

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tang Contemporary Art presents
Rodel Tapaya Solo Exhibition – Random Numbers



Rodel Tapaya, *Flying Objects*, acrylic on canvas, 243.8 x 335.3 cm, 2021
羅德爾·塔帕雅, 《飛行物》, 布面丙烯, 243.8 x 335.3 cm, 2021

Artist: Rodel Tapaya

Curator: Matthias Arndt

Exhibition Dates: April 22 – May 15, 2021

Location: 10/F, H Queen's, 80 Queen's Road Central, Central, Hong Kong

Media Preview: Thursday, April 22, 3 - 6 pm

Opening Reception: Thursday, April 22, 6 - 8 pm

On the 22nd of April 2021, **Tang Contemporary Art** is proud to present “**Random Numbers**,” the latest solo exhibition by Filipino contemporary artist **Rodel Tapaya** at Hong Kong space. Following the artist's previous exhibitions staged at Tang Contemporary in Bangkok “Nirvana: Tropical Rebirth: Pannaphan Yodmanee, Rodel Tapaya, Heri Dono” (2018) and his major solo exhibition “Myths and Truths” (2018) at Tang Contemporary in Beijing, his first exhibition at Tang Contemporary in Hong Kong “Random Numbers”, (2021) showcases Rodel Tapaya's most recent body of work that he had commenced in 2019: the series of “Scrap Paintings”.

Rodel Tapaya is one of the most prominent contemporary Filipino painters working within the international art world today. Early in Tapaya's career, he came to regional and global prominence through his now signature body of work, the “Folk Narrative” paintings. During this phase, the artist drew direct inspiration from pre-colonial mythology and Filipino folkloric tradition in order to fuse the otherworldly imagery with the impressions from the contemporary daily life. This enabled him to establish a unique contemporary, neo-traditional artistic form of myth-making. In these works, numerous pictorial fragments within muralist compositions are devoid of traditional perspective, and meticulously pieced together to form epic stories filled with allegorical references. Tapaya became renowned for his celebration of Filipino culture while communicating urgent universal ideas concerning civilization, colonization, capitalism and globalization.

In this new exhibition, the artist's overarching interest in reflecting upon ideas based in the common human experience continues as part of his artistic practice, as does his interest in presenting an interface between imagination and reality, but represents a departure from his previous artistic investigations. The exhibition's title takes direct reference from one of the artwork titles in the show that is among the curated selection of paintings ranging from monumental to medium-scale pieces. This exhibition exclusively

explores the artist's new phase of "Scrap Paintings" that investigates the concept and process of collage. The compositions comprise of semi-figurative illustrations involving a pastiche of objects set amid existential backdrops and miscellaneous elements that appear anonymous and expressive.

Collage has not only become a preliminary creative process for the technique that Tapaya employs in the series "Scrap Paintings", but it is also the central theme to his work as whole: "I find myself using the cut-out pieces, pasting, erasing some details, I feel that I am "painting". In that small, almost illustration-like scale and stage — almost like a small diorama scale — I find myself creating the whole artwork. That seed will then be transformed into a larger scale. The discipline and challenge for myself when working in this way is to not to leave the collage work unfinished, but consider it as a complete work unto itself with a vision that it will become larger than life when translated almost photo-realistically through painting." Such innovation and internal deconstruction of one's own reflective thinking processes in order to critique, question and thus advance one's creative oeuvre is the testament to Rodel Tapaya's artistic significance, evident in this important new body of work that continues to garner him international acclaim.

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born 1980 in Montalban, Philippines, Rodel Tapaya lives and works in Bulacan, Philippines. Selected solo exhibitions include: Myths and Truths, Tang Contemporary Art, Beijing, China, 2018; Urban Labyrinth, Ayala Museum, Manila, Philippines, 2018; Rodel Tapaya: New Art from the Philippines, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia, 2017; Rodel Tapaya, Galerie der Stadt Sindelfingen, Germany, 2016. Selected group exhibitions include: 15th Asia Arts Festival, Ningbo Museum of Art, Ningbo, China; Terra Incognita, Hilger BrotKunsthalle Vienna, Austria ; Passion and Procession: Art of the Philippines, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia; 20th Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, Australia, 2016; Thrice Upon a Time: A Century of Story in the Art of the Philippines, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore, 2019.

