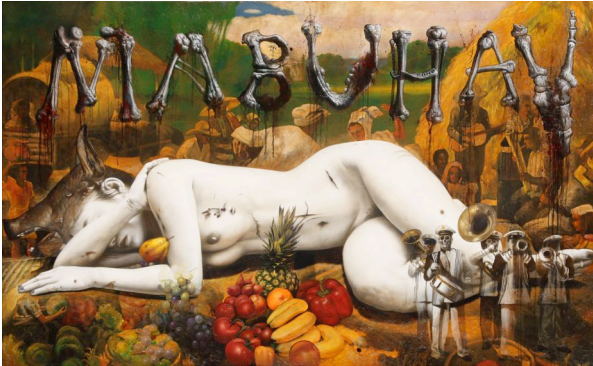


## RONALD VENTURA



*Invitation to the Feast, 2011*



*Under the Rainbow, 2007*

Born in 1973 in Manila, the Philippines, where he continues to live and work, Ronald Ventura ranks as one of the most acclaimed artists of his generation in Southeast Asia. With their unique combinations of figurative motifs, his paintings and sculptures are now among the most recognizable images of contemporary art in Southeast Asia. His work features a complex layering of images and styles, ranging from hyperrealism to cartoons and graffiti. Ventura takes the layering process in his work as a metaphor for the multifaceted national identity of the Philippines. Over the centuries, the profound influences of various occupying powers – Spain, Japan, and the United States – along with the underlying indigenous culture, have produced a complex and at times uneasy sense of identity. Ventura explores this historical and psychic phenomenon through a dialogue of images evoking East and West, high and low, old and young – seen, for example, in allusions to Old Master paintings or Japanese and American cartoons. He draws our attention to the “second skin” of cultural signifiers that each person carries with him, however unwittingly. Ventura views skin as an expressive surface – written on with tattoos, concealed under layers of imagery, or exploding outwards to reveal an inner world of fantasy and conflict.

Ventura presented his first US solo exhibition, *Metaphysics of Skin*, at Tyler Rollins Fine Art in 2009, following up with *A Thousand Islands* in 2011 and *E.R. (Endless Resurrection)* in 2014. A major solo exhibition of his work, *Project: Finding Home*, will take place at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei from Sept. 15 – Nov. 20, 2016. Other exhibitions of note include: an upcoming solo exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum, Manila, the Philippines; *Ronald Ventura: Big and Small*, Ayala Museum, Makati City, the Philippines (2015); *Bulul, Ronald Ventura and the traditional art of the Philippines*, Museo delle Culture, Lugano, Switzerland (2014); *Watching the Watchmen*, Vargas Museum, Manila, the Philippines (2012); *Recyclables*, Singapore Tyler Print Institute, Singapore (2012); *Surreal Versus Surrealism in Contemporary Art*, Institut Valencià d'Art Modern, Valencia, Spain (2011); *A Duad in Play*, ICA Gallery, Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore (2010); *Mapping the Corporeal*, National University of Singapore Museum (2008). He was also a participating artist in the Prague Biennale (2009) and the Nanjing Biennial (2010).