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# EACH A SMALL UNIVERSE

Elaine Navas

THE  
DRAWING ROOM  
CONTEMPORARY ART



## Each a Small Universe

There have been numerous accounts written by critics, curators, and artists themselves about the artist's studio and the process of creation. Yet, few have paid attention to a seemingly insignificant object that plays an essential role in the act of painting—the artist's palette. One notable exception is the critic Robert Hughes, who, when visiting Frank Auerbach's cluttered and dismal studio in a cavern-like space in London, described it in vivid detail:

"The only color [in the room] is the paint itself—the canvas on the easel, and two *palettes*. The first of these is a slab, perhaps wood, perhaps stone, turgid with pigment inches thick. The second is an extraordinary object, the fossil of a wooden box upended...Warm colors are mixed on top of the box, cool ones on the shelf. Years of use have turned it into a block of pigment, its sides encrusted with glistening cakes and stalactites of the same magma that encrusts the floor." (Excerpt written by CLJ)



**Yasmin**, oil on canvas, 183 x 122 cm, 2024, detail





**Yasmin**  
Oil on canvas  
183 x 122 cm  
2024





**Zeon**

Oil on canvas  
152.4 x 244 cm  
2025





**Pow**  
Oil on canvas  
152.4 x 122 cm  
2024





**Manuel O.**  
Oil on canvas  
213.4 x 152.4 cm  
2025





**Leslie**  
Oil on canvas  
183 x 122 cm  
2024





**Elaine**  
Oil on canvas  
216 x 152.4 cm  
2024





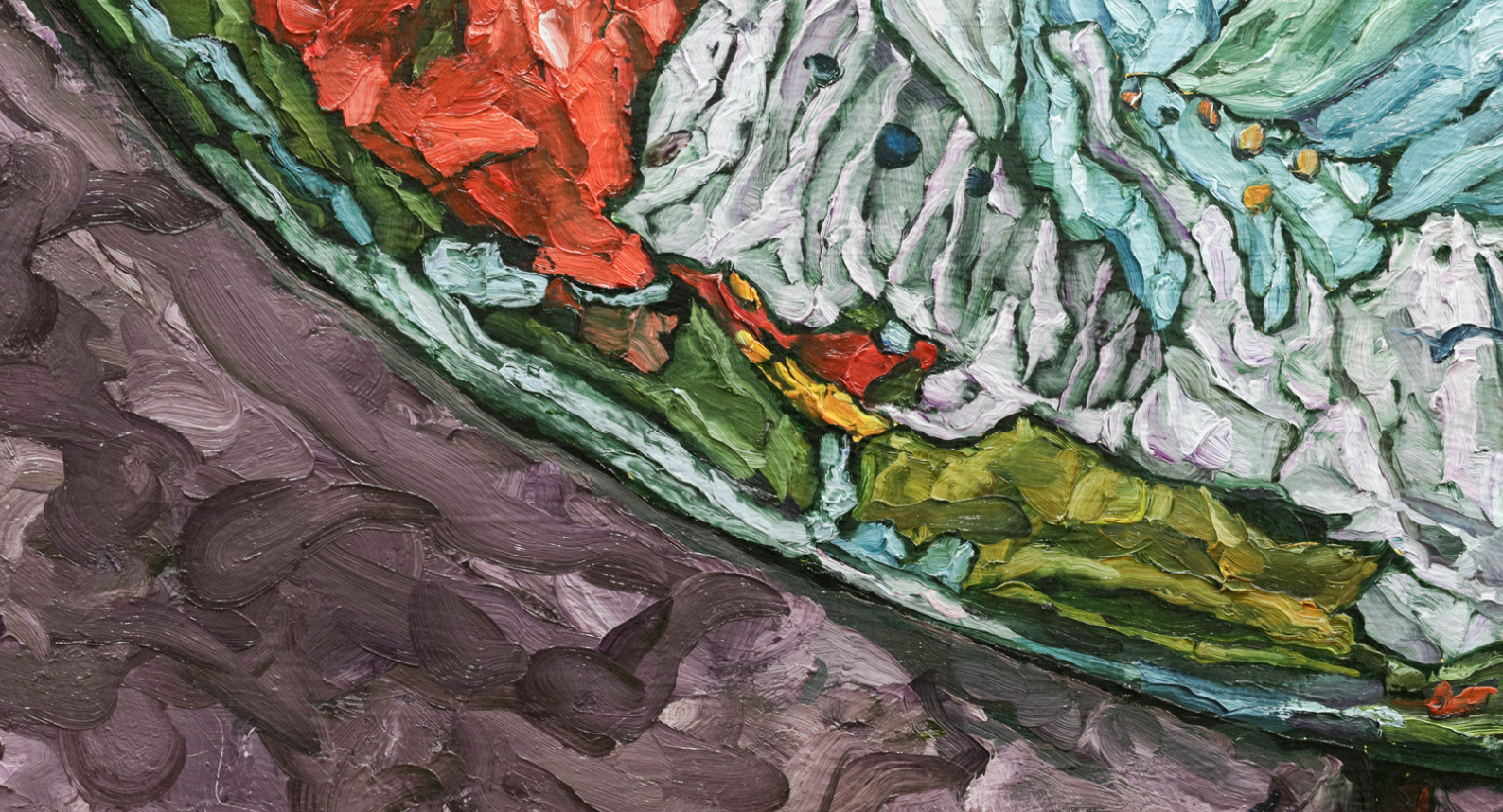
**De Chavez**  
Oil on canvas  
183 x 122 cm  
2024





**Manuel**  
Oil on canvas  
213.4 x 152.4 cm  
2025





## ELAINE NAVAS

Elaine Roberto Navas (b. 1964 in Manila, Philippines) graduated with Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the Ateneo de Manila University in 1985 prior to entering University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts, graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts majoring in Painting in 1991. In University of the Philippines (UP), Elaine learned under the tutelage of her mentor, Roberto Chabet, who would later curate several of her exhibitions, including her first solo exhibition at the Ayala Museum in 1997. Since then, she has been exhibiting her works in solo and group exhibitions in Philippines and in Singapore. Some of her major exhibitions include "We Cannot Step Twice Into The Same River" at Fost Gallery, Singapore (2020), "Pauses of Possibilities" in Lopez Museum, Philippines (2017) and "What does it all matter, as long as the wounds fit the arrows?", a tribute to Roberto Chabet at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (2014). Elaine Roberto Navas lives and works in Singapore, where she resides with her family since 1998.





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