

Lesley-Anne Cao

Lesley-Anne Cao (b. 1992, Quezon City, the Philippines) explores materiality, languages, and transformative processes through installation, sculpture, video, and text. Using research-based methods and process-driven approaches, she prompts reflection on everyday life to uncover hidden social structures that shape our behaviors and the environment. By working with self-produced and found items like artifacts, photos, and text, she transforms recognizable objects to provoke inquiries into the definition of arts and sociocultural phenomena.

Cao had several solo exhibitions, with her first solo exhibition taking place at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in 2018, which was shortlisted for the Fernando Zóbel Prize for Visual Art in 2019. She also presented works in various exhibitions, festivals, and screenings, including the University of the Philippines Vargas Museum (Manila, 2021 and 2019), Bangkok Biennial (2021 and 2018), The Third Kamias Triennial (Manila, 2020), Mind Set Art Center (Taipei, 2020), The 15th Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival (Berwick-upon-Tweed, 2019), The 19th Seoul International New Media Festival (Seoul, 2019), Asian Artist Moving Image Platform (Seoul, 2019), The 2nd Hobiennale (Hobart, 2019), Goethe-Institut (Hong Kong, 2019), .giff Festival of New Cinema (Makati City, 2019), Ayala Museum (Makati City, 2018), Project Bakawan Arts Festival (Quezon City, 2015), Metropolitan Museum of Manila (Manila, 2014) among others.

Cao currently lives and works in Manila, the Philippines.

Education

- 2014 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Major in Painting, University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City, the Philippines
- 2013 International exchange scholar, École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris, France

Solo Exhibitions

- 2023 "If time is an arrow, what is its target", Underground Gallery, Makati City, Manila, the Philippines
- 2021 "A song plays from another room", MO_Space Gallery, Taguig City, Manila, the Philippines
"Hard and soft prayers", The Drawing Room, Makati City, Manila, the Philippines
- 2018 "The hand, the secretary, a landscape", Cultural Center of the Philippines, Manila, the Philippines

Group Exhibitions & Screenings

- 2024 "Level 13A", A+ Works of Art, Kuala Lumpur at the Hotel Art Fair, Intercontinental Bangkok Sukhumvit, Bangkok, Thailand
"you were there from the beginning", Modeka Art Space, Makati City, the Philippines
- 2023 "Nothing human is alien to me", A+ Works of Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
"There are always flowers for those who want to see them", West Gallery, Quezon City, the Philippines
"A Great Show", The Drawing Room, Makati City, the Philippines
"INTERTEXTILE II: Works on Fabric in Green Papaya Art Projects' Archive", Studio Mano, Antique, the Philippines

