

Jay Albaos

**CURATION
PERFORMANCE &
COLLABORATION
PIECES**



Albaos. 2016. *Ang Tuminongnong*: The *Tuminongnong* Once Lived in a Tree. Experimental photograph series. Helsinki.

**SOLO
PERFORMANCE
PIECES**



**Solo
Work**

Albaos. 2016. *Ang Tuminongnong: The Tuminongnong Prepared A Banquet*. Experimental photograph series. Helsinki.



Albaos. 2016. **a.) top left photo:** *Ang Tuminongnong: The Tuminongnong Has A Ship*; **b.) top right, bottom left, and bottom right photos:** *Ang Tuminongnong: The Tuminongnong Asked the Waters*. Experimental photograph series. Helsinki. **Photo Credit:** Christy Balita

ANG TUMINONGNONG 2016

Seating around a table across each other at a sushi place in Helsinki, the Filipinos started telling stories about their lives working abroad: the hardships being away from their loved ones, how some already crossed the Nordic countries (even the rest of Europe) before arriving to Finland, and so on. All of a sudden, one Filipina mentioned about a popular Philippine enchanted folk entity: the *Engkanto*. A powerful spirit of nature, it is believed that *Engkantos* protect the earth. The *Engkanto* dwells in trees, have ships, and civilization of their own. They can be a human ally or worst enemy. They can also afflict ill to those who violate their sacred territories and might collect souls if a person falls into their playful schemes.

The *Tuminongnong* piece was inspired of such entity and its story: how narratives cross borders along their human vessels, how migrant bodies make spaces and identity through (embodied) lore.

Multiple sites in Finland and Sweden.



Albaos. 2016. *Ang Tuminongnong*: The *Tuminongnong* Has A Ship. Experimental photograph series. Helsinki.

Photo Credit: Christy Balita

**SOLO
PERFORMANCE
PIECES**



**Solo
Work**

Albaos. 2019. *Kato'ng Gipangsabwag Gikan sa mga Langit* (Those Who Were Scattered from the Heavens).
Durational performance piece. Mad House Helsinki.

Photo Credit: Christy Balita



Albaos. 2019. *Kato'ng Gipangsabwag Gikan sa mga Langit* (Those Who Were Scattered from the Heavens).
Durational performance piece. Mad House Helsinki.
Photo Credits: Saara Autere and Christy Balita

*KATO'NG GIPANGSABWAG
GIKAN SA MGA LANGIT 2019*

To grow is an attestation to existing. As a process, growing requires space and time. While it inhibits physical change, growing remains temporal. To grow remains contingent on natural or man-made situations.

This durational piece reflected the vagueness and temporality of labor migration. In an age where moving to and from destinations in pursuit of “greener pastures” is steadily shifting geopolitics and global ideologies, it is important to take consistently into account labor migrants. In many layered ways, these bodies embody one of the most precarious existences there is.

Mad House Helsinki, 13.–20.09.2019



Albaos. 2019. *Kato'ng Gipangsabwag Gikan sa mga Langit* (Those Who Were Scattered from the Heavens). Durational performance piece. Mad House Helsinki.
Photo Credits: Saara Autere and Christy Balita

**SOLO
PERFORMANCE
PIECES**



**Solo
Work**

Albaos. 2017. Stranger Letter. Durational Performance Piece. Italy.
Photo Credit: Siina Levonoja



Albaos. 2017. Stranger Letter. Durational Performance Piece. Italy.
Photo Credit: Siina Levonoja

STRANGER LETTER 2017

A blindfolded Random Stranger.

A typewriter.

Pieces of paper.

A wooden box.

Scores on a paper.

Handwritten texts on hand-cut paper strips.

A pool of Random Audience.

An invitation for an encounter in search for humanity in a touristy space.

"Stranger Letter" was a 2-hour performance piece in a public square.

Santo Stefano, Venice, Italy. 16.10.17



Albaos. 2017. Stranger Letter. Durational Performance Piece. Italy.

Photo Credit: Siina Levonoja.

COLLABORATIVE PERFORMANCE PIECES



Albaos. 2017. *Bayanihan* in Helsinki: MA Artistic Work. Collaborative piece with the Filipinx labor migrants in Helsinki. Theatre Academy Helsinki.

