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Martha Atienza / Faire Isles

November 9th to December 16th, 2018

Opening: November 8th, 2018, from 6 pm

Martha Atienza's (* 1981, Manila) video installations are accurate observations of her Philippine homeland in terms of social and environmental aspects. The exhibition *Faire Isles* condenses the three video installations *Faire Isle 59° 41'20.0 "N 2° 36'23.0" W*, *Anito 1* and *Anito 2* into an intensive examination of current events. A look at precarious, and at first sight, unfamiliar phenomena and situations raises questions concerning our own lives.

Martha Atienza's artistic practice is inseparable from her strong social and environmental commitment. A (pictorial) exploration of the sea and an ethnographic interest in the inhabitants of her homeland, the Philippine island of Bantayan, these are recurring elements in the works of the bicultural artist, who is moving constantly between the Philippines and the Netherlands. Both topics ultimately belong together because the inhabitants of the Philippine island are heavily dependent on the sea and its intact condition. In this close connection, there is a parallel to her second home, the Netherlands which is a former seafaring and colonial power. In contrast, the Philippines has a long history of colonial occupation.

The 63-minute slow-motion video **Faire Isle 59°41'20.0 "N 2°36'23.0"W** (2016) was filmed by the artist from a cargo ship passing by Fair Isle in northern Scotland. The video shows calm, almost meditative images without the sound of the moving sea, in a grey haze that seems to dissolve the horizon. The endless expanse of the sea and the slow but definite movement of the waves and whitecaps oscillates atmospherically between calming and threat. At the same time, the video conveys a sense of the stoic majesty of the waters that were formerly the only connection between different territories. The Fair Isle in the North Atlantic has been a landmark for shipping for millennia. However, due to storms and fog, many ships near the coast have been lost. Today, the heavy goods traffic on this sea lane affects the sensitive maritime ecosystem.

In contrast to the contemplative images of **Faire Isle**, her ongoing, long term project **Anito**, that turns into an archive over the years, captures the exhibition space with its powerful and visually stunning film scenes. The videos show the annual, originally animist festival of *Ati-Atihan* on Bantayan Island, which was later modified by the Spanish, Christian colonial powers. It demonstrates the humorous treatment of the Filipinos with daily political events. Whether natural disasters

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triggered by typhoons, the drug war of President Rodrigo Duterte, unemployment or emigration - once a year these serious themes of the region are caricatured with inventive costumes, that reflect the quest for survival, the search for identity and the need for creativity.

Bantayan Island is mainly inhabited by the indigenous peoples of Aeta. The name *Ati-atihan* means "to be like Aetas" or "make believe Aetas." It is assumed that the Aeta already inhabited the island about 30,000 years ago and are among the earliest inhabitants of the Philippine archipelago. This ritual festival has been held since 1,000BC.

The two present videos in the series, **Anito 1** (2011-2015) and **Anito 2** (2017), are a compilation of footage from the last eight years. Martha Atienza will continue to film the festival, just as the society of the Aeta will continue to change.

In cooperation with the exground filmfest 31 and on the occasion of this year's country focus, the Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden is showing three solo exhibitions of Filipino artists, journalists and activists. Martha Atienza, Kiri Dalena and Raffy Lerma reflect in videos and photographs the political and social situation of their homeland. The showing of Martha Atienza's video **Anito 2** is the World premiere.

About the artist /

Martha Atienza (* 1981, Manila, PHL) studied at the AKI Academy of Art and Design in Enschede and participated in the art program of the Kuvataideakatemia of the University of the Arts in Helsinki. With her video-based installations, she has been featured extensively in international exhibitions and film festivals, including in Singapore, the Philippines, Australia and the Netherlands. In 2017 she was awarded the Art Basel Baloise Art Prize. In 2015 she received the Thirteen Artists Awards from the Cultural Center of the Philippines. She lives and works on Bantayan Island (PHL) and in Rotterdam (NLD).

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In cooperation with
exground filmfest 31
November 16th to 25th



The exhibiton is promoted by
Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain.



The Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden is institutionally promoted by the culture office of the city of Wiesbaden.



We appreciate your interest.

For further **information** and **press pictures** we are at your disposal via e-mail and telephone.

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Program /

Opening

Thursday, November 8th, 2018, from 6 pm

exground filmfest 31

Focus Philippines

November 16th to 25th, 2018

Guided Tours

Sundays, 3 pm and upon request

Espresso

Short guided tour with espresso

Tuesdays, 12.45 am to 1.15 pm

SPRITZ

Art, Spritz and more...

Thursdays, 6 to 8 pm

SPRITZ Philippine Archipelago

On the occasion of exground filmfest 31

Thursday, November 22nd, 2018, 6 to 8 pm

Wilhelms Wanne

Interactive tour / 8 years of age and above

Saturday, November 17th and December 8th, 2018,

3 to 5 pm

Kinder mittenDRIN

For all / with the Kunst-Koffer

Saturday, November 24th and December 15th, 2018,

11 am to 1 pm

Concert by ARTist / Cooperative New Jazz

Dominik Mahnig, Cologne - Drums

Dirk Marwedel, Wiesbaden - Saxophone

Joker Nies, Cologne - Electronic

Saturday, December 1st, 2018, 8pm

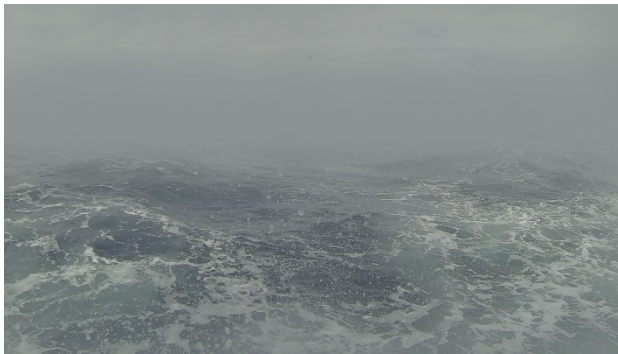
Finissage

Sunday, December 16th, 2018, 3 to 6 pm

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Press Pictures /

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Martha Atienza

Fair Isle 59°41'20.0"N 2°36'23.0"W,
2016

Single-channel HD video,
63 min., loop, no sound

Courtesy und ©: Martha Atienza und
Silverlens Galleries



Martha Atienza

Anito 1, 2011-2015

Single-channel HD video,
63 min., loop, sound

Courtesy und ©: Martha Atienza und
Silverlens Galleries



Martha Atienza

Anito 2, 2017

Single-channel HD video,
63 min., loop, sound

Courtesy und ©: Martha Atienza und
Silverlens Galleries