



Hauling

Jasmin Werner

May 28 – June 17, 2023

*self-supporting II (selection Juanita Acupan-
Werner, reinterpretation David Attwood)*

2023

Food, daily products, wood, stain, varnish

32 × 100 × 22 cm

Employment Piece

2023

A4 prints sourced from the Department of
Migrant Workers of the Republic of the
Philippines.

In recent years, time and again, Jasmin Werner has returned to Dr Earvin Charles B. Cabalquinto's¹ research that looks at how Filipino migrants maintain contact, with the use of digital communication, to family members and friends left behind in the Philippines. His studies are based on looking at Filipino workers in Australia, who form the fifth largest group of migrants in the country. David Attwood's request to exhibit at Disneyland Paris, Perth therefore interested her in response to this context.

Under the name *Balikbayan Box*, Overseas Filipino Workers have been sending several million parcels a year to their home country since 1973 to maintain a physical as well as emotional connection with their family. For the sculptural arrangements, first shown in Cologne, Werner invited her mother to select objects for a fictitious *Balikbayan Box*. What is intended by the sender as a gesture of affection and care simultaneously brings out an ambivalent sense of guilt towards the home left behind. The stacked architecture of the sculptures also points to a fundamental relationship of dependence that ensures the continuity of any relationship.²

By proxy, like a *Balikbayan box*, Attwood recreated the work *self-supporting II (selection Juanita Acupan-Werner)*, 2023 which is surrounded by the wall piece *Employment Piece*, 2023 showing current job opportunities in Australia for Filipinos published on the website of the Department of Migrant Workers of the Republic of the Philippines.

¹ Dr Earvin Charles B. Cabalquinto is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Media, Film and Journalism at Monash University, Melbourne. His research expertise lies at the intersections of digital media, (im)mobilities and migration. More specifically, he is interested in examining the role of mobile devices and networked communication platforms in engendering and undermining transnational relationships, mediated intimacies, caregiving at a distance, crisis communication, and homeland linkages. His current project explores the digital divide in a transnational and digital context. More specifically, he centres the migrant's home as a critical site to examine a production and negotiation of the digital exclusion in a rapidly changing global and networked world.

² Susanne Mierzwiak from the press release for the group exhibition *Interior Acts* at Galerie Clages, in Cologne, 2023