

## WAWI NAVARROZA

### Bio

Wawi Navarroza (b. 1979, Manila) is a photographer/multi-disciplinary artist from Manila, Philippines. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from De La Salle University, Manila and attended continuing education at the International Center of Photography, New York. In 2012, Navarroza completed her scholarship with an award from the Istituto Europeo di Design, Madrid under the program European Master of Fine Art Photography.

Starting from the darkroom in her early years as a photographer, Navarroza always pushed for her own understanding of the medium by various experiments to make it her own until she abandoned the pictorial tendencies of stylized black-and-white work for another approach using the camera to serve more conceptual ideas.

Navarroza's approach to photography is malleable, contemporary, self-reflexive; less and less as a documentarian but rather as an author of a visual language that she creates and assemble in pictures. Her body of work is a combination of various inclinations to constructed portraiture, still life, appropriated imagery, site-specific negotiations with space, intervening at times through tableaux, performative gestures and installation. In rare turns, she also engages the viewers through shared sensorial experiences by including unexpected works (such as edibles/spirits) as extensions of landscape.

Navarroza has widely exhibited in the Philippines and internationally. Recent solo exhibits include: "Tierra Salvaje" (2014), "Hunt & Gather, Terraria" (2013) "ULTRAMAR, Pt.1: Gathered Throng, Falling Into Place" (2012), "Dominion" (2011), at Silverlens Gallery, Manila and "On Landscapes and Some Dislocations" (2012) at Galería Patrick Domken, Cadaqués, Spain. She has participated regionally at the Tokyo Month of Photography presented by Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography (2012), the Asian Art Biennale in Taichung, Taiwan (2011), the annual touring exhibition "CUT: New Photography from South East Asia" by VWFA Kuala Lumpur, ASEAN-Korea "Emerging Wave" Asian Contemporary Photography Exhibition in Seoul, Korea (2010) and "Verso Manila: contemporary art from the Philippines" in Turin, Italy (2009). She has also been shown at Angkor Photography Festival Cambodia, Noorderlicht Photography Festival, Holland, and PhotoIreland.

Her work has been shown in institutions such as the National Museum of the Philippines, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery, Hangaram Museum, Korea, National Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan, and Fries Museum of Contemporary Art, Netherlands and is in the collection of the Central Bank of the Philippines, Lumi Photography Museum, Finland and private collectors worldwide.

Navarroza has received a number of awards such as the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Thirteen Artists Awards Triennial (2012), Lumi Photographic Art Awards, Helsinki (2011), and was finalist for the prestigious Sovereign Asian Art Prize (2011) and Singapore Museum Signature Art Prize (2011). Other awards include: International Photography Awards (2010), Portfolio Preis (2010, Germany), Prix de la Photographie Paris (2009) and two award-winning solo exhibitions: "POLYSACCHARIDE: The Dollhouse Drama" (2005) and "SATURNINE: A Collection of Portraits, Creatures, Glass, and Shadow" (2007) which was cited Winner at the Ateneo Art Awards 2007, Philippines. In 2009, Navarroza was awarded the first Asian Cultural Council-Silverlens Fellowship Grant to further her research and practice in New York City.

A staunch believer in the potential of the printed format and a strong proponent of photobooks and artist books in the Philippines, she released 2 of her own in 2014: "DOMINION" and "Hunt & Gather, Terraria", launched internationally at Offprint Paris and New York Art Book Fair, respectively. Her works appear in recent photography anthologies such as "Photography Today" (Phaidon), "Contemporary Photography In Asia" (Prestel), "No Chaos No Party: 28 Artists in Metro Manila", among others.

For a period, Navarroza also worked as a lecturer of photography at De La Salle University, Manila and occasionally as an independent curator. In the past few years she has based herself in Madrid, Barcelona and Cadaqués, Spain. Currently, Navarroza is working and living in Manila. Since her return, she founded THOUSANDFOLD, a platform for contemporary photography and photobooks in Manila which also mounted FOTOSEMANA, the city's first international microfestival for auteur photography.

She also sings for post-punk rock band The Late Isabel.

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b. 1979, Manila, PH



Tierra Salvaje n°V, 2014

### AWARDS, RESIDENCIES, AND GRANTS

- 2016 *Merayakan Murni*, Ketemu Project Space Artist Residency, Indonesia
- 2014 *Prudential Eye Awards Singapore*, Nominee
- 2012 *Asian Cultural Council - Silverlens Foundation Fellowship Grant*, New York
- 2011 *Lumi Photographic Art Awards*, Helsinki, Honorary Award Winner  
*Sovereign Asian Art Prize*, Finalist, Hong Kong  
*Signature Art Prize, Singapore Art Museum-Asia Pacific Breweries Foundation*, Finalist, Singapore  
*Istituto Europeo di Design*, Madrid - Master Europeo de Fotografía de Autor, Scholarship
- 2010 *Photography Awards*, 3rd Prize - Still Life  
*fotoMAGAZIN*, Portfolio Prize, Germany
- 2009 *Asian Cultural Council - Silverlens Foundation Fellowship Grant*, New York  
*PX3 Prix de la Photographie Paris*, 3rd Prize - Portraiture, France
- 2007 *Ateneo Art Gallery - Artesan Gallery Artist Residency Grant*, Singapore  
*Fotomasterskie Peterburgskie*, St. Petersburg, Russia  
*Ateneo Art Awards*, Manila
- 2001 *Art Association of the Philippines*, Manila

