



## 3SAT

**THE BEST FOR THE LEAST** This is the first benefit concert of Gawad Kalinga (GK) featuring Ryan Cayabyab, the Ryan Cayabyab singers and some of the finest Filipino talents. GK aims to deal with poverty by helping the poor communities with its various programmes. This concert will benefit the All85 GK Village in GK Sitio Pajo in Barangay Baesa, Quezon City. At the Music Museum (Greenhills Shopping Complex, 2nd level, Theatre Mall, Ortigas Avenue, San Juan, Metro Manila; GK All85 sponsorship coordinators (Nilo Rodriguez +63917.850.7255 and Emilie Montenegro Yupangco +63917.536.4543)

## 10SAT

**LA NAVAL FESTIVAL** This religious festival commemorates the intercession of the Virgin of the Holy Rosary that led to the victory of the Spanish fleet over the Dutch invaders. The townspeople of Angeles City celebrate the fiesta with the typical religious programmes and as an act of hospitality the guests are entertained with the finest food and drinks. (Angeles City, Tourism Office; tel +6345.322.0507)



# TittleTattle



## HIGH-T WITH *Tyler Rollins*

FIND OUT WHY THIS NEW YORK ART GALLERY OWNER IS FASCINATED WITH SOUTHEAST ASIAN ARTISTS

SINCE ITS LAUNCH IN 2008, the Tyler Rollins Fine Art Gallery (www.trfineart.com) in Chelsea, New York has garnered much attention for its sole focus on Southeast Asian contemporary artwork.

**TITTLE TATTLE:** *What first got you interested in Southeast Asian art?*

**TYLER ROLLINS:** In the late nineties I started travelling to the region a lot and noticed so many amazing contemporary artists whose work had not been shown in the US. The art scene in many SEA countries, such as the Philippines, is incredibly vibrant.

**TT:** *How has its response been in the US market?*

**TR:** Incredible—it's been very enthusiastic. People here are quite curious to learn more about the region, which has so far been quite unfamiliar and underrepresented.

**TT:** *You've showcased photographer Tom Epperson and now artist Ronald Ventura. What was the reaction to Epperson and what do you expect from Ventura?*

**TR:** People loved Tom's exhibi-

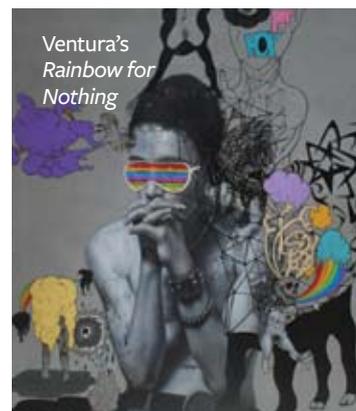
tion—his work's imagination and technical bravura really struck a chord, and the fact that he is an American working in Manila meant that we could talk a lot about the longtime connections between the two countries. We are quite excited about Ronald's exhibition taking place until the end of October. As his first solo show in the US, it'll be an important debut for him. As one of the hottest younger artists in SEA, I think people in New York are going to be very impressed with his body of work.

**TT:** *How often do you come to SEA? What potential do you see in this growing market?*

**TR:** I make several long trips a year to the region. It's frustrating to be so far away, and the travelling can be exhausting—but the excitement of visiting the artists and seeing new things more than makes up for it. The art scenes in SEA have been expanding tremendously in recent years, and I think it will become one of the most internationally

## RELEVANT ART

During global economic recession, is buying art relevant? "I think art is more relevant than ever!" says Rollins, who believes art is needed more when times are tough. "It can have such a profound effect on how we see the world, how we conceive of ourselves as individuals and as members of society and how we think about the problems we face. A good thing we are already seeing coming out of the current economic recession is that people are focusing less on 'brand names' and more on the quality and originality of the art. Collectors are getting back to basics and look for what is truly special. People are still buying, but they are much more selective. That is why it's so important to show only the best. People will respond to an artist who is unfamiliar if the work is compelling enough."



acclaimed regions. It is such a diverse and dynamic part of the world, and the art scene reflects that. Yet the prices for the art are still remarkably reasonable compared to those from China, India or the West. So right now is an excellent time for collectors.

**TT:** *What do you look for in an artist you'd like to represent?*

**TR:** I focus on those on the cutting edge, with a highly original voice and who constantly try to push the boundaries. A certain restlessness and curiosity is important, along with the technical skills. Right now, I am presenting working artists who have reached a certain level of career maturity.