

Pakig-abi-abi sa mga Langgam¹ // Being with the Birds²

A Collaborative Durational Performance Work

Concept by Jay Albaos

PhD Candidate

Doctorate in the Arts

LUCA School of Arts / KU Leuven

Research Unit - Image

A durational collaborative piece which attempts to capture voices/thoughts/reflections about social and systemic migrant language/rhetoric/attitudes/actions in Belgian communes where the participants are situated in. What do they feel/think/imagine when they hear such relational language/rhetoric/actions and how do the latter affect the former's processes of integration/becoming?

Performance Score:

1. Jay visits the Collaborator to their house.
2. Jay goes through the score together with the Collaborator.
3. Jay brings with him materials to create a bird house with the Collaborator. The birdcage frame will come in a standard design. It is encouraged that the Collaborator makes a bird house of their own version.
4. The birdhouse hangs/stands/sits at a place in the house of the collaborator where the latter deems safe and accessible.
5. In the duration of the project, the Collaborator works closely with the birdcage.
6. Whenever a moment calls for it, the collaborator "deposits" a letter/entry to the birdhouse. These moments must reflect the collaborator's (by-then) encounter with the System. The entries are not limited to letters - they can be drawings, poetry - as long as they fit in the birdhouse. Regardless of the format, entries are to be dated with time indicated as well. If written, it is encouraged to use the first person, "I". The Collaborator is welcome to use their own mother (tongue[s]), but a brief translation/context text is kindly asked for future process reasons.
7. At the end of the project, Jay will organise an event where all Collaborators come together to break the birdhouse. Everyone is encouraged to read to each other some of the texts (if the safe space and feelings of care allow it) and talk about their experiences within the project's context.

¹ Cebuano, one of the artist's mother tongues.

² This work is part of Albaos' Doctoral project in Artistic Research. Jay frames the project both as an artistic and ethnographic work.

Practical Notes:

- a. The piece runs for 5 months (it starts when the Collaborator receives, designs, and positions the birdcage in their house).
- b. Meetings/gatherings will be documented for archiving/research purposes.
- c. In the duration of the project, Jay will make himself available for questions/concerns via WhatsApp (and/or other agreed-on practical communication mode). Jay will also participate in the project as one of the Collaborators.
- d. Jay will create an archive for materials, meetings, and every documentation of the project as heeded. This archive will be fully accessible to the Collaborator – individually or as a group, respectively.
- e. The Collaborator will be asked if they agree that their entries will become part of a Final Artistic Work, which will develop as the durational collaborative project furthers. The Final Artistic work will take form as a public-accessible piece (form not yet defined as of writing this score). Jay will communicate about these progressions clearly. The Collaborator's decisions are always respected and prioritised.
- f. The entries will also become part of Jay's written PhD Dissertation. The Collaborator's decisions are always respected and prioritised.
- g. Each Collaborator will receive a gratitude token of 100 euro.

Theoretical Notes:

- a. System in this project is the theoretical, political, social, economic, administrative, linguistic power which (pre-)determines the collaborator's existence (more so the collaborator's experiences of integration).
- b. Collaborator in this project is the thinking/feeling/experiencing body and being. It is important the Collaborator is not a local of/from Belgium.