Photo Credit: Christy Balita



Albaos. 2017. *Bayanihan* in Helsinki: MA Artistic Work. Collaborative piece with the Filipinx labor migrants in Helsinki. Theatre Academy Helsinki. **Photo Credit:** Christy Balita

*BAYANIHAN IN
HELSINKI 2017*

Bayanihan in Helsinki was a collaborative piece which explored what is lost and what is retained in the process of border crossing. In the duration of five days, Filipinx volunteers built a *kubo* (a traditional Filipino hut) inside the Theatre Academy Helsinki. The working group imagined the possibility where the term “*bayanihan*” can also be derived from the word “*bayani*” (hero), an allegory for millions of overseas Filipinx workers scattered around the world. At the end of the five days’ work, a “*karamsaw*” (banquet) was served for everyone – volunteers, guests, and bodies present during the moment.

“*Bayanihan*” was part of my MA Dissertation, “*Becoming*” through Artistic Immersion: The “*Bayanihan*” in Helsinki.

Sincere gratitude to Christy Balita, Florencio Fajardo, Nora Fajardo, Gwindolyn Dagondon, Florean Reston, Sam Billiones, Maricel Billones, Esteban Aquino, Philip Mauricio, Annamay Dormis, and the Filipinx community in Finland.

Theatre Academy Helsinki. 27.11 – 01.12.2017.



Albaos. 2017. *Bayanihan* in Helsinki: MA Artistic Work. Collaborative piece with the Filipinx labor migrants in Helsinki. Theatre Academy Helsinki.

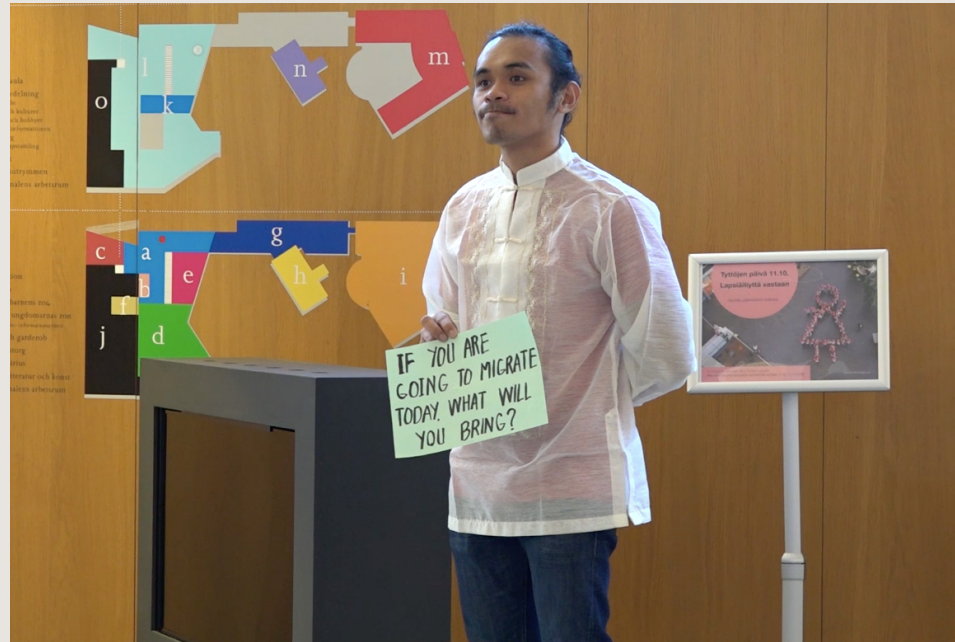
Photo Credit: Heli Litmanen

**COLLABORATIVE
PERFORMANCE
PIECES**



Albaos and de Wolf. 2016. The Mythological Institute: When Myths Meet. Collaborative project in multiple locations. Finland, The Netherlands, The Philippines..

Print: Jolijn de Wolf



Albaos and de Wolf. 2017. The Mythological Institute: Department of Self-Exploration and World Arrangement & Department of Place and Migration. Durational collaborative project. New Performance Turku Festival. Finland. Video Stills. **Video Credits:** Christy Balita and Christopher Hewitt

THE MYTHOLOGICAL
INSTITUTE 2016-2017

The Mythological Institute (MI) was an artistic research project of Jay Albaos and Jolijn de Wolf. MI looked into the possible meanings of myths nowadays by organizing performances and installations in public spaces. Myths and stories can have an emancipating function, empowering the creation one's own meanings and identities. It had two departments: the Department of Self-Exploration and World Arrangement (de Wolf and the Minotaur) and the Mythical Department of Place and Migration (Albaos and *Tuminongnong*). The latter explored the notions of place and migration through shared and embodied myths. The focus of the department's research will be on migratory bodies and lore.

