

RODEL TAPAYA-GARCIA is a renowned Filipino contemporary artist and one of the most active in Southeast Asia. With cumulative sales of \$ 266,944, he ranked 465th in the Artprice 2017-2018 report (sales revenue) on the art market worldwide.

The artist

Rodel Tapaya is born in 1980 in Montalban, near Manila, Philippines. After winning an international painting competition, he was awarded the prestigious Top Prize at the Nokia Art Awards, which allowed him to take courses in drawing and painting at the Parsons School of Design in New York and at the University of Helsinki in Finland. He graduated from the College of Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines. In 2011, he won the Signature Art Prize awarded by the Asia-Pacific Breweries Foundation and the Singapore Art Museum, an achievement for a Filipino artist. He lives and works in Bulacan, Philippines.

Artwork

Rodel Tapaya mixes folk narrative and contemporary reality. He observes the world through the prism of folk tales, legends, Philippine mythologies and pre-colonial research. He creates whimsical montages of his characters, mainly gods and fairies, which he transforms into ghosts that haunt a civilization where they dominate but to which they do not fully belong. He mixes forms of modern and traditional paintings and his works are always very colorful. The artist uses supports such as acrylic on canvas, painting under glass, diorama and drawing.

Rodel Tapaya's painting often calls to mind the paintings of Hieronymus Bosch and a few other narrative painters. But the latter creates a unique style mainly owing to the peculiarity of Filipino folk literature. In an interview after winning the Signature Art Prize in 2011, Tapaya explained that "he had always considered "narrative painting" as his strongest suit and had always sought to tell moral tales when he paints".

In one of his large acrylic paintings on canvas entitled "Like a bird that leaves its nest is a man who leaves his home," Rodel Tapaya questions the theme of flight and connects with ideas of self-assertion. It addresses moving away from comfort zones towards areas of courage to achieve certain life goals.

The great themes of love and war are now used by the painter in his large canvases. Like his rethinking of a recurrent allegory on forbidden love, the legend of Luna and Mar in his work, Full Moon.