

Back to Square 1 presents Hugot exhibition at Sining Makiling

Still in keeping with the independent platform Back to Square 1's 2013 theme "Co-efficient", this exhibition called *Hugot* is posed as a coming together of works (video, sound, and installation) which surface a patent need for rootedness in the midst of the working out of restless imagination.

In openly challenging the idea that art and artists come from nowhere, and thus need to be mythically taken as either genius or as microworlds unto themselves sans affinities with 'the real world', *Hugot* argues for the recognition and revisiting of beginnings—the original impetus or driving force which harks Back to Square 1/One.

Back to Square 1 is an initiative of artists and cultural workers who hope to revisit their and others' first impulses which turned them into the practice of art before other concerns like validation and survival ever came into play. While the desire to be creative usually gets articulated as the primary reason for getting into art, other parallel responses have to do with: curiosity, a craving to explore and experience, as well as wanting to pursue the untried and possibly better option to merely doing the same things over and over. Rather than merely playing up the presumed innocence of an imagined past, the curatorial charge behind these works has to do with critically figuring out what can be gleaned from memory, productively posing these to negotiations of the present, and unto thoughtful constructions of imminent albeit uncertain futures. *Hugot* features Cris Garcimo (Gentle Universe), Khaled Hafez, Claro Ramirez, Jon Romero, Josephine Turalba, and Eric Zamuco. The exhibition is co-curated by Ramirez and Dr. Ming Turner who brings Hafez and Turalba from an earlier project called "Beautiful Life: Memory and Nostalgia" which toured through the United Kingdom and Taiwan in 2011-2012.

*Hugot* runs from November 20, 2013 to January 10, 2014 at the University of the Philippines Sining Makiling Gallery, D.L. Umali Hall.