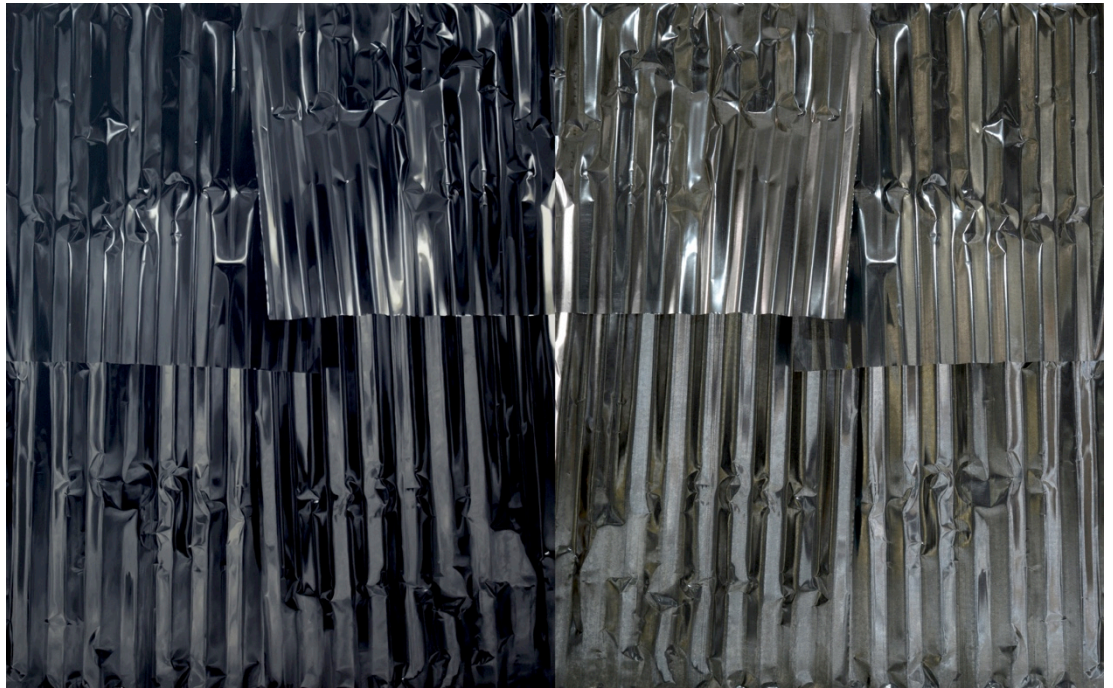


Date 10 March 2023
Release Immediate

Press Release

The Flowers Are Blooming Again But They Have No Scent

Luis Antonio Santos



Luis Antonio SANTOS, *Untitled (Structures)*, 2023, Oil on canvas and galvanized iron sheet, H152.4 x W243.8 cm (diptych)

Exhibition Period

18 March – 13 May 2023

Opening Reception

Saturday, 18 March 2023, 4 – 7 pm

The Artist will be in attendance. Registration essential.
RSVP with info@fostgallery.com

About the Exhibition

FOST Gallery is proud to present Luis Antonio Santos' first solo exhibition in Singapore, *The Flowers Are Blooming Again But They Have No Scent*.

The paradoxical title of the exhibition is a quote from the 1970 Soviet science-fiction film *The Stalker* by Andrei Tarkovsky, a cerebral investigation into the journey of self-discovery that explores the dimensions of consciousness. Die-hard fans of the film are known to remember it differently each time they watch it. This shifting of perspectives resonates in Santos' works, with his use of unusual materials and laborious processes, our first assumptions of what a work of his might be about is turned on its head the more we look at it. For example, *Untitled (Structures)*, the diptych of a painting of a distorted galvanized iron sheet, is placed next to the actual sheet. They seem identical but they are not, and in fact, the painting can never be an identical reproduction. Similarly with his monochromatic paintings of covers (*Void I and II*) used to protect existing artworks, these covers are elevated to a subject matter, themselves worthy of painting, and which, presumably will need their own protective covers, which in turn inspire another painting.

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It is a variation of the Droste effect, where a picture recursively appearing within (though in this case, over) itself, in a place where a similar picture would realistically be expected to appear. His unique screen-printing process of these iron sheets again play to our assumption that these are simple and direct facsimiles of the objects, where in fact it is more complex to produce.

In addition, Santos plays with notions of invisibility, by bringing these objects of ubiquity to the fore. Many of the imagery and mediums he uses escapes our gaze, because in their familiarity, we wholly consume them. Because they are often ignored or simply unseen, there is a loss of information, a fading image. Ghostly impressions that make up the world we know, yet they never quite come to mind when we are trying to paint a picture from our thoughts.

Exhibition essay by Carina Santos

About the Artist

Luis Antonio Santos (b. 1985, Philippines) is a visual artist working primarily with painting and photography. His practice revolves around the tension between contradictions and engages with themes relating to identity using time, space, and memory as points of departure. Oil painting, screenprinting, and digitally manipulated photography as aesthetic strategies are often employed along with the use of everyday utilitarian materials as subject matter to examine these ideas. He has been exhibiting extensively within the Philippines and internationally since 2010. He has been shortlisted for the Ateneo Art Awards twice (2014, 2015) and has been nominated for the Signature Art Prize, Singapore Art Museum (2018).

He lives and works in Quezon City.

Selected Images


Luis Antonio Santos
Untitled (Structures)
 2023
 Oil on canvas and galvanized iron sheet
 H152.4 x W243.8 cm (diptych)



Luis Antonio Santos
Void I
 2023
 Oil on canvas
 H91.4 x W121.9 cm

Location

FOST Gallery
 1 Lock Road
 #01-02, Gillman Barracks
 Singapore 108932

MRT

Labrador Park

Bus

Opposite Alexandra Point: 51, 57, 61, 93, 97, 97e, 100, 166, 175, 963 or 963e

Gallery Hours

Tue–Sat: 11am–7pm
 Sun/Mon/Pub Hol: Open by appointment

Admission

Free

Enquiries

Call +65 6694 3080 or e-mail info@fostgallery.com

NB: More images can be furnished upon request.