

# Michael Vincent Manalo

## Artist Statement and Biography

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### Artist Statement

#### The Living

*“That reminded me of those times when both of us breathed; and our life was blissfully lived.”*

I wrote the quote above as to portray what I am trying to depict in the image – life, in the most pure and most beautiful aspect of it; a representation of a dreamer’s mindset of how life should be, or how life should be felt or how people should live life as presented by the pure and soft velvet on the head which is negated by the life in the contemporary setting which includes fast-paced lifestyles, consumerism, capitalism as presented by the oversized lady.

#### The Non-Living

*“I weep in the silence of your dying breath; but I dream of the days of our undying bliss”*

This is an imagined memory of how it would be to feel the last days in today’s society, the beauty of death which offers the silence one needs or asks for at times as opposed to the possibility of prolonging the lifespan through media such as modern medicine.

## Artist Biography

### **Michael Vincent Manalo** **Philippines**

Michael Vincent Manalo, born in Manila, Philippines in 1986. I express and gratify myself through digital mixed-media, site-specific installations, musical performances and photography. My work is inspired by the imagined memories of nostalgic and dream-like environments; which documents their decline into post-apocalyptic and nightmarish creations and takes paths along the lines of socio-cultural issues and universal emotions of the human self.

Commercially, I work as one of the main artists for Eventure, an American design company, also as a freelance book cover and album package designer and photographer. I'm also one of the artists for an artist collective in the Philippines called Human Projector. For my artistic achievements, I have been given several grants and awards: First Prize in the Digital Art Category: Chianciano International Award for Digital and Photographic Art 2010 (IT), Best Photography Illustration from the Redmond Digital Arts Festival, 2011 (USA), Travel and Honorarium Grant given by the Mayor Herbert Bautista and Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte of the Quezon City local government, 2011, (PH), the Dizel Grant given by the ISIS Arts UK as travel expenses from Manila, Philippines to Wolsingham, England for the Nomadic Village Artist-in-Residence Program, 2012 (GB), Travel and stipend grant given by Community Space LITMUS for the LITMUS Artist-in-residence program, 2013 (South Korea).

I have recently developed several curatorial and cultural projects such as the Balay Kalamragan Artist-in-Residence in San Miguel, Leyte and a recent curatorial project entitled "The Chronicles of the Rainmakers" at the Kulay-Diwa Gallery of Philippine Contemporary Art in Paranaque, Philippines.

I have also participated in solo and group exhibitions, artist-in-residence programs, art festivals, lecture and workshop presentations in Australia, Azerbaijan, England, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea (South) Lithuania, Philippines, Poland, Serbia, Singapore, Spain, Taiwan and the USA. My artworks are in the collections of Bielska BWA Gallery in Bielsko-Biała, Poland; Kulay-Diwa Gallery of Philippine Contemporary Art in Paranaque, Philippines; The Parlour Arts Laboratory in Melbourne, Australia; Fellini Gallery in Berlin, Germany; Community Space LITMUS in Ansan, South Korea and in the Georgian National Museum in Tbilisi, Georgia. Just this December, I've had a solo exhibition at the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia. As for the first half of this year, I have solo exhibitions in Rome and Manila.