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ASIA NOW PARIS 2024

Roberto Feleo

THE
DRAWING ROOM
CONTEMPORARY ART

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Paris Asian
Art Fair



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Roberto B. Feleo (b.1954) is one of the formidable figures in the Philippine art community today. Throughout almost four decades of artmaking, he has mounted more than a dozen solo exhibitions, two of them outside the Philippines—in Japan's Fukouka Art Museum and in Cuba's Center Wifredo Lam.

As well, Feleo's works can be seen in public art institutions in the Philippines and abroad. Locally, he is in the permanent collection of the National Museum of the Philippines, the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the University of the Philippines Diliman Vargas Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, and the Bencab Museum, the Hiraya Gallery, the Drawing Room Gallery, and Altro Mondo Creative Space. Overseas, his works are found in the Fukouka Art Museum, Centro Wifredo Lam, the Singapore Art Museum, Asia Pacific Musée National D'Arte Moderne Centre Pompidou.

Ever evolving, Feleo's pieces are focused on the various aspects of being Filipino, such as the nation's history, myths, traditions, and the quaint nuances of a multi-dimensional way of life.

LIFE AND AFTER LIFE

Among the ancient—and still enduring—Filipino mythos is a conviction that life and afterlife are a continuum; they are inseparable. A plant wilts and dies. But soon, from the seed it dropped on the ground breaks out a new plant that buds and then flowers.

Afterlife consists of the Skyworld, the territory of warriors and hunters, and the Downstream, the turf of common folk. There is no Heaven. There is, however, an abundant and serene Paradise both in the Skyworld and the Downstream. There is no Hell.

The series of wall bound works on Life and Afterlife is made of layered figures created from sawdust, white glue, and leather varnish.

Written by Anita Feleo.



Crossing to Gimukodan (detail), leather varnish, saw dust, white glue on carved wood, 82.8 x 66.5 x 4.5 cm, 2024.



Life from Death

Leather varnish, saw dust, white glue on carved wood
96.4 x 78.8 x 5 cm
2024

From Death comes an abundance of life on Earth.



Crossing to Gimukodan

Leather varnish, saw dust, white glue on carved wood
82.8 x 66.5 x 4.5 cm
2024

The common man's paradise is in the Underworld, reached after crossing the black river.



Earth and the Two Afterlives

Leather varnish, saw dust, white glue on carved wood

91.4 x 79.6 x 4.5 cm

2024

The Skyworld is for the warrior class while the Underworld is for the common man.



The Vanishing Babaylan (Shaman)

Leather varnish, saw dust, white glue on carved wood

96.3 x 79.5 x 5.5 cm

2024

The Babaylan about to cross the Land of Deceased to find a cure for an ailing person on earth.



Ang Pinteng (The Warrior Spirit)

Acrylic, leather varnish, saw dust, white glue on carved wood
93.4 x 78.5 x 4 cm
2024

The decapitated warrior is awarded with a ball of fire to replace its head which was lost to the enemy. From the Skyworld the Pinteng descends to earth inciting living warriors to war. The Pinteng is kind to the children and the elderly.



The Warrior Spirit at the Basi Revolt

Acrylic on erased poster color, glass

78.2 x 52.8 x 2 cm

1999

The Pinteng urging on the Ilokano warriors to war.



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