For the New Performance Festival Turku, MI installed two offices (one for each respective department) in the Turku library. The audience was invited to join and participate in the consultations and small performances.

Turku City Library. 06 – 08.10.2016.

NEW Performance Turku Festival

Jolijn de Wolf & Jay Mar Albaos

The Mythological Institute

6.-8.10.2016

Turku City Library

Camera: Christopher Hewitt

Original Duration: 5 days

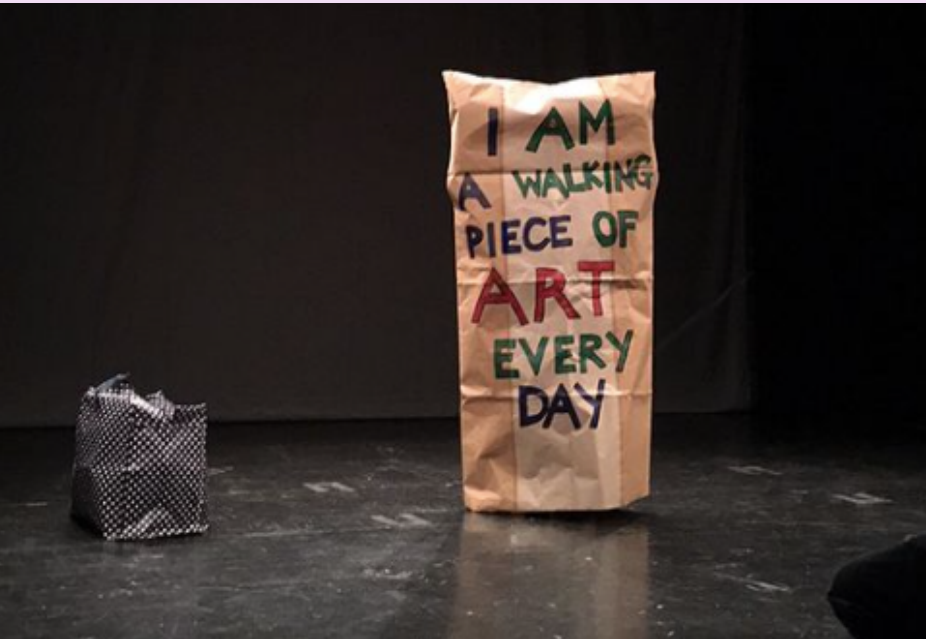
Video Duration: 44mins.

www.newperformance.fi

The Bubble

24th - 27th
May 2017

1. a globe in a transparent something (as a planet that is hemispherical or semi-circular)
2. a something that lacks reality
b delusive scheme
3. sound like that of bubble
4. magnetic bubble
5. state of booming economic market)
that often ends in sudden
6. the condition of being replaced



Top left photo: Written Images (video work), Milos Sejn; **top right photo:** Bubble, Timo Viialainen (performance); **bottom left photo:** I don't eat bubble gum but I like the smell, Peta Lloyd (performance); **bottom right photo:** Liber Meta 2.0: The Infant God, Michael Dudeck (performance and Installation). Photo grabbed from LAPSody 2017 Instagram. **Photo Credits:** Milos Sejn and Jay Albaos



Top left photo: Cat Piece, Salla Valle (performance); **top right photo:** Fusion: Taming the energy of the stars, Markus Airila (talk); **bottom left photo:** TeRAUrist, Ridwan Rau Rau (virtual performance); **bottom right photo:** A local, Tomasz Szrama (performance). Photo grabbed from LAPSody 2017 Instagram. **Photo Credit:** Jay Albaos

*LAPSODY 2017 - THE
BUBBLE: 6TH
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
AND CONFERENCE*

Most of the time, bubbles are not kindly regarded. They are associated with many of our current world's issues: social injustice, a lack of solidarity, rising prices, polluted water, the election of Donald Trump. Our world bubbles, the earth is a bubble, and we are in crisis.

However, there is the aesthetic and life-preserving potential of the bubble: it is an equally rich metaphor for isolation and ignorance as it is for nurturance, safety and protection, and even more so for perfection and effervescence. A multitude of bubbles might merge, expand, form a foam, or collide, burst and disappear.

LAPSody 2017 invited experts and contributors from all fields to explore the political, social, environmental, philosophical, scientific and performative potential of the bubble as a discursive and physical phenomenon.

