

RONALD VENTURA is one of the most popular contemporary artists in Southeast Asia, the leader of the youngest generation of Filipino artists. With cumulative sales of nearly \$ 3 million (18 lots), he ranked 66th in the Artprice (sales) ranking of the global art market in 2016-17. His work "Meeting Myths" was sold for \$ 907,695 at Sotheby's Modern and Asian Art Evening Sale on October 2, 2016.

The artist

Ronald Ventura is born in 1973 in Manila. He first took an interest in artistic creation, following summer workshops during high school. He obtained his Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), Major in Painting, University of Santo Tomas, Manila, (1993). He now lives in Quezon City, Philippines.

Artwork

Ronald Ventura creates superimpositions of images and styles, ranging from hyperrealism to comics to graffiti. To him, it is a metaphor for the Filipino multi-faceted national identity as the result of successive Spanish, Japanese and American occupations. He practices painting, sculpture and mixed media for which he uses the same themes and the same aesthetics. Ronald Ventura reinvents a visual language, merging the Eastern and Western imagination, tradition and modernity, the fine arts and pop culture. "I'm trying to do something to attract the viewer, but if you look closely, you can see something behind, you have to take a closer look at the painting," says the artist.

In the works presented at the exhibition 'ER (Endless Resurrection) at Tyler Rollins Gallery in New York in September 2014, the artist also showed the horrible nature of blood rituals that continue to be practiced in certain parts of the Philippines: penitents who flog themselves with bamboo sticks or spend hours nailed on wooden crosses.

His latest exhibition "Behind the Clouds" at Drawing Room in Manila, in 2016, assembled forms and images that evoke haunted memories, nostalgia, upheaval and disintegration, but also the new life that art can bring to objects and materials.

Ronald Ventura exhibited in Japan for the first time in 2018, at Ginzha New Gallery in Tokyo. In this exhibition, he asked the following questions: "Do people have lives more like comics nowadays? Or "Are comic books important in everyone's life? Or how the artist interprets existence: fast, instantaneous and disconcerting, animated. The artist intentionally used pop cultural references (Naruto, Pokemon, etc.).

The artist was first auctioned off in 2007. In 2011 he sold a painting entitled "Grayhound" - depicting a superimposed image of horses and human legs galloping in an unknown direction - for 1.1 million \$ at Sotheby's HK. In May 2016, a work entitled 'Nightwalk' (2006) was sold for \$ 64,370 at Christies HK. "When we started working with Ronald Ventura in 2007, his works were sold for \$ 3,000 to \$ 6,000," said Primo Marella Gallery in Milan. In 2016, some of his works exceeded one million dollars.

"Wild State of Mind," Ronald Ventura's exhibition at Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, from October 26, 2017 to January 27, 2018, explored the intersections between reality and fiction, madness and mental health, logic and instinct, putting down the dualities that impose a clear division between humans and wild animals, placing his hybrid creatures in scenes of rejoicing, parry, fighting or sports.

In his last exhibition in 2018 at Primo Marella Gallery in Milan, "Territorial Crossing", we found again the mix characteristic of the artist: hyperrealism, cartoons, graffiti with historical subjects and pop. He subverts the commercial images he finds in magazines to create a fantastic world.