



FEB 15 –  
MAR 15,  
2025

# As if it was swimming

Luis Antonio Santos

THE  
DRAWING ROOM  
CONTEMPORARY ART

## As if it was swimming

Luis Antonio Santos' *As If It Was Swimming* depicts close-ups of flowers, brought home by his mother from his grandmother's funeral. These floral arrangements are photographed by Santos, rearranged and reframed. Through his process of rendering these images in watercolour, the images shift and dissolve, reforming through these translations, caught in between preservation and loss.

These images were made using watercolours, unconventionally combining mechanical and manual processes – a way of working that Santos has regularly employed and explored in his practice, often utilising technologies in surprising ways, and without eradicating the marks by his own hand. Here, the medium resists control: colours dissolve, details fragment, and surfaces distort, rendering the images unrecognisable from their original source. When one remembers moments, what often plays back is the recollection of the memory's last moment of awareness, rather than of the actual event itself.

Excerpt written by Carina Santos.



**Untitled**, watercolor, monoprint on paper, 25.4 x 38 cm, 2025, detail



**Untitled**

Watercolor, monoprint on paper (Hahnemühle Watercolor 300, hot-pressed)

25.4 x 38 cm

2025



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25.4 x 38 cm

2025



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# LUIS ANTONIO SANTOS

Luis Antonio Santos (b. 1985) is a visual artist based in Quezon City, Philippines. His practice explores memory, entropy, isolation, and longing through painting and photography.

Santos employs techniques such as oil painting and different forms of printing and image manipulation via the use of digital and analog means to investigate the relationships between these mediums and their ability to reflect the shifting nature of recollection. He incorporates utilitarian and ubiquitous materials as metaphors for memory, space, and identity, emphasizing their transient and mutable qualities. By layering and altering imagery, he examines how memories are preserved, distorted, or lost over time.

He has been exhibiting since 2010 with solo shows in Singapore (Fost Gallery) and Manila (Silverlens Gallery, West Gallery, Blanc Gallery, Finale Art File, MO\_Space, Artinformal and the Drawing Room). He has also been included in several group exhibitions in Manila, New York (Jane Lombard Gallery), Beijing (Tang Contemporary), Singapore, Hong Kong (Art Central), Athens (Athens Video Art Festival), and Malaysia.

In 2024, he received the Cultural Center of the Philippines's Thirteen Artists Award. He won the Fernando Zobel Prize and the Embassy of Italy Purchase Prize for the Ateneo Art Awards 2023. He was also a finalist for the Sovereign Asian Art Prize 2023. He has been shortlisted for the Ateneo Art Awards twice (2014, 2015) and was nominated for the Singapore Art Museum's Signature Art Prize (2018).



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