



# KAWAYAN DE GUIA

## *A Chronicle of the Land and People of the Cordilleras*

2018

Mixed media on board

244 x 183 cm each (framed)

Collection of Singapore Art Museum

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## Did You Know?

1. Kawayan de Guia is an artist and curator living in Baguio City, a city in the Philippines, which is often viewed as an alternative art centre to Manila. He is the son of renowned filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik, who introduced him to some of his mentors such as artists Santiago Bose, Benedicto Cabrera and Robert Villanueva. Both of Kawayan's brothers, Kabunyan de Guia and the late Kidlat de Guia, are also artists.
2. *A Chronicle of the Land and People of the Cordilleras* is one of the artist's most ambitious paintings to date. In this work, he addresses a subject that has shaped the development of Philippine contemporary art and, by extension, his artistic practice: the city of Baguio and the Cordilleras, a mountainous area in North Luzon. Luzon is one the largest and most populous islands in the Philippines and home to Manila, the nation's capital.
3. A critical and poignant narrative on the Philippines' art history, colonial past and legacies and indigenous cultures, including that of the Cordilleran people and their heritage, *A Chronicle of the Land and People of the Cordilleras* can be seen as an elegy for and celebration of the traditional ways of living and knowledges in northern Luzon.



## Let's Talk!

1. How does the artwork represent the Philippines' art history, colonial past and indigenous cultures? Can you identify specific aspects in the work that address these topics?
2. The artist often incorporates found and organic materials in his works, including film reels, talismans and old artworks. Can you identify some of these materials in *A Chronicle of the Land and People of the Cordilleras*? Why do you think he has chosen to include these materials?
3. If you were asked to add other found and organic materials to this work, what materials would you choose? How would they help to reinforce the meaning of this work?
4. Imagine this painting had sounds. What kind of sounds do you think you would hear?
5. *A Chronicle of the Land and People of the Cordilleras* is a work of art that is divided into three panels. This is often referred to as a "triptych." Why do you think de Guia has chosen to present the work in the form of a triptych?
6. In response to one of the panels in this work, write an imaginary event related to the history of Baguio City and the Cordilleran people.
7. If you could change a part of this artwork, what would you change? Why?



## About the Artist:

**Kawayan de Guia** (b. 1979, Baguio) is an artist based in Baguio. His practice is deeply embedded in Cordilleran culture and explores the histories of occupation, trade and exchange that have shaped Filipino history and culture. Spanning across painting, installation and sculpture, his works can be seen as a continuation of the legacies of artists like Santiago Bose, Rene Aquitania and Roberto Villanueva. A longstanding advocate for art and culture in Baguio, De Guia is also a curator and organiser of activist projects featuring artists of his community, including the AX(iS) Art Project (2012). De Guia has participated in festivals including the Sharjah Biennale (2019) and 9th Asia Pacific Triennale (2018) and in exhibitions held at the Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2017); Para Site, Hong Kong (2017); and Palais De Tokyo, Paris (2015); among other venues. He received numerous awards including the Thirteen Artists Award from the Cultural Centre of the Philippines (2009); the Ateneo Art Awards, Philippines (2011, 2008); and was a finalist of the Signature Art Prize, Singapore Art Museum (2011).



## Find Out More:

Ocula. "Kawayan de Guia." Ocula. <https://ocula.com/artists/kawayan-de-guia/> (accessed 12 March 2022).

Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art. "Kawayan De Guia." Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art. <https://www.qagoma.qld.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/past-exhibitions/the-9th-asia-pacific-triennial-of-contemporary-art-apt9/artists/kawayan-de-guia> (accessed 1 March 2022).

Yavuz Gallery. "Kawayan De Guia." Yavuz Gallery. <https://yavuzgallery.com/artists/kawayan-de-guia/> (accessed 1 March 2022).