulaklak ng Paraiso (Flower of Paradise) also marks Cruz's first solo exhibition since winning the 2015 RBC Painting Prize last November, as well as the beginning of Centre A's long-time Curator (2007-2013) **Makiko Hara's** 2016 Curatorial Residency.

Join us on **Thursday March 4th at 6pm** for a **conversation between Centre A's founder Hank Bull and Cruz**, and a screening of a rare **Santiago Bose** video work. This will be followed by the **Opening Reception for *Bulaklak ng Paraiso (Flower of Paradise)* at 7pm**, with a special Filipino meal prepared by the artist.

Bulaklak ng Paraiso (Flower of Paradise) will be on display until May 7, 2016. Regular gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-6pm.

PATRICK CRUZ (b.1987) is a Filipino-Canadian multidisciplinary artist. He holds a BFA from Emily Carr University of Art + Design, and is currently living and working in Guelph, Ontario where he is pursuing his Masters in Fine Arts at the University of Guelph. Cruz's experience migrating from the Philippines to Canada informs his studio practice, prompting him to question notions of diaspora, displacement and the adoption of a new cultural identity. Recognizing the importance of his endeavors, in 2015, Cruz was

awarded first prize at the 17th Annual RBC Painting Competition. Cruz has presented work locally and internationally. For more information, visit www.patrickcruz.org.

MAKIKO HARA is an Independent Curator, based in Vancouver and Tokyo. She has been researching and curating contemporary art internationally since the early 1990s. From 2007 to 2013 Hara served as Chief Curator at Centre A and in 2016, she is returning as Curator-in-Residence. Hara is specialized in socially engaged art practices and has curated numerous public art projects in Canada and Japan including Toronto *Scotia Bank Nuit Blanche* (2009), and most recently the 2014-15 artist-in-residence AIR 476 in Yonago, Japan, and the *Koganecho Bazaar 2014 - Fictive Communities Asia, International Artist in Residency and Art Festival* co-organized with Yokohama Triennial 2014. She is currently a Contributing Curator for *Mash Up: The Birth of Modern Culture*, coming up at Vancouver Art Gallery

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING (subject to change)

Patrick Cruz: Homecoming Talk, February 29, 6:30-8:30pm, Multipurpose Room, Liu Institute for Global Issues, University of British Columbia, Open to all.

The **UBC Philippine Studies Series** and **Centre A** are pleased to present a talk by Filipino-Canadian artist Patrick Cruz, winner of the 2015 Annual RBC Painting Competition. Cruz will present a chronology of his works leading to his ongoing project Kamias Triennale, a tri-annual event that fosters dialogues between local and international artists. **Dada Docot** and **Makiko Hara** will respond to Cruz's talk, relating his works to the artistic productions in the Philippines, in the Filipino diaspora, and in Canada. This event is held in conjunction with Cruz's first solo show since winning the RBC prize that will be held at the Centre A, curated by Makiko Hara

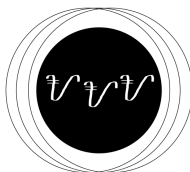
DADA DOCOT is a PhD Candidate in Anthropology at the University of British Columbia. Docot recently completed her ethnographic fieldwork in the Philippines where she looked into the entanglements of migration, colonial histories, narratives of development, and intimacy, in a town called by its residents as the "Town of Dollars." Her film works that reflect on Filipino overseas mobilities have been exhibited and shown in both academic and art environments. She is a Liu Institute for Global Issues Scholar, co-founder of the UBC Philippine Studies Series, and the first Filipino to have been awarded the Vanier Canada Graduate Research Scholarship.

Conversation with Centre A founder Hank Bull and Patrick Cruz, with special screening of rare **Santiago Bose** video work March 4, 6-7pm, Centre A.

A screening of **Lav Diaz's** 2013 film, ***Norte, Hangganang ng Kasaysayan (Norte, End of History)***, (Details to be confirmed).

Sound performance by Andrew Lee (Details to be confirmed).

Closing Reception/Book Launch, May 7, Centre A (Details to be confirmed).



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About Centre A:

Established in 1999, Centre A is Canada's only public gallery devoted to contemporary art of the Asia-Pacific. Located in Chinatown's East Georgia Gallery Cluster, we have presented the works of over 300 Canadian and international artists and produced over 80 original projects. As a key piece of Vancouver's cultural infrastructure, Centre A works with artists, curators and other cultural producers from throughout the region to facilitate critical inquiry and provide a platform for conversation and artistic experimentation. Centre A is also home to the Centre A Reading Room including among a vast collection contemporary Asian art books, the Finlayson Collection of Rare Asian Art Books.

Centre A is a collaborative effort powered by generous support from:



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Available for comment on *Bulaklak ng Paraiso (Flower of Paradise)*:

Exhibition Curator: Makiko Hara
Artist: Patrick Cruz

Images and a PDF of the press release are available through our [Dropbox press pack](#).

To arrange an interview with any of the above, or for media requests and further information, please contact:

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