



gilubong ang akong pusod sa dagat

my navel is buried in the sea

a video installation by martha atienza
www.gilubongsadagat.tumblr.com

gilubong ang akong pusod sa dagat
my navel is buried in the sea

a three screen video installation by martha atienza
2011, hd video, 31 mins, bisayan
english subtitle

synopsis

gilubong ang akong pusod sa dagat captures the significance and mystery of the sea to the millions of filipinos who derive their living from it, particularly giving shape to a reality which is rarely seen. it reflects the philippines' historical and geographical relationship with the ocean and to its contemporary reality, as a metaphor of necessity and opportunity, and of both community and isolation.

following the men from madridejos, bantayan island onboard container vessels, batel, banka's and underwater- it is a portrait of a people. made for and by the people of madridejos, the philippines.

martha atienza

lives and works in rotterdam (nl) and bantayan island (ph). her work is a series mostly constructed in video, of almost sociological nature, that studies her direct environment. atienza understands her surroundings as a landscape of people first and foremost. it is interesting to see the contrast between her recorded observations of people in developed and developing countries.

she is primarily focused on finding dignity for the undervalued, for the unnoticed, in the mundane. the work she creates is characterized by a subtle need to contain these observations within manageable spaces, frequent repetitions and portable formats. currently, she is investigating the usage of contemporary art as a tool for effecting social change and development.

showings/ distinctions

2012

Chopshots Documentary Festival Southeast Asia, Jakarta (ID)

ateneo art award (ph)

ateneo art gallery, manila (ph)

pablo gallery, makati (ph)

gallery orange, cinemarehiyon, bacolod (ph)

2011

videoforma, st. petersburg (ru)

church plaza and national high school, madridejos, bantayan island (ph)

with support from

dienst, kunst en cultuur rotterdam (nl)

national commission for culture and arts (ph)

the office of culture and design (ph)

united nations environmental programme



Gemeente Rotterdam
Kunst en Cultuur



The Office of Culture and Design
7274 Malugay St.
Makati City
Ph 1203



credits

with

assistant and consultant
anthony jake atienza

fishermen

buging alolor
edwin apawan
joel austria
jr rodolfo belais
epoy philip cena
kong-kong cena
enteng vicente duis
al-al aljun espina
roque mario forrosuelo jr.
mario forrosuelo
panoy jievenford forrosuelo
boyet kinatarkan
santoy crisanio illusorio
melchor mulle
intsik romel pasaylo
chris pasaylo
socio berne pasaylo

raffy santillan
arsenio arcadio santillan
jonjon edgardo viajedor

international seafarers
bobit espinabatil crew

mv chalice crew
brise shipping
lona crewing
romeo abolon
george atienza
joy bolivar
loreto desabille
rame baulita desamporado
gilbert galvez
joel jimenez
capt. magalongga
mv philos-dy crew
shipcrew crewing
john louis atienza

thanks

michelle abello
sofia alfon
leo añabeza
enrico atienza
maria atienza
clara lobregat balaguer
gloria fabreag
kevin fabreag
daisy desabille
gina espina
john philipps martos
frederick mulle
merly mulle
cloyd anthony ribo
radford santillan
eveline
euro-asiatic shipping
sa mga taga chinese compound
tag mga taga caltex

tag sa mga sakop ni daisy
mayor sally de la fuente
sa simbahan
barangay captain poblacion
barangay captain atop-atop
mga musicians
the municipality of madridejos
madridejos national high school
cam c dosdos
napoleon e. calderon jr
island souvenirs
kota park
lynes bakeshop
mokoy store
wellisa poultry farm
st. joseph trucking
vyv's hardware
boboy general merchandising
ri-ann noel trucking
overseas workers welfare administration