Theatre Academy Helsinki and multiple sites around Helsinki. 24 – 27.05.2017.



The cement bubble (site-specific performance), Antigone Theodorou as part of LAPSody 2017: The Bubble - 6th International Conference and Festival (organizers: Albaos, Brinda, de Wolf, Konnaris, von Froreich). Theatre Academy Helsinki.

Photo Credit: Antti Ahonen



Albaos, Jay and Lovey Marquez. 2019. *Unod Volumes: Vol. I - Inquiry: A Spoken Word Evening*. Pangaea, KU Leuven.

Image: Jay Albaos and Lovey Marquez



Top left photo: Jolijn de Wolf; **top right photo:** Claudio Yurdadön;
bottom left photo: Alastair Cooper and Karen Curiel.
Photo Credit: Asya Barrios



Top left photo: Bernard Eboa; **top right photo:** Janine Santos with Alastair Cooper;
bottom left and right photos: Brave on-the-spot readers from the audience.
Photo Credit: Asya Barrios

UNOD VOLUMES // FLESH
VOLUMES 2019-PRESENT

Unod Volumes // Flesh Volumes is an attempt to meaning-molding and keeping-letting go through nuanced forms of expressions in a life that is fluid, ephemeral, and mysterious. This imagined space is of Lovey Marquez and Jay Albaos.

Our independent collective/collaboration organizes/curates events (slam poetry, live art, exhibitions, etc.) aiming to provide safe spaces for bodies of diverse backgrounds, beliefs, sexual orientations, race, sense of past/present/future, migrant status, and so on.

Leuven, Belgium (and multiple [virtual] sites) . 2019 - present.



Albaos and Marquez. Closing the *Unod Volume I: Inquiry* event with a collaborative poetry piece. Pangaea, KU Leuven.

Photo Credit: Asya Barrios

EXHIBITION

FemF Art

PE / FRE / FRI 20.10.

18–23

AVAJAISET
VERNISSAGE

LA / LÖR / SAT 2

11–18

NÄYTTELY
UTSTÄLLNING
EXHIBITION

fe

FEMINISTINEN FOORUM
FEMINISTISKT FORUM
FEMINIST FORUM

Exhibited
Work

Habibollah, Ramina and Nayab Ikram (curators). 2017. FemF Art: Feminist Forum. Cable Factory, Helsinki.

Poster: FemF Art



Albaos, Jay. 2017. Thoughts on Existing. Durational poetry writing and reading project 2016-2017. Helsinki.
On exhibit: a typewriter with a paper; poems typewritten on pieces of paper, hung up on a white wall.

Photo Credit: Kiia Beilinson

*THOUGHTS ON EXISTING AT FEMF:
FEMINIST FORUM EXHIBITION 2017*

Thoughts on Existing was a durational performance piece which tried to put into poetry and prose everyday thoughts of a border-crossing body, it's interactions with the locals and communities who are identified as aliens in a foreign land. The probing question was: what is like to exist as an other?

FemF: Feminist Forum was a multidisciplinary exhibition which presented racialised Finnish, Nordic and international artists working with the notion of 'movement'. The theme was regarded broadly, not only in the sense of creating a movement, or being part of a movement, but also the physical movement (or restriction) of certain bodies.

FemF ART aims to challenge and disrupt the cultural politics and normativities of Finland's art scene by organising an event where artists of colour and racialised artists are at the centre of both the exhibition and the process.

Cable Factory Helsinki. 20 – 21.10.2017.



Albaos, Jay. 2017. Thoughts on Existing. Durational poetry writing and reading project 2016-2017. Helsinki.
Still from video. **Video Credit:** Jay Albaos

EXHIBITION



***Exhibited
Work***

Linda Reif. 2017. Military Boat Disappearing in Darkness.
Photo used for Archipelago Mountain poster, 2017 (curators Ana de Almeida and Stephanie Misa).
Work and Photo Credit: Linda Reif



Albaos, Jay. 2018. *Kani'ng Mga Lawas Kanunay'ng Gakinamot // These Bodies' Perennial Use of Hands*. Durational performance and installation piece. Exhibition Laboratory, Helsinki.

Photo Credit: Patri Summanen/Arttu Stoor

*KANI'NG MGA LAWAS KANUNAY'NG
GAKINAMOT // THESE BODIES' PERENNIAL
USE OF HANDS AT ARCHIPELAGO
MOUNTAIN EXHIBITION 2018*

The durational performance piece and installation attempted to trace vague lines of an archipelago, its coastlines and mountains, using body and lore. The artist's curiosity lies in what is brought along and left behind in the constant border-crossing inherent in labor migration.

