

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **NEW CONTEMPORARY ART FROM THE PHILIPPINES AT THE NGA**

Works by contemporary Filipino artist, Rodel Tapaya, will go on display at the National Gallery of Australia this weekend. *Rodel Tapaya: New art from the Philippines* features the newly commissioned triptych, *The promise land: the moon, the sun, the stars* (2016), as well as paintings, works on paper and sculptural installations.

‘Tapaya’s vibrant work reflects the vitality of the contemporary arts scene in the Philippines, and provides insight into local and global concerns,’ said Gerard Vaughan, NGA Director.

Tapaya appropriates myth, folktale and contemporary reality to comment on the Philippines’ past, present and future. The anti-drug campaign by President Rodrigo Duterte, decades of the Moro conflict, and the environmental issues and social displacement arising from the natural resource boom are intertwined with creation myths, ancient folklore and indigenous allegory.

‘Tapaya is a major talent from a progressive and unique contemporary art scene within the Philippines,’ said Jaklyn Babington, NGA Senior Curator of Contemporary Art. ‘His ability to weave the complex present day socio-political issues of his country with pre-colonial creation myths delivers an unnerving balance that, at times, questions the current political agenda and the future of the Philippines.’

Tapaya has been exhibiting for more than a decade, with his tertiary studies at the College of Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines augmented by intensive courses in painting at the Parsons School of Design, New York, and the University of Art and Design, Helsinki.

Rodel Tapaya appears ‘In Conversation’ with NGA Senior Curator of Contemporary Art, Jaklyn Babington, on Saturday 18 March at 2pm.

*Rodel Tapaya: New art from the Philippines* is open from 18 March until 20 August in the Contemporary Art Galleries on Lower Ground 1. Free entry.

**Social Media:**

Facebook: @nationalgalleryofaustralia

Twitter: @natgalleryaus

Instagram: @nationalgalleryaus

**High resolution images for download:**

<http://nga.gov.au/aboutus/mediacentre/rodeltapaya/default.cfm>

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