



X-TUM  
2010

**RONALD VENTURA**

Bio Ronald Ventura was born in Manila, Philippines in 1973. After graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting from the University of Santo Tomas, Ventura became a university instructor in the fine arts. In September of 2009, Ventura presented his first solo exhibition, *Metaphysics of Skin*, at the Tyler Rollins Fine Arts gallery in New York City. His work encompasses a variety of styles, including cartoons, graffiti and hyperrealism, which he layers in order to create a metaphor for the national identity of the Philippines. With its rich colonial history and diverse demographic consisting of tribal and non-tribal ethnic groups, indigenous peoples and migrant ethnic groups from China, Indonesia and other parts of South Asia and Europe, the culture of the Philippines comprises an Eastern heritage with heavy Western influences. Similarly, Ventura's work explores this amalgamation of diverse cultural surroundings.

*Current Splash*, 2010  
60 x 48 inches  
Oil on canvas  
Photo courtesy of Ronald Ventura and Tyler  
Rollins Fine Art, New York





W. Turner  
2009

**Ronald Ventura (Philippino, 1973–)**

**The skull is a symbolic warning.** The skull says to either take precaution in life, or die. Ironically at the same time, it is also a symbol for immortality in popular culture. The skull is a kind of pop icon of immortality.

**The skull can also be seen as a celebration of death.** Wearing death is provocative. Death is mysterious because it is unknowable, and that makes it uncomfortable. But that is basically the element of what the *coolitude* crave.

**Skull is not a trend.** There is just a steady evolution that constructs, deconstructs and reconstructs symbols and icons according to the tune of the times.