Archipelago Mountain (curators de Almeida and Misa) was a project about landscape as a formal and informal disposition of elements. Coordinates. An arrangement, a hierarchy: borders and delimitations, transpositions and transgressions, frames and their inside-outside, margins, and of course landscape—of the geographical, political, personal, and emotional nature.

Exhibition Laboratory Helsinki. 28.11.–12.12.2018.



Albaos, Jay. 2018. Kani'ng Mga Lawas Kanunay'ng Gakinamot // These Bodies' Perennial Use of Hands. Durational performance and installation piece. Exhibition Laboratory, Helsinki.

Photo grabbed from ExLab's Instagram account

EXHIBITION

'MAKING A HOME' EXHIBITION

Home · About ▾ · Collections ▾

MAKING A HOME

FOR THE FUTURE

(ENTER THE EXHIBITION)

*a virtual exhibition of collections
depicting the liminality
around the notion of home and homemaking practices of the
African diaspora in Mechelen*

**Exhibited
Work**

Albaos, Jay; Keisha Barr; Magdalena Bordagorry; Alastair Cooper; Maja Jakarasi; Lovey Marquez; Betina Miranda; Sharon Otieno; Jennifer Rooke; Febe Struyve; Pieter van der Veer; Biniam Yegletu. 2020. Making a Home for the Future. Virtual exhibition. Royal Africa Museum Tervuren. Belgium. Screenshot from the exhibition website

COLLECTIONS

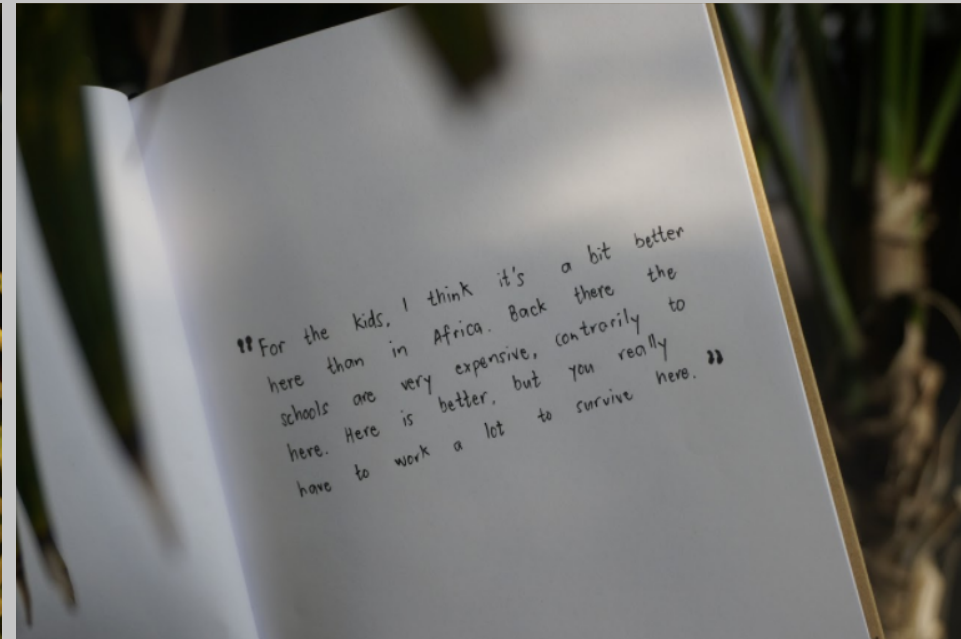
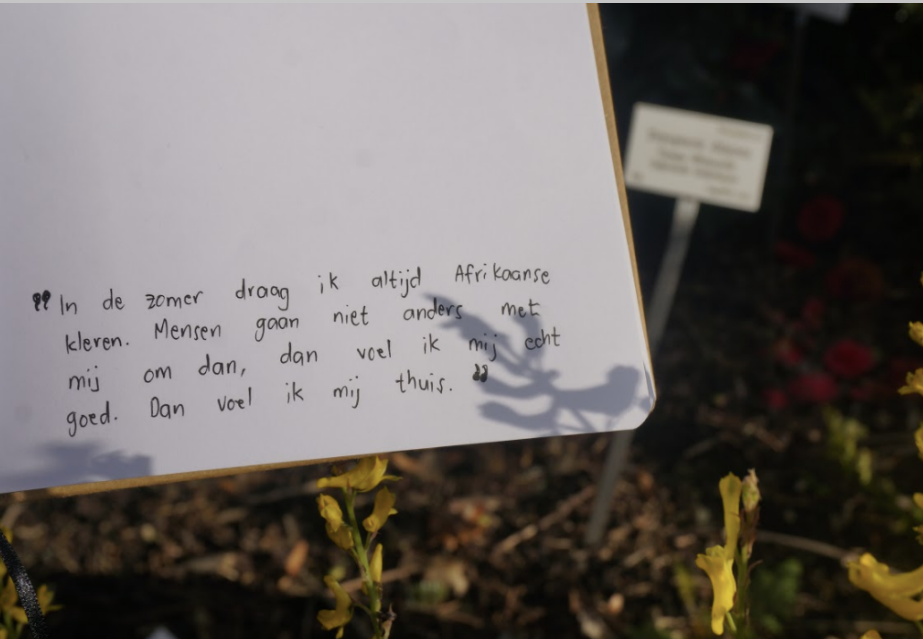
Liminality