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 (Upcoming), Silverlens, Manila
- 2014 *Tierra Salvaje*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2013 *Ultramar pt. 2: Hunt & Gather, Terraria*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2012 *Ultramar pt. 1 Falling Into Place Gathered Throng*, Silverlens, Manila  
*On Landscape & Some Dislocations*, Galería Patrick Domken, Cadaqués, Costa Brava
- 2011 *DOMINION*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2009 *Perhaps it was possibly because*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2008 *When All Is Said And Done*, Artesan Gallery, Singapore
- 2007 *100 Años Entre Nosotros / 100 Years Between Us* (Navarroza homage Frida Kahlo centennial) Galería de Exposiciones, Instituto Cervantes de Manila  
*Saturnine: A Collection of Portraits, Creatures, Glass & Shadow*, Silverlens, Manila / McDermott Gallery, Siem Reap / ArtReflex Gallery, Saint-Petersburg
- 2005 *Polysaccharide: The Dollhouse Drama*, Blacksoup Project Artspace, Manila / Ateneo Art Gallery, Manila / La Trobe University, Bendigo

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *Translacion*, Silverlens, Manila
- 2016 *Merayakan Murni*, Sudakara Art Space Jl. Sudamala No. 20, Bali, Indonesia  
*Marker (special exhibition)*, Art Dubai, UAE
- 2015 *Surface Tension: Perspective on the Changing Landscape*, Alliance Française de

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Manille for COP:21, Paris

**Asian Women Photography Showcase**, Objectifs, Singapore

**Traces (Platforms)**, Finale Gallery, Manila

**Platforms (special exhibition)**, Art Stage Singapore

2014 **After Image**, South-East Asian contemporary photography survey show, Singapore Art Museum, SAM 8Q

**Imaging Philippine Flora**, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Manila

**Ocean of Possibilities**, ArtScience Museum, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore

**New Natives**, Lightbombs Contemporary, Hong Kong

2012 **Terra Cognita, Noorderlicht Photo Festival**, Museum Belvédère, Heerenveen

**The Hope & The Dream in Filipino: Contemporary Photography from the Philippines**, The Month of Photography Tokyo 2012, presented by The Photographic Society of Japan and Tokyo Museum of Photography, Tokyo

2011 **Asia One projections**, Recyclart, Brussels

**Medi(t)ation: Asian Art Biennale 2011**, National Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung

2010 **25th Asian International Art Exhibition**, Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery, Ulaanbaatar

**It Was Always About Forever**, (Navarroza & Zicarelli two-person exhibition), Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur

**Emerging Wave: ASEAN-Korea Contemporary Photo Exhibition 2010**, Hangaram Museum, Seoul

**CUT10: Parallel Universe, New Photography from South East Asia**, Valentine Willie Fine Art: Kuala Lumpur / Singapore / Yogyakarta / Manila

2009 **Verso Manila: Contemporary Filipino Artists in Turin**, Verso Arte Contemporanea, Turin

**CUT09: Figure, New Photography from South East Asia**, Valentine Willie Fine Art: Kuala Lumpur / Singapore / Yogyakarta / Manila

2008 **Swarm In The Aperture: Recent Photography in the Philippines**, The National Museum of the Philippines, Manila

2006 **Another Asia**, Fries Museum of Contemporary Art, Leeuwarden

### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

2014 **Hunt & Gather, Terraria**, published by Hardworking, Goodlooking x 5 Ports x Studio Wawi Navarroza, Manila

**DOMINION**, published by Stephanian x Studio Wawi Navarroza, Manila

2013 **Contemporary Photography in Asia**, published by Prestel, London

2012 **Terra Cognita**, published by Noorderlicht, Netherlands

**Portfolio12 - Migrations**, published by Photolreland, Dublin

2011 **Gracias por su visita** by Wawi Navarroza (artist's book), published by Hiraya Gallery, Manila

2010 **Curare con l'arte contemporanea** by Rebecca Russo published by Videoinight®, Turin

**Emerging Wave: Asian Contemporary Photography**, published by ASEAN-Korea Centre, Seoul

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- 2009 *The Philippine Yearbook 2009: 61 Artists Who Will Change The World*, published by The Fookien Times, Manila
- 2006 *Another Asia*, published by Aurora Borealis, Netherlands

#### **EDUCATION**

- 2012 Istituto Europeo di Design, Madrid  
Master Europeo de Fotografía del Autor  
(European Master of Fine Art Photography), scholarship
- 2009 International Center of Photography, New York City
- 2002 De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines  
BA Communication Arts, with honors