

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Philippine Pavilion - *Sea of Love / Dagat ng Pag-ibig* Launches Paglalayag Series for the 61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

VENICE, ITALY, June 12, 2026 — The Artistic Team of the Philippine Pavilion at the 61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, announces the launch of the **Paglalayag Series**, a series of public programs developed in conjunction with the exhibition *Sea of Love / Dagat ng Pag-ibig*, which runs through November 22.

Sea of Love / Dagat ng Pag-ibig features work by the Manila-based visual artist and filmmaker Jon Cuyson. Essential forms from the artist's 30-year practice, including paintings, videos, and sculptures, pay homage to the Filipino seafarers who populate our global waterways. The exhibition is curated by Mara Gladstone, a California-based curator and educator.

The programming begins with a **launch event for the official exhibition publication in Venice at the Artiglierie - Arsenale on Saturday, June 27, from 3 - 5 p.m.** Join the **Artistic Team** including Jon Cuyson, Mara Gladstone, scholar Kale Bantigue Fajardo and designer Jessica Fleischmann in a conversation, followed by a reception. Attendees can RSVP at the link [here](#).

The exhibition catalogue is designed by Jessica Fleischmann of Still Room, Los Angeles, and printed by Grafiche Veneziane, a cooperative company that has operated in the historic center of Venice for more than 50 years. This 160-page five-color softcover publication features images by Filipino photographer Bien Alvarez and Italian photographer Clelia Cadamuro alongside contributions from international scholars exploring maritime history, contemporary art practice, seafaring cultures, and marine ecologies. The publication is edited by Mara Gladstone and Jose Mari Cuartero (University of the Philippines-Diliman), research associate for the Philippine Pavilion. The publication will be available on-site in Venice and online as a digital publication beginning June 27.

Catalogue Contributors include Roderick Galam (Oxford Brookes University, Oxford), Kris Alexanderson (University of the Pacific, Stockton, California), Kale Bantigue Fajardo (University of Minnesota-Twin Cities), Anthony Ocampo (CalTech, Pomona), Eli Guieb (University of the Philippines-Diliman), Alfonse Chiu (Centre for Urban Mythologies), Lilibeth Salvador Reyes, Machel Malay, Joshua Allen Canlas and Michelle Marie Ochoa (University of the Philippines, Marine Sciences Institute), Jon Cuyson, Mara Gladstone, Jose Mari Cuartero, Jessica Fleischmann, Senator Loren Legarda, and Commissioner Eric B. Zerrudo.

In collaboration with the **Su Xiaobai Foundation**, Jon Cuyson will participate in “**Moonlight Halo, Lunar Cycle,**” a **Film Screening and Conversation presented by curatorial duo Francesco Urbano Ragazzi with Guglielmo Bottin**, Venice-based music maker and academic researcher and **Jennifer West**, artist, University of Southern California Professor and 2026 Guggenheim Fellow; on **July 1, 8:30 - 10:00 pm**, at **Palazzo Soranzo van Axel**. RSVP to contact@suxiaobaifoundation.org.

The Paglalayag Series continues at the **Port Tonic Art Center in France**, where Cuyson is a Artist in Residence, expanding ideas he developed for Venice. The PTAC Artist Residency is housed in a former shipyard directly on the Gulf of Saint-Tropez. His residency culminates in an exhibition opening to the public on **July 16**. More info at porttonicartcenter.org.

At the **Archipelagic Tongues Annual Philippine Studies Conference at SOAS University of London, August 21 - 23**, Jon Cuyson and Jose Mari Cuartero present “The Films of Sea of Love.” Further programs continue with screenings **in Paris in September, a curator tour in Venice in October** and related programs in **Vienna in November**. More updates to follow on our official IG [@seaofloveproject](https://www.instagram.com/seaofloveproject).

The Paglalayag Series amplifies the ideas in the exhibition on a variety of platforms, including the publication, Bloomberg Connects digital guide, and conversations. “The Tagalog word *paglalayag* is defined as ‘movement at sea’ and can be an ocean voyage or the act of sailing,” says **Cuyson**. “It also conveys a sense of a continuous journey, one that signals and sings the transient nature of existence over time. We see the Paglalayag Series as the exhibition’s journey, and a way to share moments from this project in Venice to those elsewhere while the exhibition is on view.”

“Programs and publications extend the reach of our project beyond the exhibition site and timeline, allowing us to engage with audiences around the world,” says **Gladstone**. “Our research has led to rich connections with global scholars and new friends beyond Venice. We thank Philippine Airlines for making possible these collateral public programs in Europe, Asia and North America.”

The entire exhibition can be explored through the Bloomberg Connects guide for the Philippine Pavilion. The guide features additional content including artist and curator tours, excerpts from the catalogue, bilingual commentary, installation images and public programming details through the Bloomberg Connects app, accessible at bloombergconnects.org.

The Paglalayag Series is supported by Philippine Airlines, the official travel partner of the Artistic Team of the Philippine Pavilion, Bloomberg Connects, LEF Foundation, and individual supporters from Asia, Europe, and the Americas. The Philippine Pavilion is commissioned by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

About the Artistic Team:

Jon Cuyson (b. Manila, Philippines, 1969) is a Filipino interdisciplinary artist whose practice exists across installation, painting, sculpture, books and moving images. Rooted in queer and postcolonial ecologies, his work explores the sea as a living archive, an unstable site where memory, labor, migration, and desire continually shift and recombine. In 2010, he founded Everyday Productions, a platform for experimentation across art, cinema and scenography. His experimental films have screened in festivals abroad, while his paintings and installations have been exhibited in Asia, Europe, and the United States, including the Brunei Gallery, SOAS (London); Times Museum (China); and the Bronx Museum (New York). Cuyson studied at the University of the Philippines, Baguio City and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine. He earned his MFA in Painting from Columbia University and has held academic positions at institutions in Manila. Cuyson is based in the Philippines, where he continues to live and work.

Mara Gladstone (b. New York, USA, 1977) is a curator and educator who is committed to creating transdisciplinary, welcoming spaces for art that nurture connections between people and the environment. She has organized exhibitions, public art, programs and publications at Desert X, the Palm Springs Art Museum, and the J. Paul Getty Museum in partnership with community leaders and civic agencies. Prior projects include those with Kelly Akashi, Serge Attukwei Clottey, Gerald Clarke, Gisela Colon, Victoria Fu, Nicholas Galanin, Todd Gray, Rania Ho, Pat Lasch, Hung Liu, Karen Lofgren, Wang Qingsong, Adele Roberson, Jono Rotman, Jonathan van Dyke and Wang Wei. Gladstone holds degrees from the University of Rochester (MA, PhD) and Brown (BA) and is a dual citizen of the United States and the Philippines.

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