Nottingham Contemporary

Weekday Cross, Nottingham, NG1 2GB
nottinghamcontemporary.org
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Our Creativity Belongs to the Masses at Nottingham Contemporary
An exhibition conceived by Enzo Camacho & Ami Lien with Arianna Mercado, Yuji de Torres & Dominic Zinampan

Sat 6 Feb – Sun 2 May 2027
Private View: Fri 5 Feb



Enzo Camacho and Ami Lien, *Langit Lupa* (*Heaven Earth*), 2023. Film Still. Courtesy of the artists.

Nottingham Contemporary is proud to present an exhibition conceived by artist duo Enzo Camacho (b.1985, Philippines) and Ami Lien (b.1987, USA), in collaboration with Arianna Mercado (b.1995, Philippines), Yuji de Torres (b.1997, Philippines), and Dominic Zinampan (b.1997, Philippines).

This exhibition presents cultural work from the national democratic (ND) mass movement of the Philippines. Campaigning for genuine democracy and sovereignty, this anti-imperial and anti-feudal broad social movement is built upon a coalition of workers' unions and peasant associations, together with organisations for other sectors including Indigenous people, churchgoers, fisherfolk, the urban poor, youth, women, LGBTQ+ folk, and overseas Filipinos. Along with these sectors, there are also organisations and alliances for professionals with particular skill-sets, such as lawyers, teachers, scientists, and, crucially, cultural workers.

Within the ND mass movement, cultural work has a vital role to play. To be a cultural worker in the context of the movement means ensuring that one's practice is organically tied to the needs and aspirations of the oppressed sectors of Philippine society. This work seeks to challenge,

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uproot, and dismantle a pervasive colonial, feudal, and bourgeois culture in favour of one that is national, scientific, and mass-oriented. This exhibition aims to offer a glimpse into some of the ways in which this cultural orientation is expressed across collective and individual creative practices. Encompassing poetry, performance, film, music, banners, murals, and various other forms, this presentation will highlight how such creative and cultural expressions are folded into collective processes of investigation, remembrance, and agitation. As a whole, the exhibition seeks to give body to resistant cultural values and creative practices emerging over the course of a political struggle - and can, in turn, offer form and force.

The exhibition will present works by collectives including SAKA (Sama-samang Artista Para sa Kilusang Agraryo, or the anti-feudal alliance of art and cultural workers that support and advance the peasant agenda of genuine agrarian reform, rural development, and food security), Tambisan sa Sinig (Interaction in the Arts, a worker's cultural group connected to the May 1st Movement - a major trade union movement founded on International Workers' Day 1980 to unite Filipino workers against state repression and tyranny during dictatorship); and individuals such as martyred poet RJ Ledesma and departed artist Renz Lee.

Also featured will be Camacho and Lien's *Langit Lupa* (*Heaven Earth*), a major film work centred on the Philippine island of Negros, whose history has been shaped by the sugar industry through plantation economy and the hacienda system - a historic agricultural structure which evolved from Spanish colonial land grants to create a network of privately owned estates dedicated to the production of cash-crops such as sugar, rice, and tobacco. Drawing on survivor testimonies, historical research, and collective memory, Langit Lupa recounts the story of the 1985 Escalante Massacre under the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos. Through a moving blend of documentary, performance, and poetic storytelling, the work offers a reflection on political violence, resistance, and the enduring struggle for social justice.

For more information about *Our Creativity Belongs to the Masses* and other exhibitions at Nottingham Contemporary, please visit our website.

Our Creativity Belongs to the Masses is curated by Salma Tuqan and Katie Simpson.

This exhibition was made possible thanks to the generous support of the *Our Creativity Belongs to the Masses* Exhibition Circle.

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Notes to Editors:

Our Creativity Belongs to the Masses is showing alongside Francisco Tún: *Solo Mirando* (*Just Looking*) .

Currently showing (until 10 Jan 2027): Julia Isídrez: *Mud is everything* and Sarah Cunningham: *Midnight Sun*

For more information and images please contact:

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About Nottingham Contemporary
Nottingham Contemporary is one of the leading centres of contemporary art in Europe. Since opening in 2009, we have welcomed over 2.6 million visitors – with free admission for all – to our highly ambitious programme that has featured hundreds of artists and cultural practitioners from across the globe.

Our programme champions international art and artists who invite us to imagine the world in new ways, and empower different perspectives into the most pressing cultural, social, and political questions of today. We support artists at different stages of their careers – from first-time solo shows in the UK to surveys of renowned or overlooked figures – and regularly present significant thematic exhibitions and major artist–curated projects. Nottingham Contemporary is supported using public funding by Arts Council England.

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