Nostalgia

Hope

Faith

Looking for beauty
Beauty in the fog
We sail out at dawn to the sea
No, not me, was it you?
We Wij Nous
Spread our wings over our homeland
"Moi je suis un voyageur."



Albaos, Jay; Keisha Barr; Magdalena Bordagorry; Alastair Cooper; Maja Jakarasi; Lovey Marquez; Betina Miranda; Sharon Otieno; Jennifer Rooke; Febe Struyve; Pieter van der Veer; Biniam Yegletu. 2020. Making a Home for the Future. Virtual exhibition. Royal Africa Museum Tervuren. Belgium. Screenshot from the exhibition website

*MAKING A HOME FOR THE FUTURE
EXHIBITION 2020*

Making a Home for the Future was the pinnacle of the Mechelen research group's combined experience of desktop research and fieldwork. We engaged and collaborated with with people of the African Diaspora living in Mechelen. Our encounters promoted a cultural and ideological exchange, as well as mutual understanding. The process of constructing Making a Home comes across through the thoughts and actions conveyed in this online exhibition: through words of poetry, visual images and rigorous academic analysis. This pinnacle is the the result of combined efforts from the community and the researchers.

Making a Home for the Future is part of the collaboration between CADES and RAMT: the 2019-2020 seminar - focused to research, understand, and rethink the mechanisms of representation in relation to the histories of people of African diaspora in Flanders, seeking to come to alternative histories and genealogies that question the dominant representations of these past and present histories in contemporary Belgian society.

Royal Africa Museum Tervuren. April 2020 – present.



Albaos, Jay; Keisha Barr; Magdalena Bordagorry; Alastair Cooper; Maja Jakarasi; Lovey Marquez; Betina Miranda; Sharon Otieno; Jennifer Rooke; Febe Struyve; Pieter van der Veer; Biniam Yegletu. 2020. Making a Home for the Future. Virtual exhibition. Royal Africa Museum Tervuren. Belgium. Screenshot from the exhibition website

EXHIBITION

middle eastern bloc

***Exhibited
Work***

Albaos, Jay. 2021. Open Letters to Sea in Middle Eastern Bloc Podcast.
European Theatre Collective. Finland.
Screenshot from the European Theatre Collective's Facebook Page

OPEN LETTERS TO SEA AT THE MIDDLE
EASTERN BLOC PODCAST 2021

A non-European, third world student gets locked down in a student dormitory in a foreign country during the covid-19 pandemic.

