



Bhen Alan

Langit, Lupa (Heaven and Earth)

December 21, 2023 – January 28, 2024

About the Exhibit

Langit, Lupa (Heaven and Earth) spotlights the **banig** – a Filipino indigenous mat – to investigate the artist's relationship with cultural objects, relocation, diaspora, and experiences as an immigrant. The works in the exhibition are influenced by the artist's Fulbright research and fieldwork in the Philippines in 2022–2023. Though it looks back on the history, making, ritual, and function of a traditional banig, the artist abstracts all of these elements as a way of finding new meaning, new location, and new interaction.



For purchase inquiries, please contact:
Peter Albano, Visual Arts Manager
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About the Artist

Bhen Alan (b.1993) was raised in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, Philippines. He grew up dancing traditional folk and cultural dances to preserve their culture. He immigrated to Toronto, Canada when he was 17 years old before settling in the United States.

Bhen is a visual artist, dancer, and educator. In 2019, he received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth where he was a full scholar. He earned his Master of Fine Arts in Painting and Certificate in Collegiate Teaching in Art and Design at the Rhode Island School of Design. He is a U.S. Fulbright scholar of 2022-2023 in the Philippines, where he researched and worked alongside master weavers of indigenous tribes in 14 different islands.

He has received awards such as the Emerging Artist Award and Mary Shannon Award for Public Art at St. Botolph Club Foundation, Boston, MA, Emerging Artist Award from Real Arts Award, 2021-2022 RISD Graduate Commons Grant, and UMass Dartmouth Summer Research Grant.

About the Real Art Awards

Bhen Alan is a recipient of a 2022 Real Art Award. The Real Art Awards are a juried competition open at no cost to emerging artists from the six New England states, New York and New Jersey. The 2022 Real Art Awards were juried by multidisciplinary artist Carlos Motta, curator and creative strategist Yona Backer, and Real Art Ways Executive Director Will K. Wilkins. In addition to a cash prize and a solo exhibition, each artist receives logistical and curatorial support throughout the exhibition process. This project is supported in part by awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation.



Real Art Ways is a contemporary arts organization with a record of linking artists, innovation and community. Programs include visual arts, with exhibitions, public art projects, and artist presentations; cinema, with independent and international films; music; performance; literary events; community and educational programming.



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