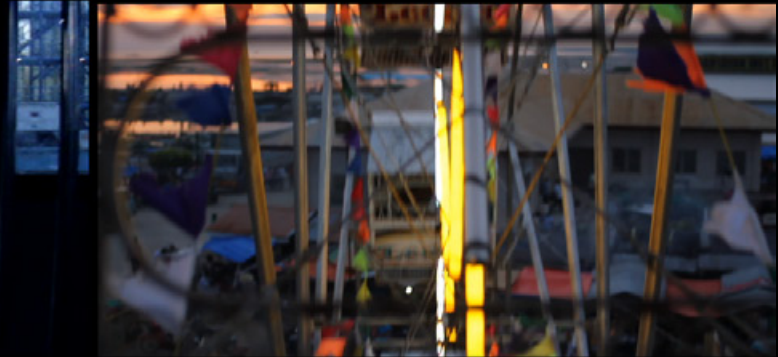
Love me with all of your heart













madrideojos community

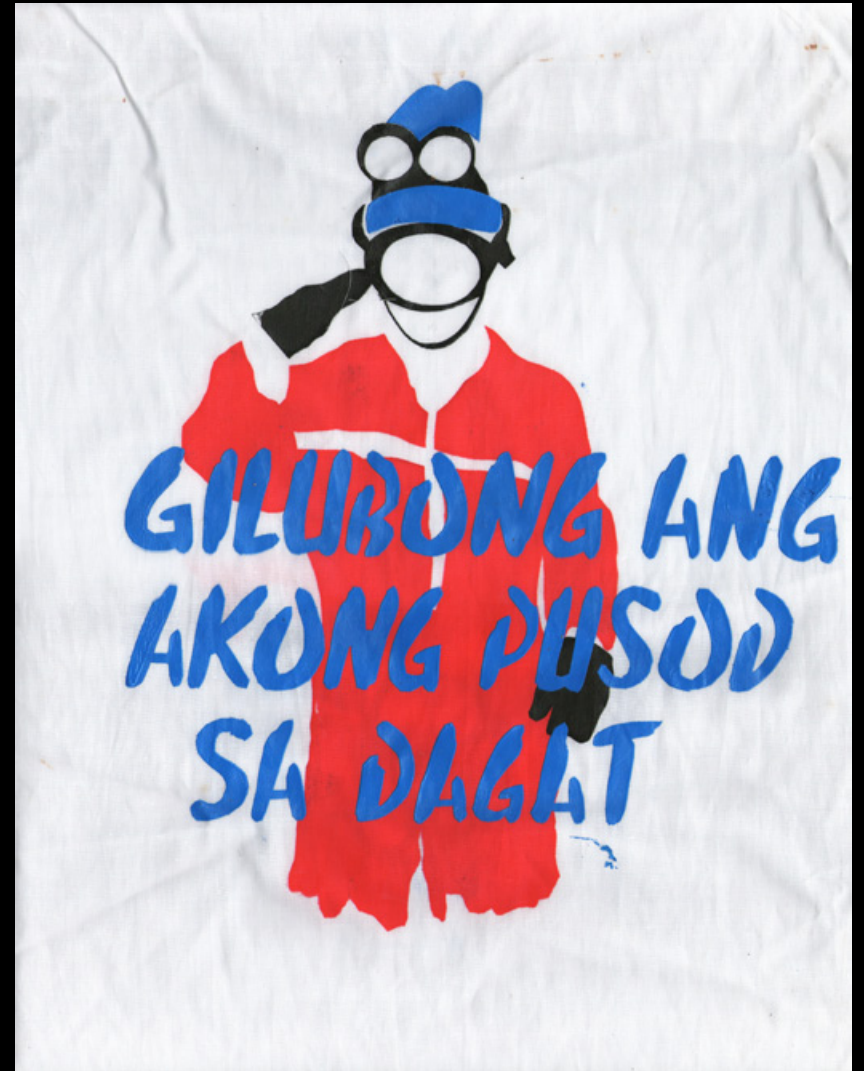
the filming process was combined with community screenings that initiated dialogue amongst the seafarers, fishermen, their families and community, starting out with viewings at home and talking with families that later resulted to the final installation combined with dialogues between the two groups; international seafarers and their families and local fishermen and their families.

the issues facing fishing communities like these are the gap in income creating dislocations within the community, the link with the sea which they are losing, the consequences to the families with the absence of men, migration, the environmental damage to their seas and the loss of their culture.

art is used as a tool to create awareness and dialogues. the response is an openness to one another and reconnect ties within the community. the result is them finding a voice together to make changes themselves. they feel empowered.

right

a hand drawn logo by lawisanon youth was drawn and printed on fabric and posters to share the project.





the logo on fabric were turned into flags by the fishermen of madridejos, bantayan.
the flags became a symbol of pride.



this is a barangay showing. fishermen, their families and neighbors get together to watch the images of the men and start getting used to talking and sharing their experiences with one another.

this was also a way to get them used to the idea of projecting and seeing themselves on the screen.



the last night of the five days of the final installation. the three screens are shown in the church plaza right in the center of the town of madridejos, bantayan island.

around 600 people gather to watch. fishermen, international seafarers and their families share with the rest of the community what they do and how they feel about issues facing them.







SPORTSFEST
'05

Kagalingan sa pagKalingan
sa Kalikasan



Pangarap sa Kinabukasan



left
fishermen and their families at the final screenings

right
the next generation of lawisanon



final days of the installation. the wife of an international seafarer stands in front of her community answering a question of a wife of a local fishermen.

she is defending herself, arguing that she does not look down on the fisherfolks.



talks with the local fishermen and their families. one of many gatherings prior to the final installation.



dialogues during the final installation. an international sefarer talks about the issues facing them.



"our sea is damaged. what can we give our children?" (interview with mario forrosuelo a fishermen)





the united nations environmental programme giving workshops to highschool students coinciding with the final days of the installations.

the area of focus was environmental accountability and sustainability by combining lectures with discussions and interactive games.

together with the ladies who helped with talking to everyone and making me understand what needed to be done. these are the wives, mothers and children of international seafarers and fishermen of madrideojos, bantayan island.

since they have started a womens group where they support and advice one another on emotional and practical issues.

these women are the fighters for their community. I look forward to continuing to work with them.



