

Ends of Story
by Patrick D. Flores

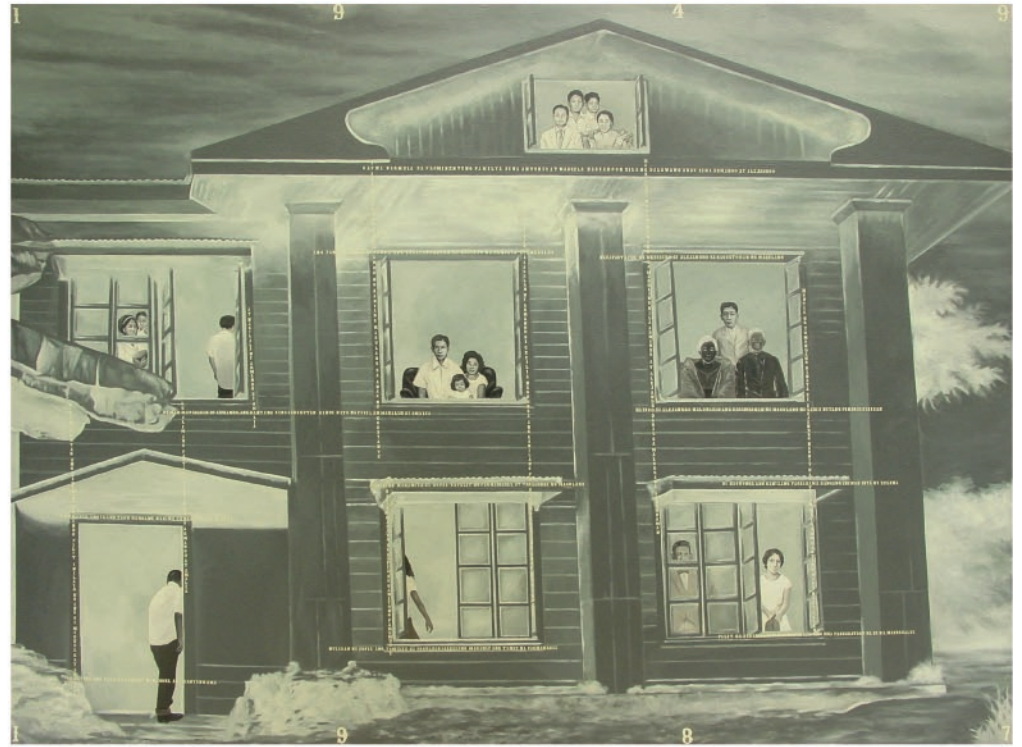
A life cycle gives the impression of a destiny playing out in some preordained logic, repeating a pattern of rise and decline, continuum and rupture, early and late. In the visual world of Kirby Roxas, he unravels this narrative with wistfulness as if he were missing the promise of a storied memory. But there also lurks beneath this surface a kind of foreboding, a dark cautionary tale of confrontation with hope. The fact that there is uncertainty or impossibility means that something is yet to come, something commensurate with the waiting, something that is not yet possible at the moment. In these intermedia works, he mingles painting, photography, and text to craft a life, enliven it with characters, adorn it with incident, strive to find a fitting end. In this passage, in this "present passing," he intimates a crossing, a feeling that all this shall pass. This is the basis for a longing to transcend a diary that is hard to resist, that needs to be unburdened, nevertheless.

Roxas as a young artist has always been interested in the transmission of memory and how vessels mediate its so-called fact or information or data. His skills as a painter have been deepened by reflections on how image transforms into belief. In this current project for this exhibition, he tries to weave a ballad of sorts about intertwining fates. This "history" begins with the family being formed and being changed every now and then with the coming and going of souls. It then moves into a rumination on fortune and circumstance, which is interlaced with dream and fantasy. From this alternation of grit and whimsy comes a chronicle of friendship, followed by a lapse into a retelling of rearing and a possible reencounter. And what yarn does not fall for love and beginnings, of romance and commencement? The thread repeats with another fiction of birth and then of inevitable death, which prefigures renewal and the guarantee of prevailing.

These episodes of life at first glance may be entirely anecdotal, with events moving in diachronic time. On another level, however, the sequence may be interpreted allegorically, with the anecdote giving way to a certain "moral of the story" of a common faithful. The artist relates that it is through experience and observation that he is able to cobble together a narrative that is at once homespun and emblematic. In these images and accounts in acrylic, Kirby Roxas paints a progression that is always open to derailment, conversing with other artists in the Philippine oeuvre who have taken to the story as nucleus of the aesthetic, the text as germ of mythology, and the image as symptom of faith. There is something folk-colonial about this gesture of conveying travails as if alluding to a Passion, a way of the cross. On the other hand, there is something melodramatic about it as well, unreeling like komiks, radio serial, soap opera, and film tearjerker. The inclusion of text as a graphic device may be an annotation of feeling, or its "branding." This is a fertile field for study, an inquiry into the need to narrate and to craft history from the intimacies of personal sufferance and the exposure of "reality" media. But the venture into fate and destiny may be about betrayal in the long duration. The talk about straight paths is delusion, to cite a salient instance, mouthed by forked tongues and fumbling slackers, as we realize in the current turn of events in our sad political life presided over by the laggard and the witless and their warped sagas of sacrifice. ©



RECOLLECTION
Acrylic on canvas . 48 x 60 inches . 2010



HOMEMORIES
Acrylic on canvas . 68 x 92 inches . 2010



HOLIDAY 1
Acrylic on canvas . 36 x 48.25 inches . 2010



HOLIDAY 2
Acrylic on canvas . 36 x 48.25 inches . 2010



DISSECTIONAL HOMECOMING
Acrylic on canvas . 42.25 x 84.25 inches . 2010

TRANSCIENDENTIA

KIRBY ROXAS

OCTOBER 22 - NOVEMBER 6, 2010



Upper G/F, Somerset Olympia Makati
Makati Ave. corner Sto. Tomas St.
Makati City

GALLERY HOURS

Monday - Saturday, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

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KIRBY ROXAS (b. 1977, Manila, Philippines)

2002 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Far Eastern University, Manila, Philippines

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2010 TRANSCIENDENTIA Tin-aw Art Gallery, Makati City | PERIODILLEMA, Boston Gallery, Cubao, Quezon City ■ 2009 PROFILIARIZACION Nineveh Art Gallery, Sta. Cruz Laguna | SETTLED ITINERANT, Pinto Art Gallery, Antipolo City ■ 2008 REHISTRORIKA, Boston Gallery, Cubao, Quezon City

AWARDS

2008 PHILIPPINE ART AWARDS Jurors Choice Award of Excellence ■ 2007 PHILIPPINE ART AWARDS NCR Finalist ■ 2006 METROBANK ART AND DESIGN EXCELLENCE Second Place (Oil Painting Category)

GROUP AFFILIATION

KALYE ART COLLECTIVE
TUTOK ART CORE



MIRRORED
Acrylic on canvas . 24 x 39.5 inches (diptych) . 2010



INTERVAL FLAME
Acrylic on canvas . 68 x 42 inches . 2010



YAYA EMERITUS
Acrylic on canvas . 48.25 x 41.75 inches . 2010



BOARDER
Acrylic on canvas . 54 x 45 inches . 2010