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**“PHILIPPINE-MADE” EXPLORES IDENTITY AND HISTORY,
CHALLENGES COLONIALISM THROUGH COMMUNITY & CRAFT**
On View at Houston Center for Contemporary Craft February 11 – May 13, 2023

Philippine-Made: The Work of Matt Manalo**February 11 – May 13, 2023**

Front Gallery

Houston Center for Contemporary Craft
4848 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002**Winter Exhibitions Reception****Friday, February 17, 5:30 – 8:00 PM**

The public is invited to celebrate the opening of the winter exhibitions at HCCC. The evening will also feature refreshments and open studios by the newest resident artists.

Exhibition Web Page<https://crafthouston.org/exhibition/philippine-made>**Hours & Admission**

Open Tuesday - Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM. Closed major holidays. Admission is free.

(HOUSTON, TX) November 17, 2022 - This spring, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) presents *Philippine-Made: The Work of Matt Manalo*, an exhibition of self-reflective sculptures made from air-dry clay, bamboo, and plant materials with cultural ties to Matt Manalo’s home country of the Philippines. Born in Manila, Manalo has spent half his life in America, an experience that has served as a pivotal point of inflection for the artist. The exhibition encapsulates his time living in the United States after immigrating with his family to Houston.

Manalo’s practice gives visibility to the Filipinx community and undermines the deep-seated racism and colonialism that has persisted following America’s occupation of the country. He uses his art to strengthen relationships, inviting friends and family to share a part of themselves through their donations of materials and handmade souvenirs from the Philippines. By incorporating these objects into his work, Manalo recognizes the country’s invisible labor force and acknowledges its indigenous histories. The stories of these groups then become a part of his own story, providing him with opportunities to rectify the past and collectively supplant the mentality imposed by colonialism through his artwork. Taking inspiration from Filipinx craft traditions like weaving, embroidery, and woodcarving—along with his formative childhood years in Manila—Manalo demonstrates how the knowledge of one’s own history can serve as a path to liberation.

Philippine-Made: The Work of Matt Manalo is guest curated by Kathryn Hall.

About Matt Manalo

Based in Houston, TX, Matt Manalo is a multidisciplinary artist who was born in Manila, Philippines. Incorporating raw materials and found objects, his environmentally conscious work tackles ideas surrounding his self-identification as an immigrant, along with his feelings of displacement and how the concept of *home* is defined. In his artistic practice, he addresses the physical and social structures of the Philippines and the United States, as well as the effects of colonization, including the erasure of histories and the presence of colorism.

Manalo holds a BFA in painting with a minor in art history from the University of Houston. He is the founder of Filipinx Artists of Houston, a collective of Filipinx visual, performing, literary, culinary, and multidisciplinary artists. He is also the founder of Alief Art House, a hub for creativity that highlights the cultural richness of the multiple communities of the Alief neighborhood in Houston. This alternative art space was made possible by DiverseWorks' *Project Freeway* Fellowship. Manalo has received several other residencies, fellowships, and grants. Most recently, in 2022, he was awarded the *Houston Inspira* Storytellers Grant through the Houston Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs. He was also selected as a featured artist as part of Asia Society of Texas' *Artists on Site* series. His work has been featured in numerous exhibitions, including the Blaffer Art Museum (Houston, Texas)'s group exhibition, *Carriers: The Body as a Site of Danger and Desire* (2021), curated by Tyler Blackwell and Steven Matijcio, and the 2021 Texas Biennial: *A New Landscape, A Possible Horizon*, curated by Evan Garza and Ryan Dennis.

About Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) is a nonprofit visual arts center dedicated to advancing education about the process, product, and history of craft. HCCC has served as a treasured resource in the Houston arts community and the region for more than 20 years. The Center showcases emerging and acclaimed artists in exhibitions, introduces visitors of all ages to contemporary craft through hands-on and virtual programming, and supports the development of working artists through its artist residency program.

HCCC is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM. Closed major holidays. **Holiday hours for 2022: Closed November 24 – 26 for Thanksgiving holidays, December 15 for a staff and board retreat, and December 24 – 31 for winter holidays.** Admission is free. Before visiting, the public should visit www.crafthouston.org to view the latest visitor guidelines. HCCC is located in the Museum District at 4848 Main Street, three blocks south of the Wheeler Ave. MetroRail station. Free parking is available directly behind the facility, off Rosedale and Travis Street.

HCCC is supported by individual donors and members and funded in part by The Brown Foundation; Houston Endowment, Inc.; the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance; Texas Commission on the Arts; the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kinder Foundation; the Morgan Foundation; Windgate Charitable Foundation; and the Wortham Foundation. HCCC is a member of the Houston Museum District and the Midtown Arts District.

For more information, call 713-529-4848 or visit www.crafthouston.org. Find HCCC on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram @CraftHouston.

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