



Polli-Nation

Roundtable Discussion On: **Modes of Curatorial Engagements**

16 September 2016, 10 am-12noon



Bulwagan ng Dangal, UP Diliman, Quezon City

A Dashed State (2015), Manny Montelibano, 3-channel video. Photo by Lai del Rosario.

PROJECT BRIEF

Points for Asynchrony

As a contribution to the 2016 London Biennale Pollination Manila, the Roundtable Discussion aims to bring together artists and curators to reflect on biennales and triennials as curatorial and artistic platforms amidst the precariousness of human existence. The discussion aims to surface tensions through a polyphony of voices that may not often be in synchrony or harmony. On one hand, we are interested in Biennials as spaces of glamour, image and touristic revenue; on the other, they take place amidst shifting tectonic plates, unstable water tables and migrating populations driven out of their lands by war, famine and other developments that undermine their humanity. What are Biennials for, anyway? What are they really representing? What is? Or What is to become? Echoing Ahmet Ogut, via Serubiri Moses, we ask: "Are Biennales about providing a space

or becoming a space?"¹ – a question that highlights the tension between artistic use (providing a space for contrary voices) and institutional use, that is becoming a space for say, representing the nation.

Are Biennales - especially National Pavilions in Venice - spaces for representing nation or society, where artworks - even the most radical - can drown in the antiseptic gloss of the exhibition space? Is there a model or models we can cite/site that offer/s a paradigm shift that could lead us to think out of the box? If there are none, can we create or imagine a model or models?

This discussion may not offer definitive answers; instead it may give rise to more questions that may pollinate more tensions. The idea is to talk about them in an atmosphere of collegial and reflexive asynchrony.

Polli-Nations Program

The following speakers will start off the conversation:

Patrick Flores on Curating the Philippine Pavilion in Venice Biennale 2015

Josefina Cruz on Curating the Singapore Biennale

Leslie de Chaves on Curating and Participating in Community-Based Projects

Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan on Participating as Artists in Biennials

Maria Taniguchi on Being an Artist Amidst All These

Open forum follows; Flaudette May Datuin, DAS Chair moderates

¹ <http://africasacountry.com/2015/05/the-venice-biennale-and-the-problem-of-nationalism/>