



Marikit Santiago

For us sinners

Para sa ating mga makasalanan

26 March
– 15 May 2022



The culmination of over a decade's work, *For us sinners* stands as Marikit Santiago's most significant solo exhibition. Energised with the spirit of cultural opposition and reclamation, this presentation highlights Marikit's interest in reorienting art history to represent and presence hitherto excluded constituencies. She uses painting to address a world that seems perpetually in crisis: from the day-to-day of family life, to the shifts in politics in her ancestral home of the Philippines.

The centrepiece of the exhibition, *Thy Kingdom Come* (2021–2022), depicts Marikit's family in an imagined paradise of tropical fruit trees and native Australian flora. This background, constructed from glimpses of her parents' garden, places them in a hybridised experience, living in a world with roots in both Australia and the Philippines. The navigation of culture and heritage is constantly assessed throughout Marikit's practice, as she questions and challenges history and the supposed role of women across time and place.

Throughout the exhibition, you will find instances of juxtaposition, allusion, metaphor and allegory, autobiography and mythology, utilised by the artist to focus our attentions on what to see, how to look, and who is and is not represented. Through open-ended narratives and the possibility of provocative readings, *For us sinners* is Marikit's call to stir us into deeper contemplation and reflection. Her painted universes demand criticality and thoughtfulness; they require us, as thinkers, audiences and appreciators, to interrogate authority, history and understanding. They demand that we rest and evade received and inherited knowledge. And through this process of engagement, by confronting the works vis-à-vis, we are given the seeds to reimagine the world anew — a place of our own making, our very own paradise, a room of our own. This is Marikit's prayer.

An extended essay by exhibition curator, Micheal Do, is available in the publication.

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List of works

Ground floor:

Thy Kingdom Come, 2021 – 2022, interior paint, acrylic, oil, pyrography, pen, gold leaf on found cardboard (pen and paint markings by Santi Mateo Santiago and Sarita Santiago), collaboration with Maella Santiago, 167cm x 307cm. Courtesy of the artist and The Something Machine, Bellport, New York.

The Shepherd, 2021, interior paint, acrylic, oil, pyrography and imitation gold leaf on MDF, 30cm x 22cm (Diptych) Private Collection, New York.

First floor:

Panganay (Firstborn), 2015, acrylic, oil, Dutch metal gold leaf and PVA on MDF placemat, 22cm x 22cm. Collection of the Artist.

Deliver Us, 2020, interior paint, acrylic, oil and pen on MDF, 31cm x 21cm (Triptych). Courtesy of the artist and The Something Machine, Bellport, New York.

The Divine, 2020, acrylic, oil, pen, pyrography and 18ct gold leaf on ply (pen and paint markings by Maella Santiago, Santi Mateo Santiago and Sarita Santiago), 179.5cm x 120.5cm. Collection of the Artist.

Original Sin, 2018, acrylic, oil, pyrography, pen and 18ct gold leaf on found cardboard (pen and paint markings by Maella Santiago and Santi Mateo Santiago), 148cm x 218cm. Private Collection, New York.

Bunso, 2019, acrylic, oil and imitation gold leaf on canvas board (paint markings by Maella Santiago), 52cm x 42cm. Collection of the Artist.

He, 2007, oil, acrylic, imitation gold leaf and pyrography on ply, 52cm x 40cm. Collection of the Artist.

Apple of My Eye, 2020, oil, acrylic and pen on found cardboard (pen and paint markings by Maella Santiago, Santi Mateo Santiago and Sarita Santiago), collaboration with Nick Pedulla, 198cm x 185cm x 11cm. Courtesy of the artist and The Something Machine, Bellport, New York.

The Serpent and the Swan, 2021, interior paint, acrylic, pyrography, oil and Dutch metal gold leaf on found cardboard (pen and paint markings by Maella Santiago, Santi Mateo Santiago and Sarita Santiago), 162cm x 77cm (Diptych). Courtesy of the artist and The Something Machine, Bellport, New York.

Ang hantungan ng mahigit isang dekada ng paglikha, *Ang para sa ating mga makasalanan* ang tumayo bilang pinakamalahulugang eksibisyong solo ni Marikit Santiago. Pinasigla ng diwa ng pangkulturang pakikipaglaban at pagwawasto, ang pagtatanghal ay tumutumbok sa kawilihan ni Marikit sa muling pag-aangkop ng kasaysayan ng sining upang magpakita at presensya hanggang ngayon ng mga ibinukod na mga konstityuwensya – gamit ang pagpipinta upang pag-usapan ang isang mundo na para bagang nasa krisis na panghabang panahon.: mula sa pang-araw-araw na buhay pamilya, hanggang sa pagbabago sa politika sa kanyang bayang pinagmulan, ang Pilipinas, at mga pumapagitnang tunay na buhay.

Ang nasa gitna ng eksibisyon ay *Thy Kingdom Come* (2021-22) na naglalarawan ng pamilya ni Santiago sa isang kunwaring Paraiso ng mga tropical na puno ng mga prutas at mga katutubong halaman ng Australya. Ang tagpong ito ay ginawa mula sa banaag ng hardin ng kanyang mga magulang, na naglalagay sa kanila sa isang pinaghalong karanasan, na namumuhay sa mundo na nanggaling sa parehong Australya at Pilipinas.

Sa buong panahon ng eksibisyon, mamamasdan mo ang mga halimbawa ng paghahambing, parunggit, talinghaga, at alegorya, sariling talambuhay at mga alamat na ginamit ng pintor para ipako ang ating pansin sa kung ano ang nakikita, paano tumingin, at sino ang mga kinatawan at hindi kinatawan. Mula sa hindi limitadong salaysay at mga posibilidad na nakapupukaw na pagbasa, *Ang Para sa ating mga makasalanan* ay pag-aanyaya sa atin ni Marikit upang pakilusin tayo sa malalim na pagninilay-nilay at pagmumuni-muni. Ang kanyang ipinintang sandaigdigan ay nangangailangan ng pagiging kritikal at pagka maalalahanin – na nangangailangan sa atin, bilang mga pala-isip, mga tagapanood at mga tagapag pahayag, na magtanong sa awtoridad, kasaysayan at pag-unawa. Nangangailangan ang mga ito na pagpahingahin natin at iwasan ang mga tinanggap at mga minanang kaalaman. At sa paraang ito ang kompromiso, sa paraan ng pagharap na kaugnay sa obra, binigyan tayo ng punla upang muling isipin ang mundo sa panibagong anyo – isang pook na sarili nating nilikha, ang ating sariling Paraiso, isang silid na para sa atin. Ito ang panalangin ni Marikit.

Ang extended essay ng exhibition curator na si Micheal Do ay makukuha sa lathala.