Piece: Jay Albaos

Voice: Amira Khalifa

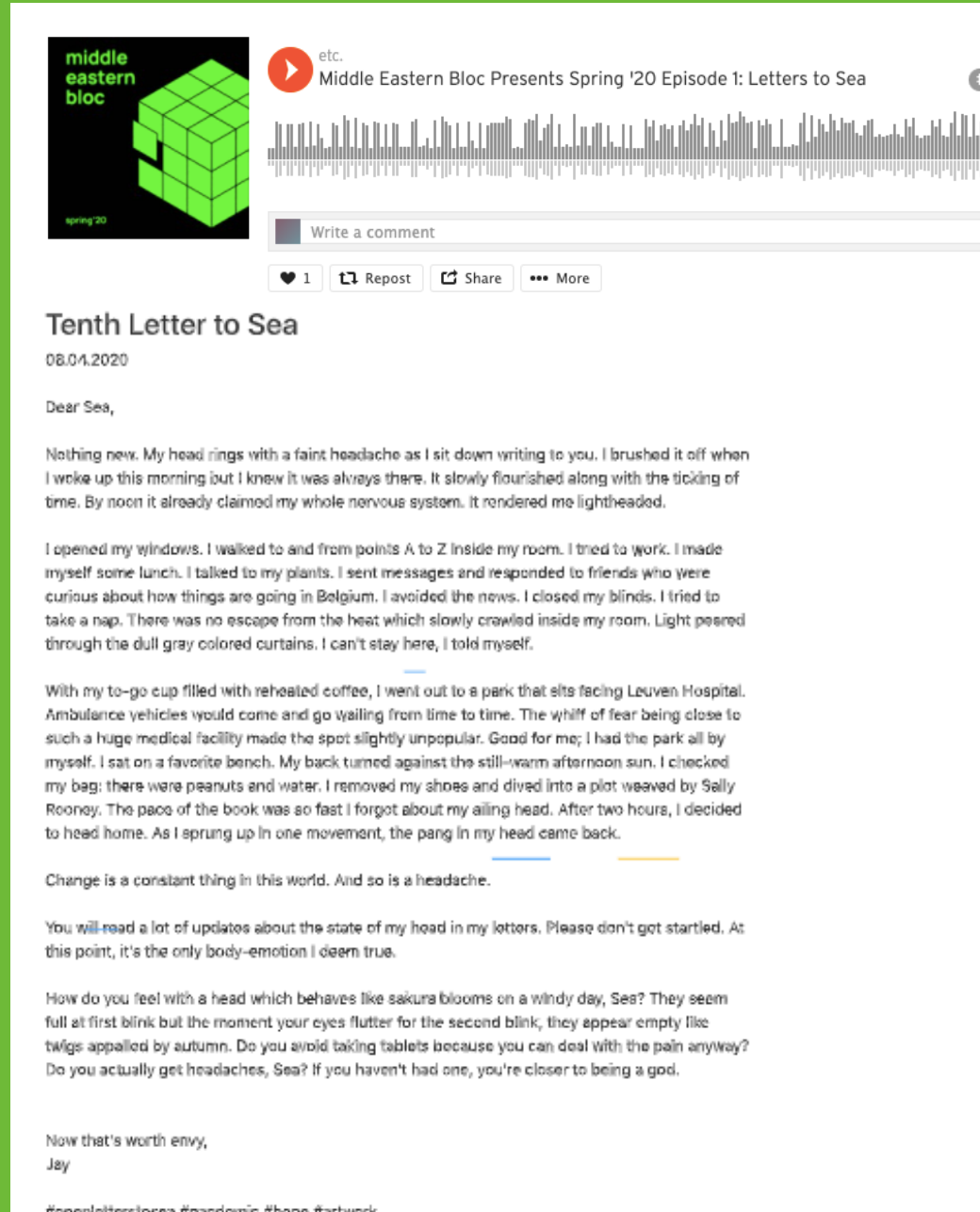
Sound design: Sammy Kramer

Director: David Kozma

Editor: Jenni Hurmerinta/Sanattu

The Middle Eastern Bloc presents Spring '20 - podcast will take you to the feelings of the spring 2020 when the first wave of the pandemic hit the world. The ten radio plays written by Europeans who belong to cultural and linguistic minorities cover both relatable personal reflections and sharp societal critiques.

Soundcloud. April 2021 – present.



etc. Middle Eastern Bloc Presents Spring '20 Episode 1: Letters to Sea

Write a comment

1 Repost Share More

Tenth Letter to Sea

08.04.2020

Dear Sea,

Nothing new. My head rings with a faint headache as I sit down writing to you. I brushed it off when I woke up this morning but I knew it was always there. It slowly flourished along with the ticking of time. By noon it already claimed my whole nervous system. It rendered me lightheaded.

I opened my windows. I walked to and from points A to Z inside my room. I tried to work. I made myself some lunch. I talked to my plants. I sent messages and responded to friends who were curious about how things are going in Belgium. I avoided the news. I closed my blinds. I tried to take a nap. There was no escape from the heat which slowly crawled inside my room. Light peered through the dull gray colored curtains. I can't stay here, I told myself.

