

For Immediate Release

POST: OUTLINING PERSPECTIVES

July 11 – August 11, 2012

Catwalk, Metropolitan Museum of Manila

CONTEMPORARY CHARTING OF GEOGRAPHY AT THE MET MUSEUM

Ongoing at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila is a rare exhibition of antique maps on the Philippines and Manila entitled, *Three Hundred Years of Philippine Antique Maps: 1598-1898*. Organized by the Philippine Map Collectors' Society and the Embassy of Spain, the exhibition gathers important maps on the Philippines made by European cartographers that date back to the early Spanish colonial period. The oldest map in the exhibition is the exhibition is a map of the Philippines by Petrus Kaerius, made in 1598.

Complementing the map exhibit is an exhibition of contemporary art by Filipino artists that revolves around ideas that maps, the material object, engender. Maps, as instruments of utility and icons of beauty, convey powerful information of a land and its people. It has been associated mostly with the concepts of charting, positioning, identifying, of reality, direction, challenge and affection.

Post: Outlining Perspectives, a multi-media exhibition of installation, painting and assemblage is ongoing at the Catwalk of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. It explores the voices of local artists on notions related to mapping. The artists -- Roberto Chabet, Christina Quisumbing, Cris Villanueva, Poklong Anading, Louie Talents and Mark Salvatus – bring their distinct styles in pushing forward their agenda. The Philippines' leading conceptual artist, Roberto Chabet, for one, is represented with a work from his China Collage series which comprises of 300 collages made between the 1980s till the 1990s. Its frame follows an inverted L-shaped canvas and the particular piece in this exhibit uses the map of China as base for torn pieces of paper spread over it.

Cris Villanueva, through his work *Considering that It Is Always Already Changing*, explores the concepts and attitudes related to territories, conquest and expansion. Using the image of a popular childhood game, the ballpen flick, one is reminded that even at an early age, one's need for space, crossing over another's space, and going back again is pursued. Personal space is protected, and violated, and in the course of playing this game, a merging or sharing of personal spaces is unconsciously made. In the work *Blink*, he defines space and time as between and now, reality and imagination, similar to the existence of real geographic place and its 'assumed reality' as projected by maps.

Christina Quisumbing, through her work *Mapping Your Geography I* which consists of 'miniature collages' of land mass and formations stuck on empty bottles, delves into the notion of residue, of how a place or a person, of varying significance, is not totally obliterated from one's conscience. In this case, she carves out the map of the country, from which she got the bottle, out of the label. The 'maps' on the bottle, fashioned through subtraction, denote memories and nostalgia of a particular place and state in time.

Post: Outlining Perspectives ends on August 11, 2012, a week after the end-run of the map exhibit **Three Hundred Years of Philippine Antique Maps 1598-1898**. For further inquiry call the Met at 708-7829 or email at info@metmuseum.ph.