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Crop of "Untitled 2" by Anh Bui

Love, Aswang

May 31 – June 29, 2019

Curated by Kimberley Acebo Arteche

Artists and Speakers: Anh Bui, Rhiannon Evans MacFadyen, Monica Magtoto, Fernando Miguel, Renae Moua, Aay Preston-Myint, Nisha Sethi, Javier Stell-Fresquez, Jess Wu

May 9, 2019, San Francisco, CA – Southern Exposure presents *Love, Aswang*, a group exhibition and evening of performances curated by Kimberley Acebo Arteche that examines healing and decolonial practices by Bay Area female, femme, and non-binary identifying artists of color. This project takes its title from a Filipino shapeshifting mythical creature that takes the form of a woman by day and a predatory animal by night. *Love, Aswang* acknowledges past traumas experienced by women and non-binary people of color,

transforming the oppressive ways of thinking that have been internalized and habitualized into new, empowering narratives. This project will feature artists and performers of color presenting newly commissioned works that claim space, articulate challenges to historical power inequities, and address the interconnectedness of gentrification, white supremacy, and misogyny as they affect the daily lives of Bay Area POC creative communities. Many of the works in this program draw on media that are often dominated by male artists – zines, murals, and graffiti – while opening up a space to consider personal and collective healing and social justice work as creative practices. They draw on personal and community histories and bodily experiences while resisting the co-optation or fetishization of POC and indigenous identities.

Acebo Arteché described the inspiration for the exhibition: “Aswang is a general term for any pervasive, shapeshifting, ‘evil’ being in Filipinx folklore, that eats human flesh. While many of these mythical beings share influences or similarities to those inherited through other eastern spiritualities, most researchers believe the Aswang can be attributed to historical and sociological causes. Many ascribe the genesis of these beings to the hiya (shame) and xenophobia instilled by Spanish friars in those who refused to abandon indigenous belief systems for Christianity, particularly to strip the babaylan, female village leaders, and faith healers of their power. As aswang have been primarily associated with female monstrosity and patriarchal misogyny, we have seen a shift in diasporic communities to reclaim the aswang, the Poj Ntxoog, the brujx. As shapeshifters, we take many forms; moving through institutions, moving with community. No longer tethered to our hiya, the new mythology of the aswang grants us the powers to create space, to heal, to hiss and declare our empowered transformation.”

EVENT LISTING INFORMATION

What: *Love, Aswang*
A group exhibition curated by Kimberly Acebo Arteché that examines healing and decolonial practices by Bay Area female, femme, and non-binary identifying artists of color.
When: Friday, May 31 – Saturday, June 29, 2019
Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 PM
Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco
Cost: FREE

What: *Love, Aswang* Opening Reception
When: Friday, May 31, 2019, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco
Cost: FREE

What: *Love, Aswang* Performance: *Chaac & Yum* by Javier Stell-Fresquez and Snowflake Towers, featuring dancers Javier Stell-Fresquez and Fernando Miguel
When: Thursday, June 6, 2019, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco
Cost: FREE

What: *Love, Aswang* Workshop and Discussion facilitated by Rhiannon Evans MacFadyen
When: Saturday, June 15, 2019, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Location: Southern Exposure, 3030 20th Street, San Francisco
Cost: FREE

ABOUT THE ARTISTS AND FACILITATORS

Kimberley Acebo Arteche is an educator, cultural worker, and interdisciplinary artist working in photography, installation, social practice, and performance. Her work explores the hybrid cultures formed by technology, movements of immigrants in America, and the way movements through space and spaces has been affected by these two. Arteche received her BFA from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and MFA from San Francisco State University where she received the School of Art's Distinguished Graduate award. She has been awarded the Murphy Cadogan Contemporary Art Award by the San Francisco Foundation, was Kearny Street Workshop's Featured Visual Artist in the 2015 APature Festival, and residencies at the Vermont Studio Center and the Growlery. She has shown at Stanford University, SOMArts Cultural Center and at the Wailoa Arts & Cultural Center in Hilo, Hawaii. She serves on Southern Exposure's Curatorial Council, SOMA Pilipinas' Arts & Culture Committee, and works as Program Manager at Kularts, and is an arts educator in the San Francisco Unified School District. Arteche is committed to collaboratively creating decolonial practices within arts institutions, and creating visibility and providing resources for emerging Asian Pacific American and BIPOC Artists.

Anh Bui is a San Francisco-based visual artist and curator. Born in Hanoi, Vietnam, and traveling to the United States at the age of 10, Anh uses art to confront his trans-cultural experiences, and place these experiences within a wider sociopolitical and cultural context. The resulting bodies of work investigate and subvert dominant narratives concerning nationhood, race, the immigrant experience, and gender identity. Anh received his Master's Degree in Museum Studies at San Francisco State University (SFSU) in Fall 2017, with a focus on Curation and Education. His final thesis is titled "Arts and Society: How Vietnamese Independent Arts Organizations Serve and Impact Communities." Anh received his B.A in Studio Arts at SFSU with a dual emphasis on Sculpture and Painting in 2014. He has exhibited with the de Young Museum, Kearny Street Workshop, 111 Minna Gallery, Incline Gallery, and Intersection for the Arts. Between 2018-2019, he was a Curatorial Resident at SOMArts, a part of Root Division's Curatorial Committee, and a member of Kearny Street Workshop's APature Curatorial Committee.