- "The eye cuts where the hand lands", Gravity Art Space, Quezon City, the Philippines
- 2022 "Mise en Place", Appetite, Singapore
 "An aging double", MO_Space Gallery, Taguig City, Manila, the Philippines
 "Hitherto V: Mothering from a Distance", Project Space Pilipinas, Lucban, Quezon, the Philippines
 "Beneath the Common Surface", Kaida Contemporary Gallery, Quezon City, the Philippines
 "happyseventh", Underground Gallery, Makati City, the Philippines
- 2021 "Last Words", ROH Projects, Jakarta, Indonesia
 "Cast But One Shadow: Afro-Southeast Asian Affinities", Vargas Museum, University of the Philippines, Quezon City, Manila, the Philippines
 "No More Mesmerizations", Bangkok Biennial 2020/1 - Manila/Online Pavilion
- 2020 "I'm finding it hard to believe, Modeka Art Space, Makati City, the Philippines
 "Florae – The Women Artists : The Special Project for MSAC 10th Anniversary III", Mind Set Art Center, Taipei, Taiwan
 "Issue 2: Points of Connection", West Space Offsite (Online Program), West Space, Melbourne, Australia
 "Jack of Golds", Blanc Gallery, Quezon City, the Philippines
 "this walk, a hunt; this path, a quarry", Artinformal Gallery, Makati City, the Philippines
 "The 3rd Kamias Triennial: Sawsawan in the Dirty Kitchen", Kamias Special Projects, Quezon City, the Philippines
- 2019 "a knowing intimacy or a life", University of the Philippines Vargas Museum, Quezon City, the Philippines
 "To give a moment a name", The Drawing Room, Makati City, the Philippines
 "Courses of Action", Goethe-Institut Hong Kong with support from Para Site, Hong Kong
 "More light than heat", Calle Wright, Manila, the Philippines
 "City of Bawal", 1335Mabini Gallery, Makati City, the Philippines
 "Of sampaguita, ilang-ilang", c3 Contemporary Art Space, Naarm/Melbourne, Australia
 "A Public Collection of the Hidden but Familiar", Limbo, Makati City, the Philippines
 "15th Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival", Berwick-upon-Tweed, UK
 "19th Seoul International New Media Festival", Hongik University, Seoul, South Korea
 "Asian Artist Moving Image Platform: 2nd Curatorial Forum", Gyeonggi Sangsang Campus, Seoul, South Korea
 "2nd Hobiennale", Cinema One, Hobart, Tasmania
 ".giff Festival of New Cinema", Warehouse Eight, Makati City, the Philippines
- 2018 "Fieldnotes", Makiling Botanic Gardens and Nomina Nuda, Los Baños, Laguna, the Philippines
 "Spin Cycle", 25 Humabon Street, Magallanes Village, Makati City, the Philippines
 "Quid Pro Quo", Bangkok Biennial, Bangkok, Thailand, the Philippines
 "100 Films for One Hundred Years: Hidden Cinema", Ayala Museum, Makati City, the Philippines
 "Yielding Nodes", Kuna ng Dahon, Silang, Cavite, the Philippines
 "Composite Circuits", Vinyl on Vinyl Gallery, Makati City, the Philippines
 "To eat is to survive to be hungry", 1335Mabini Gallery, Manila, the Philippines
- 2017 "Lost Frames VII: [REC]", Green Papaya Art Projects/Catch272, Quezon City, the Philippines
 "The Arm", 98B Collaboratory, Manila, the Philippines
 "Parle pas français, merci", Corredor Gallery, U.P. College of Fine Arts, Quezon City, the Philippines
 "D", Vinyl on Vinyl Gallery, Makati City, the Philippines
- 2015 "REPULSE", MAKNA Seni Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia
 "PaperViews15: Rapid Cycling", Project Space Pilipinas, Lucban, Quezon, the Philippines
 "Nonfiction", Project 20, Quezon City, the Philippines
 "Bull in the Heather", Art Center/Galerie Anna, Mandaluyong City, the Philippines
 "REPULSE", MAKNA Seni Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia

“Preview Magazine 20th Anniversary Exhibition”, Green Sun, Makati City,, the Philippines
“Pop+art: Productions”, Artery Art Space, Quezon City, the Philippines
“Project Bakawan Arts Festival”, University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City, the Philippines
“SiLab: Sining Laboratoryo Arts Festival”, University of the Philippines Los Baños, Laguna, the Philippines

- 2014 “Unisex”, Artery Art Space, Quezon City, the Philippines
“Luminescence”, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Manila, the Philippines
“Objection”, PAN/// Project Space, 98B Collaboratory, Manila, the Philippines
- 2013 “Je ne sais pas encore, exactament”, École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris, France
“Thin Skinned, Light and Space Contemporary, Quezon City, the Philippines
- 2012 “Being”, Sining Kamalig, Quezon City, the Philippines
- 2010 “Y”, Sining Kamalig, Quezon City, the Philippines
- 2009 “Tagsibol”, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Manila, the Philippines

Residences

- 2023 Gasworks Artist Residency, Gasworks, London
- 2019 Öro Residency Programme, Öro, Finland
- 2017 Keelung Ciao, Keelung, Taiwan

Prizes & Grants

- 2022 100 Artists Grant, artlink and SüdKulturFonds, Switzerland
- 2019 New Cinema Competition - Shortlist, 15th Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival, UK
Fernando Zóbel Prize for Visual Art - Shortlist, Ateneo Art Awards 2019, Ateneo Art Gallery, Quezon City, the Philippines
National Commission for Culture and the Arts (International travel grant), Manila, the Philippines
- 2018 Cultural Center of the Philippines (exhibition grant), Manila, the Philippines
- 2014 Artist Mentorship Program (Mentee), Artery Art Space, Quezon City, the Philippines
- 2013 International exchange scholar, École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris, France (through the auspices of the French Government)