

Robert Cahen: Manila Junction

Art Talk at the White Cube, Metropolitan Museum of Manila

20 June 2013, 3-5PM

Entrance Fee allows access to the forum and ongoing exhibitions

The public is invited to come early to view Cahen's video and listen to his sound works

The Metropolitan Museum of Manila in collaboration with the French Embassy in Manila organizes an open-forum with French video artist Robert Cahen. His videos have captured different landscapes over four continents in his 42-year long practice. It is the artist's first visit to the country with a project of creating a new film. Contemporary Filipino artists from different practices will be invited to come together and discuss with him Concrete Music, how it has influenced art forms as diverse as video, installation, dance and poetry.

Cahen shared the environment of electro-acoustic research in the late 50s into the early 70s with Filipino avant-garde composer Dr. Jose Maceda. *The Philippine Contemporary*, a newly inaugurated permanent exhibition at the Met Museum featuring 20th century and contemporary art, represents Dr. Maceda's work in the 70s and considers his composition *Ugnayan* an important oeuvre of that tumultuous yet highly fertile period of creation in the Philippine art scene (1965-1983).

Robert Cahen: Manila Junction will be an artists' talk proposing to connect the confluent art practices in France and the Philippines from the 70s into the present.

Background on Robert Cahen:

Born 1945 in Valence, France.

Studied under Pierre Schaeffer at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris.

1969 -1971: received initial training in composition with the Groupe de Recherches Musicales (GRM), eventually becoming an active composer for the group. Whilst working as a composer, he was drawn towards visual images and video to which he applied the experimental techniques and language of the school of concrete music.

1972: *Invitation to travel*, first video work with manipulation of image

1983: *Just enough time*,

1992: Villa Medicis Hors les Murs award

1995: permanent video installation in Lille (EURALILLE, France)

1997: first exhibition of video installations in Alsace, France

2010: major retrospective of his films and videos at *Le Jeu de Paume*, Paris, France

The Metropolitan Museum of Manila

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, Roxas Blvd. Malate-Manila

Open: Mondays thru Saturdays, 10AM till 5:30PM

Museum Entrance: 100 Php

Inquiries: info@metmuseum.ph or call 708-7829



PAYSAGE / PASSAGE LANDSCAPE / PASSING
1997

Video Installation, 18 monitors with transparent casing, 3 dvd players, 3-channel video

Made using footage from his earlier video *Juste le temps* (1983), a video set on a train, this work both fragments and multiplies the original materials. The source material is split into three strands, each playing on six monitors at different starting times. The landscape views from *Juste le temps* are mounted together here: telegraph cables swiftly pass by, the tress and hills roll past the windows more slowly under the effect of slow-motion. The rhythm of the multi-layered sound track sometimes accompanies the image, sometimes it is at odds with it. Cahen explains that transparent cases of the monitors alert us to the “magic of the image,” which cannot be reduced to the technology behind it.



Robert Cahen