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PARSE THIS

Datu Arellano



THE
DRAWING ROOM
CONTEMPORARY ART

Parse This

"I used the elements of these simple forms - square, cube, line and color - to produce logical systems." - Sol LeWitt

When I encounter Datu Arellano's Parse This series, I think of the labour of painting monumental murals and covering over to make way for the next, creating and redacting, revealing and hiding. This coded and oblique world is a recurring theme in Arellano's work, the construction of an inner-world that suggests quiet introspection, to be revealed only by the artist himself - or as he might suggest, an offer for the viewer to find their own process of decoding. Like LeWitt, Arellano provides a window into deeply thought systems, world-building even, and pathways to viewing the world differently through abstraction.

Excerpt written by Paschal Daantos Berry



Recovered Documents (detail), calligraphy pen and ink on Iroful paper, 33 x 33 cm, 2024.



(On the cover)
Collage on canvas panel (shredded manga pages, black paper, acrylic emulsion, clear acrylic topcoat)
30.48 x 30.48 cm
2024



Collage on canvas panel (shredded manga pages, acrylic emulsion, clear acrylic topcoat)
122 x 122 cm
2024



Calligraphy pen and ink on Iroful paper
2024
Installation view



Calligraphy pen, ink, correction tape, date stamp on journal, single channel video (no sound)

2024

Installation view



Collage on canvas panel (shredded manga pages, rice paper, acrylic emulsion, clear acrylic topcoat)
203 x 76.2 cm
2024



Collage on pvc board (shredded manga pages, black paper, acrylic emulsion, clear acrylic topcoat), sheet magnets, steel flat bars
2024
Installation view



Collage on pvc board (shredded manga pages, acrylic emulsion, clear acrylic topcoat), shredded black paper, 3D-printed elements
78 x 24 cm
2024



Collage on canvas panel (shredded manga pages, black paper, acrylic emulsion), oil
paint
31 x 31 cm
2024



DATU ARELLANO

Datu Arellano (born 1980) is a visual artist, a maker, a musician, and an educator. As a practitioner he straddles multiple contexts of visual and performing arts, and works within the traditional forms of drawing, painting, and sculpture; the experimental aspects of sound design, music, and video; and the commercial contexts of graphic design. Aside from exhibiting, Datu currently performs as an experimental musician/sound artist, creates compositions and arrangements for film and theater, and designs and builds unique DIY music and sound-making instruments. He lives and works in Quezon City, Philippines.



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