

CIAN DAYRIT

b. 1989, Manila, Philippines
lives and works in the Philippines

Cian Dayrit is an artist working in painting, sculpture, and installation. His interdisciplinary practice explores colonialism and ethnography, archaeology, history, and mythology. Dayrit subverts the language and workings of institutions such as the state, museums, and the military to understand and visualize the contradictions these platforms and formats are built upon.

His cartographic artworks, often materialized through embroidery, textile, and mixed media collages, plot the patterns of imperialism and feudalism in activities such as the extraction of natural resources and the displacement and exploitation of marginalized populations. At the same time, the works summon new imaginaries that recognize the overlapping struggles and periods of resistance. His multimedia works examine how empire scored out the maps of the modern world, how its aftermath perpetuates industrial development, and how alternative territories might be imagined from the ground-up. Through narratives that expose the inner-workings of imperial power, Dayrit's work invites us to reconsider how we spatially perceive and interpret the world. While informed by the experience of colonialism from the perspective of the Philippines, Dayrit's work nonetheless defies being tied to a specific position or location. Instead, his work and research cross over geopolitical and supranational bearings.

Dayrit studied at the University of the Philippines. He has been exhibited in international biennials, including the Sidney Biennial, Gwangju Biennale, Berlin; Biennale for Contemporary Art; Bangkok Biennale, Kathmandu Triennale, New Museum Triennial "Songs for Sabotage", New York; and Göteborg Biennial. Dayrit has also participated in exhibitions at Museo Reina Sofia and CentroCentro in Madrid; Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh; ParaSite, Hong Kong; Hammer Museum, L.A.; and the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. His work will be shown in 2024 at Barbican Art Gallery, London; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; and Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, UK.

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SOLO EXHIBITIONS

Schemes of Belligerence, NOME, Berlin 2023
Fabulous Exploits of the Far East, NOME, Berlin, 2021
Beyond the God's Eye, NOME, Berlin, 2019
Allegories of Nation-Building, Kaida Gallery, Quezon City, 2018
Buis Ibat Ha Kanayunan (VOICES From The Hinterlands) Bellas Artes Outpost, Makati City, 2017
Atlas Of The Global South, Kaida Gallery, Quezon City, 2016
Pasyon Art Informal, Mandaluyong, 2016
Popular Exotica Kaida Gallery, Quezon City, 2015
Spectacles Of The Third World Tin-Aw Gallery, Makati City, 2015
Polycephalous Art Informal, Mandaluyong, 2014
The Bla-Bla Archaeological Complex Vargas Museum, UPD, Quezon City, 2013

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024

Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead – UK
Unravel: The Power and Politics of Textiles in Art, Barbican Art Gallery, London – UK
Unravel: The Power and Politics of Textiles in Art, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam – NL

2023

Machinations, Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid – ES
The Accursed Share, Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh – UK
The work that the textile does - Central Textile Museum in Lodz – PL
Medea, Ortigia Market, Siracusa – IT

2022

23rd Biennale of Sydney: Rīvus, Sydney – AU
Bangkok Art Biennale, Chaos:Calm – TH
Kathmandu Triennale 2077 – NP
Lonely Vectors, Singapore Art Museum – SGP
An Ocean in Every Drop, Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai – UAE
Ateneo Art Awards Return Exhibition, Ateneo Art Gallery, Manila – PH

2021

Minds Rising, Spirits Tuning, 13th Gwangju Biennale – KR

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Active Threads, KAI10 | Arthena Foundation, Düsseldorf – DE
The Earth is Flat Again, Muzeum Sztuki, Łódź – PL
OVERVIEW EFFECT, Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade - SR
MOMENTUM 11 - HOUSE OF COMMONS, Moss – NO
Pleasure Activism, Tiroler Künstler*schaft, Innsbruck – AT
Stories across rising lands, Museum Macan, Jakarta – Indonesia
Threads and Tensions, Yeo Workshop – Singapore
The Shelf Life of Being, MONO8 GALLERY, Manila – PH

2020

11th Berlin Biennial for Contemporary Art - DE
We move amongst ghosts, Museum of Fine Arts and Ceramics, Jakarta – Indonesia
Plan B, NOME, Berlin – DE
Against the Stream, Bacoor fishing community, Cavite – PH
Starting at the finish line, Blanc Gallery, Quezon City – PH
NOME, a Lexicon, NOME, Berlin
The Man Who Sold The World, Galerie Zimmermann Kratochwill, Graz – AT