Rhiannon Evans MacFadyen is a curator, consultant, and project-based artist. A San Francisco native, Rhiannon has over 15 years of in-depth experience in the performing and visual arts. Her curatorial focus is on projects that push boundaries of scale, scope, medium, venue, and dialogue; and her cross-discipline personal work engages symbols, identity, communication, and the unseen. Founder of A Simple Collective, Black & White Projects, and the RE[FRAME] Arts Industry Conference, she is passionate about equity and independence in the arts and offers helpful and flexible consulting services to artists, burgeoning collectors, and creative entrepreneurs

Monica Magtoto is an artist, brujita, and yoga instructor from San Francisco. As a San Franciscan, Magtoto brings her love of the city, its art, and music to her practice. She believes that yoga is for everyone and strives to empower students to meet themselves where they are at and set strong goals for their practice. She truly believes in yoga as liberation. As an artist, Magtoto explores her connection to the city through nature and bold imagery of women, as well as typography. After teaching art to underserved youth for several years, she now devotes herself to her art and yoga practices, returning to her passion and sharing her work. Magtoto expresses issues surrounding her community and heritage through dream-like, and bold, graphic imagery of women. She explores themes of life-long healing from grief through hand drawn and painted typography. Magtoto's influences include vintage sign painting, Victorian and Japanese art, San Francisco Mural arts, Native American, and Mexican folk art. She draws inspiration from her experiences as a woman of color in a diverse urban landscape.

Fernando Miguel was born and raised in South Central LA (Tongva Territory). His ancestral heritage is from the Western Highlands of Guatemala from the Mayan Q'anjob'al Nation. He is a performer, artist and educator based in Oakland (Huichin). Fernando performs with Dancing Earth Dance Creations, Shapes & Shades Dance Company, and Cuicacalli Dance School. His work includes drawing, printmaking and dancing in a variety of styles such as contemporary, indigenous, hip hop and modern. His love for dance and art pushes him to share his experience and passion with everyone.

Renaë Moua "R.L. Muas" is a first-generation Hmong/American interdisciplinary artist, designer and community arts organizer residing on Ohlone land. Their art practice intersects new media and analogue aesthetics with postcolonial theory, queer insurrectionary thought, and a DIY ethos to further shape how we empower collective liberation and autonomous futures. Currently they are working towards integration of 3D art, animation and projection technology to build speculative landscapes that interrogate digital identity in cyberspace, algorithmic oppression, and its relationship to imperialist logics, power and violence. As an arts organizer, their work centers the intentions of trust, mutual care, and compassion within their respective communities. With the support of their friends and accomplices, they have developed over thirty free gallery exhibitions and arts programs since 2016. Outside of these projects, they are a member of SAMA Collective, a POC worker-owned café, resource hub, and curatorial project dedicated to building community at the axis of identity, creativity and labor.

Aay Preston-Myint is an artist, publisher, and educator working in Oakland, California, and Chicago, Illinois, USA. His practice employs both visual and collaborative strategies to investigate memory and kinship, often within the specific context of queer community and history. In addition to his studio work, he is a founder of No Coast, an artist partnership that prints and distributes affordable contemporary artwork, is co-director of the Chicago Art Book Fair, and has served as a DJ and organizer for Chances Dances, a party supporting and showcasing the work of queer artists in Chicago.

Born and raised in Berkeley, CA. **Nisha K. Sethi** is a multi-disciplinary artist whose passion lies in using art and design as tools for social change. She started her creative journey as a street artist and eventually evolved into a seasoned Graphic Designer and Sign Painter. Her skills in typography and design have been strengthened through education, experience, and experimentation. Nisha currently rides with TRUST YOUR STRUGGLE mural collective and works in Los Angeles as a freelance Visual Designer and professional Sign Painter specializing in hand-lettering.

Javier Stell-Fresquez is a performance provocateur originally from El Paso (Tigua & Piru Native American, Xican@). She will co-curate a Two-Spirit performance festival with Landa Lakes at Counterpulse SF in Spring of 2020. She also tours Mother the Verb, an experimental performance piece about motherhood, queerness, and toxicity. Follow its international tours, and details on its June 19th Oakland showing @MotherTheVerb.

Jess Wu (they/them) is a queer artist, zine maker, illustrator, and musician. Through community based zine and music projects, their work aims to build community and create spaces to celebrate the voices of queer and trans people of color. From Taipei, Taiwan, Jess now lives and works in Oakland, CA. You can often find Jess at local zine festivals. mixedricezines.com | [@mixedricezines](https://www.instagram.com/mixedricezines)

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ABOUT SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Southern Exposure (SoEx) is an artist-centered non-profit organization committed to supporting visual artists. Through our extensive and innovative programming, SoEx strives to experiment, collaborate and further educate while providing an extraordinary resource center and forum for Bay Area and national artists in our Mission District space and off-site, in the public realm.

An active presence in the Bay Area since 1974, SoEx is continually evolving in response to the needs of artists and the community while engaging the public in artists' work. Central to our mission is to remain the most accessible space for visual artists to produce and present new work, learn, and connect. SoEx provides visual artists with the tools and resources they need to experiment in an open and supportive environment. We also work to advocate to new, diverse audiences and build an ever-growing community of enthusiasts and supporters of the visual arts.

For more information and images, contact Stephen Sokolouski at (415) 863-2141 or stephen@soex.org. Southern Exposure is located at 3030 20th Street (at Alabama), San Francisco, CA 94110. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM and gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 PM. Website: www.soex.org.

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