

MEDIA RELEASE

**Alfredo Juan Aquilizan
Isabel Gaudinez-Aquilizan
In-Habit:
Project Another Country**



In-Habit: Project Another Country, commissioned by Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, is a contemporary art project by Filipino-born, Brisbane based artists, Isabel and Alfredo Aquilizan. Considering the idea of 'place', the Aquilizans will present a participatory exhibition that addresses themes of journey and diaspora; settlement and resettlement; home and land; plight and displacement.

Using the process of collecting and collaborating to express ideas of migration, family and memory, the husband and wife team will work with local schools, children and the community to construct small houses using recycled cardboard boxes and found materials. The houses will contribute to a growing community of dwellings installed on scaffolding within the gallery, resembling a sprawling construction site continuously evolving and always in transition. By the end of the exhibition duration, this collaborative cardboard 'city' will embody a multitude of real and imagined personal and communal stories.

Nested within the cacophony of mismatched boxes is a multi-channel video work focusing on the children of the Badjao. An indigenous ethnic group of Southeast Asia with a long history of nomadic seafaring, the Badjao are now among the displaced poor in the Philippines and are at risk of losing their identity as they integrate with their adopted, land-based communities.

Inhabiting makeshift houseboats and stilt houses on coastal settlements along the Sulu Archipelago, the Badjao must seek alternative ways to survive while their severely underprivileged but quick-witted children have learnt to increase their takings as beggars by infusing foreign rap music with local dialect. They perform their spontaneous routines on the streets of Filipino cities revealing uncanny humour and ingenuity. Though outwardly diverse, the two stories that comprise this edition of *In-Habit: Project Another Country* reference the Badjao and via their lived experience focus on themes of displacement, adaptation and resilience.

TOUR ITINERARY

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| Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery | 3 August 2013 to 8 September 2013 |
| Bathurst Regional Art Gallery | 31 January 2014 to 16 March 2014 |
| Pinnacles Gallery | 5 April 2014 to 4 May 2014 |
| Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art | 1 August 2014 to 3 October 2014 |
| Tweed River Art Gallery | 17 October 2014 to 14 December 2014 |
| Cairns Regional Gallery | 10 January 2015 to 8 March 2015 |

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, please visit: www.mgnsw.org.au/sector/past-exhibitions/in-habit-project-another-country/

Image: *In-Habit: Project Another Country*, 2012. Used transport cardboard boxes, packing tape, handcrafted cardboard houses, makeshift drums and sound, single channel video projection plus 5 LCD screen installation. Installation view, Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney. Photo: Jacob Ring. Commissioned by Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation 2012. Image courtesy the artists.



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In-Habit: Project Another Country is a Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation commissioned project, toured by Museums & Galleries of NSW. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.