The background of the cover is an abstract, high-contrast image. It features a dark, almost black, upper section that transitions into a bright, golden-yellow lower section, creating a visual effect similar to a thermocline in water. The transition is marked by a dense layer of small, bright, circular spots, possibly representing bubbles or light reflecting off a surface. The overall texture is grainy and organic, with some darker, more solid shapes visible in the lower right corner.

Thermocline

of Art

New Asian Waves

HATJE
CANTZ

YEE I-Lann

Malaysia

Yee I-Lann's first memory related to Sulu was the story about the dragon that lived on Mount Kinabalu in Sabah. Its favorite plaything was a giant pearl 'the size of a tennis ball' that came from the Sulu Sea. An oyster had swallowed a tear from the moon thus producing a pearl of extraordinary size and beauty. Later, whilst in Palawan, the artist told this story to his hostel host Majika. She proudly told the artist that her brother owns a pearl farm that trades pearls with the Japanese jewelers 'Mikimoto' and that the Sulu Sea produces the highest quality pearls of the largest size. Yee felt she had been given affirmation - stories, legend and memory would lead her into Sulu and its unique landscape, seascape and memoryscape.

The Sulu Sea, powered by the pull of the moon, filled with her tears, becomes Yee's vessel on which to suture the dioramas she had found. It is a haunted sea, barred to the world for over thirty years by the currents of politics and prejudice and guarded by the ancient Tausug 'People of the Current' and Bajau 'Sea People' that turn to pray to the horizon of Mecca. The sea is their life, the land a graveyard. The sea for a millennia brought with it empires, traders from every corner of the world and yet the peoples of Sulu ride the currents and hold their frontiers. The sea is the constant backdrop to the hundreds of stories the artist encountered, their subjects tantalizing: pirates, slaves, opium, M16s, priests, wars, kidnappings, Tau Taus, typhoons, shipwrecks, boogey men and sultans.



<Sulu Stories-High Noon>, 2005
Digital Print on Kodak Endura Paper
61 x 61 cm

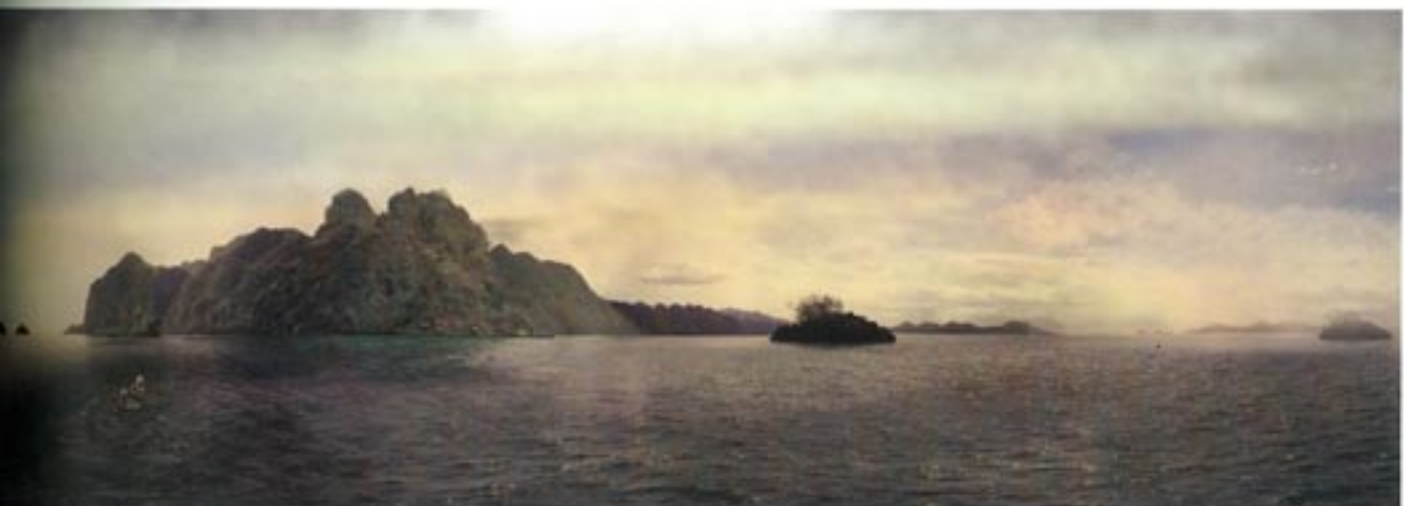


<Sulu Stories-The Ch'i-lin of Caluit>, 2005
Digital Print on Kodak Endura Paper
61 x 61 cm
Copyright: The Artist



<Sulu Stories-Landmark>, 2005

Digital Print on Kodak Endura Paper
183 x 61 cm
Copyright: The Artist



<Sulu Stories-Barangay>, 2005

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