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Raffy Lerma / Nightshift

November 9th to December 16th, 2018

Opening: November 8th, 2018, from 6 pm

Raffy Lerma's photo of Jenny Olayres holding her partner Michael Siaron gained international attention. He was a pedicab driver, alleged drug trafficker, and was shot dead on 23 July 2016 by unknown motorcycle riding gunmen. The photograph is reminiscent of Christian Pietà representations and thus served as a symbol of the suffering of the primarily poor population of the Philippines under the violent policies of President Rodrigo Duterte. His photographs will be shown in an institutional solo exhibition for the first time.

As part of the *Nightshift Group*, a group of nocturnal photojournalists, Raffy Lerma (* 1978, Manila) testifies of the implementation and impact of the anti-drug policy of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte in vivid images. The documentary photographs focus on the victims of the government's strict anti-drug policies. Ostensibly, they show violence, blood and corpses, while at the same time highlighting the bereaved in their deepest grief. Short descriptive texts on the events reveal the context of the photographs.

In his official inaugural speech, President Duterte dismissed Lerma's famous photograph as excessively dramatic. Duterte's election campaign called for tough crackdowns on crime and corruption. A major element was the announcement to consistently combat the drug trade, a goal which justified State violence. According to Human Rights Watch, since coming to power in May 2016, an estimated 12,000 suspected drug users and traffickers have been killed, mostly from poor backgrounds – usually by "armed strangers."

The *Nightshift Group*, named after their working hours from 9 pm to 5 am, advocates the humanization of these victims and calls for government accountability. This group is an informal collective of photojournalists, journalists and filmmakers, gathered in the early months of the Philippine Drug War to collect information on the latest crime scenes, planned police operations, names and details of victims, and to document these murders. Their pictures have exposed the brutal reality of Duterte's actions against the public and provided necessary evidence for human rights groups to condemn the rising violence.

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.

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About the artist /

Photojournalist Raffy Lerma (* 1978, Manila) began his career during his studies in Visual Communication at the College of Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines Diliman with reports of street protests that led to the overthrow of former President Joseph Estrada in 2001. He first worked as a photographer and later as an image editor for the Philippines Collegian, the official student publication of Diliman University. In 2004, Lerma was the Philippine representative for *World Press Photo - Asia Europe Foundation's Forum for Young Photographers* in Hanoi, Vietnam. In 2007 he graduated in photojournalism at the Konrad Adenauer Asian Center for Journalism at Ateneo de Manila University. Raffy Lerma worked as a photographer for the Philippine Daily Inquirer for twelve years before becoming self-employed in 2017 as part of the *Nightshift Group* to focus on documenting the drug war in the Philippines. Lerma has lectured in various parts of the Philippines and around the world to teach the public about the realities of the drug war in his home country. He lives and works in Manila.

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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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Exhibition 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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Raffy Lerma

The body of alleged drug pusher Jesus Jonas lies lifeless on the street after he was killed in a buy-bust operation in Del Monte, Quezon City on October 8, 2016. According to the police, Jonas was among the top drug dealers in the community.

©: Raffy Lerma



Raffy Lerma

Alleged drug users are handcuffed after being arrested in a police anti-illegal drug operation in Quezon City on November 9, 2016. According to police, drug paraphernalia, a weighing scale, and eleven sachets of methamphetamine or "shabu" were recovered from the operation.

©: Raffy Lerma



Raffy Lerma

The family of alleged drug peddler Paul Lester Lorenzo mourn after he was killed in a police anti-illegal drug operation in Manila on August 17, 2016. Lorenzo, who was killed along with Danny Laurente, allegedly fired at the police after a drug transaction. According to the report, ten sachets of "shabu," the local term for methamphetamine were recovered from the victims.

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