With my to-go cup filled with reheated coffee, I went out to a park that sits facing Leuven Hospital. Ambulance vehicles would come and go wailing from time to time. The whiff of fear being close to such a huge medical facility made the spot slightly unpopular. Good for me; I had the park all by myself. I sat on a favorite bench. My back turned against the still-warm afternoon sun. I checked my bag: there were peanuts and water. I removed my shoes and dived into a plot weaved by Sally Rooney. The pace of the book was so fast I forgot about my ailing head. After two hours, I decided to head home. As I sprung up in one movement, the pang in my head came back.

Change is a constant thing in this world. And so is a headache.

You will read a lot of updates about the state of my head in my letters. Please don't get startled. At this point, it's the only body-emotion I deem true.

How do you feel with a head which behaves like sakura blooms on a windy day, Sea? They seem full at first blink but the moment your eyes flutter for the second blink, they appear empty like twigs appalled by autumn. Do you avoid taking tablets because you can deal with the pain anyway? Do you actually get headaches, Sea? If you haven't had one, you're closer to being a god.

Now that's worth envy,
Jay

#openletters2sea #pandemic #hope #artwork

Albaos, Jay. 2021. Open Letters to Sea in *Middle Eastern Bloc Podcast*. European Theatre Collective. Finland.

Screenshot from the European Theatre Collective's Facebook Page and Soundcloud

Text: Jay Albaos



BIOGRAPHY

Jay Albaos - born in Dipolog City, Philippines - is an interdisciplinary community artist and organizer.

Trained with creative writing and theatre from the University of the Philippines (2012), he earned his master in Live Art and Performance Studies from the Theatre Academy Helsinki (2018). In 2020, he earned his advanced master in Cultural Anthropology and Development Studies from KU Leuven.

Jay anchors his artistic and anthropologic dexterities in community and participatory artwork through his cultural and public service background with Philippine Indigenous Peoples as well as his collaborations with labor migrants and scholars of color in Europe. His artistic praxis and thinking departs from migration, diaspora, border crossing, liminal embodiments, and "becoming". He was part of a collaborative project Making A Home for the Future, an ethnographic and artistic project virtually exhibited at Belgium's Royal Museum for Central Africa. He has performed in numerous performance art festivals and curated art events. His recent work, Open Letters to Sea (2020) was part of European Theatre Collective's Middle eastern bloc podcast (2021).

He is currently a freelancer working with non-governmental development organizations and as a ramen chef at Japanese restaurant chain in Belgium.

Photo Credit: Christy Balita

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instagram: [jayalbaos.works](https://www.instagram.com/jayalbaos.works)

CATALOGUES & PUBLICATIONS

Figures of Speech - The Act
of Writing in Artistic Practices

Jay [redacted] Mar [redacted] Albaos

Antonín [redacted] Brinda

Petros [redacted] Konnaris

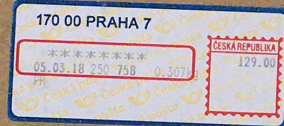
Harriet [redacted] Rabe [redacted] von [redacted] Foreich

Jolijn [redacted] de [redacted] Wolf

Episodi vol. 5 ISBN 978-952-7218-29-7

**THEATRE
ACADEMY**
X UNIARTS HELSINKI

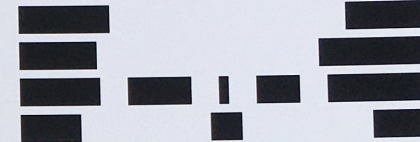
Words don't come easy
Words don't come easy to me
F. R. David



PRIORITAIRE

Theatre Academy Helsinki
Live Art and Performance Studies
Haapaniemenkatu 6
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FINLAND

Artistic Immersion: Furthering
Immersion and Interpretation In
the Context of Filipino Migration
Jay Mar Albaos



Figures of Speech - The Act of Writing in Artistic Practices
Episodi vol. 5
part 1 of 5

Publication

Albaos, Jay; Antonín Brinda, Petros Konnaris; Jolijn de Wolf; Harriet von Foreich. 2018. Artistic Immersion: Furthering Immersion and Interpretation in the Context of Filipino Migration in *Episodi Vol. 5: Figures of Speech - The Act of Writing in Artistic Practices* 2018. Theatre Academy Helsinki.

Photo Credit: Jay Albaos

Zoned Out at the Singapore Biennale 2016

February 15, 2017



By Jay Mar Albaos, Antonín Brinda, Petros Konnaris, Ray Langenbach, Jamie MacDonald, Harriet Rabe, Jolijn de Wolf

(4350 words, 40-minute read)



ARCHIPELAGO

MOUNTAIN