2019

Winning by losing, CentroCentro, Madrid - ES
Part Of The Labyrinth, 10th Göteborg Biennial, Gothenburg - NO
Far Away but Strangely Familiar, Danubiana Museum, Cunovo - Slovakia
Motions of this Kind: Propositions & Problems of Belatedness, Brunei Gallery SOAS, London
When You Say We Belong To The Light We Belong To The Thunder, EKKM, Tallin – EE
YUTA UG PAGBARUG, Ishmael Bernal Gallery, University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City - PH

2018

Songs For Sabotage New Museum, New York - USA
Stories Of Almost Everyone Hammer Museum, UCLA, Los Angeles, Long Green Lizards Dak'Art, IFAN Museum of African Arts, Dakar
Imagining Memory: From Amnesia To Anesthesia, 1335 Mabini Gallery, Makati City - PH
A Beast, A God, And A Line Dhaka Art Summit, Dhaka; Parasite, Hong Kong; Pyinsa Rasa Art Space, Yangon; Museum Of Modern Art, Warsaw - PL

2017

Build Build Build Tam-Awan Gallery, Baguio City
Kalasag Kaida Gallery, Quezon City
Inhabit District Gallery, Quezon City
Paralyzed By Paradise Artery Art Space, Quezon City

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Seascapes: Tranquility And Agitation Metropolitan Museum Of Manila, Manila
Almost There Vargas Museum, UPD, Quezon City

2016

Hidlaw, Tin-aw Gallery, Makati City
Exposition, Lopez Memorial Museum, Pasig City
The Philippine Contemporary: To Scale The Past And The Possible, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Manila

2015

Naked In Alien Territory, J Studio, Taguig City
Transforming Perspectives, Vargas Museum, UPD, Quezon City
Order Of Objects After Arrival, Project Space Pilipinas, Lucban

2014

On Immanence, Project Space Pilipinas, Lucban
Destroy 3000 Years Of Culture, Post Gallery, Quezon City

2013

The President's Office, Vargas Museum, UPD, Quezon City
Applied Savagery, NOW Gallery, Makati City

2012

Off-Road Special, Tam-Awan Village Gallery, Baguio City
Star Cruiser Sopas Collision, NOW Gallery, Makati City
March 32, Cafe 1951, Manila

2011

Seeds Of Deceit, Kaida Contemporary, Quezon City
Daily Digest, Ishmael Bernal Gallery, UPD, Quezon City
Signs Of The Times, Vargas Museum, UPD, Quezon City
Xing E. Jacinto, Tin-aw Gallery, Makati City
Survivalism, Light and Space Gallery, Quezon City
Nationalistic: Animalistic FC, UPD, Quezon City
Petit Format, CCP, Manila

2010

Tutok: Ano Bayani? CCP, Manila
(3D) Mag:net, Quezon City
The Unnamable, Manila Contemporary, Makati City
Kritkat: Ma(H)Awa Ka, Sambalikhhaan Grounds, Quezon City

N O M E G A L L E R Y . C O M

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2009

Kalipunan 2009, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Manila

Blame The Savages, NCCA Gallery, Manila

Figuration Now, Paseo Gallery, Mandaluyong City

Imagination Is An Overused Cliché, Paseo Gallery, Mandaluyong City

Bayan Ni Nanding Versus The Post Modern World, Manila Contemporary, Makati City

2008

Ethereal Contingencies, West Gallery, Quezon City

Fact Sheet, Ishmael Bernal Gallery, UPD, Quezon City

UNA: Supermarket Of Ideals FC, UPD, Quezon City

AWARDS

2018 CCP Thirteen Artists Awards, recipient

2017 Ateneo Art Awards, recipient

2017 Artist-in-residence at Bellas Artes Projects, Bataan

2014 Ateneo Art Awards, shortlisted

2011 Outstanding Thesis Award, College of Fine Arts, UP Diliman

RESIDENCIES

2019 at Gasworks, London – UK

EDUCATION

2011 BFA Major in Painting, University of the Philippines (cum laude)

COLLECTIONS

Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid – ES

KADIST – USA

Museum of Art in Łódź – PL

Singapore Art Museum – SGP

Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth – AU

Servais Family Collection – BE

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