His work is held in the following international museum collections: Art Gallery of New South Wales, National Gallery of Australia, Tokyo Mori Art Museum Collection, Singapore Art Museum, Philippines Bencab Museum Collection, Philippines Ateneo Art Gallery Collection, Philippines Pinto Art Museum, Central Bank of the Philippines.

Rodel Tapaya was awarded the coveted Top Prize at the Nokia Art Awards, which allowed him to pursue intensive drawing and painting courses at Parsons School of Design in New York and the University of Helsinki in Finland. In 2011, he won a landmark achievement for a Filipino artist by winning the Signature Art Prize given by the Asia-Pacific Breweries Foundation and the Singapore Art Museum. He was also among the Thirteen Artists Awardee of the Cultural Center of the Philippines in 2012.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Born in 1968, in Frankfurt, Germany, Matthias Arndt is a contemporary art expert and advisor who ran his successful gallery business in Berlin with branches in Zurich, New York and Singapore. Spanning twenty-three years of operation, Arndt's contemporary art galleries staged over 300 exhibitions worldwide, were represented in all major international art fairs, and published 80 artist monographs, catalogue raisonnés, gallery magazines and thematic publications in collaboration with major international publishing houses and editors. Matthias Arndt is the founder and managing director of A3 - Arndt Art Agency.

Matthias Arndt was also Director of the guided tours and visitor services of DOCUMENTA X (1997) and created a dynamic arts management firm, artservices, consulting with clients such as Volkswagen, Expo 2000, Berlin Biennale, Haus der Kulturen, and co-founded "Kunsthervst Berlin" (today's Berlin Art Week). Arndt has lectured at the Institute of Culture and Media Management at the Berlin University, at Documenta IX and X in Kassel, the UBS Arts Forum in Wolfsburg and LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore. He is a member of the Asia Pacific Acquisition Committee of the TATE in London and was awarded Knight of the French "Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" in 2002 by the French Ministry of Culture. Arndt is also the Chair of the BERLIN MASTERS Foundation, a charitable foundation to support artists based in Berlin.

ABOUT TANG CONTEMPORARY ART

Tang Contemporary Art was established in 1997 in Bangkok, later establishing galleries in Beijing and Hong Kong. The gallery is fully committed to producing critical projects and exhibitions to promote Chinese contemporary art regionally and worldwide, and encourage a dynamic exchange between Chinese artists and those abroad. Acting as one of the most progressive and critically driven exhibition spaces in China, the gallery strives to initiate dialogue between artists, curators, collectors and institutions working both locally and internationally. A roster of groundbreaking exhibitions has earned them international recognition, establishing their status as a pioneer of the contemporary art scene in Asia.

Tang Contemporary Art represents leading figures in Chinese art including Ai Weiwei, Huang Yongping, Shen Yuan, Wang Du, Liu Xiaodong, Yang Jiechang, Xia Xiaowan, Sun Yuan & Peng Yu, Yan Lei, Wang Yin, Wang Yuping, Yangjiang Group, Guo Wei, Zheng Guogu, Lin Yilin, He An, Zhao Zhao, Wang Yuyang, Weng Fen, Yang Yong, Xu Qu, Xu Xiaoguo, Ji Zhou, Cai Lei, Ling Jian, Liu Yujia, Zhu Jinshi, Qin Qi, Chen Yujun, Chen Yufan and Chen Wenbo, additionally collaborating with international artists such as H.H.Lim, Rirkrit Tiravanija, Sakarin Krue-On, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Adel Abdessemed, Dinh Q.Le, Michael Zelehoski, Jennifer Wen Ma, Rodel Tapaya, Natee Utarit and Heri Dono.



Rodel Tapaya, *Remedy*, acrylic on canvas, 193 x 152.4 cm, 2021
羅德爾·塔帕雅, 《挽救》, 布面丙烯, 193 x 152.4 cm, 2021

Tang Contemporary Art
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