



Imagined Past, Remembered Future

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Between 1999 and 2000, Japan Foundation Asia Center organized a number of Japan-ASEAN Cultural Dialogue Forums in Tokyo, Singapore and Manila—the last being a three-day interdisciplinary workshop entitled, “Imagining the Past, Remembering the Future: War, Violence and Memory in Asia.” These gatherings of scholars from anthropology, cultural studies, history, literature, political science and sociology can be read in parallel to the “Under Construction” exhibitions (2001-03) jointly curated by participants from different Asian countries—preliminary attempts to confront entangled histories in the region, and to prospect for future-oriented issues to work on together.

“Imagined Past, Remembered Future” is suggestive of the cyclical, the iterative as well as the performative – hinting at mythology, irony, ritual, magical realism, fantasy, speculative fiction, and self-restoration.



Drawing from Mun Kao & Zedek Siew's *A Thousand Thousand Islands* - a Southeast Asian-themed fantasy visual world-building project.

Source: <https://itch.io/t/570165/a-thousand-thousand-islands-fantasy-tabletop-rpg-zines-inspired-by-southeast-asia>



The late Carlos Celdran, in front of a statue of Jose Rizal, during his *Walk This Way Intramuros Tour*. Manila, 2018.

Photo: Mark Teh.

Related Links

Videos & Websites

1. Tan Pin Pin, *remember* (2005) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKW1q1NHrac>
2. *Ear to Asia* podcast by Asia Institute, University of Melbourne - 'Sculpting nations: the politics around statues in Asia' (2020) <https://arts.unimelb.edu.au/asia-institute/ear-to-asia/episodes/episode-74>
3. Arin Rungjang, *Mongkut* (2015) <https://vimeo.com/125168103>
4. Shitamichi Motoyuki, *torii* (2006-2012) <http://m-shitamichi.com/torii>
5. Dinh Q. Le, *The Farmers and The Helicopters* (2006) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTacDGYQWho>
6. Hsu Chia-Wei, interview about *Spirit-writing* (2016) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXfCP6R8jps>

7. Shiga Lieko interview about Kitakama village and *Rasen Kaigen series* (2018)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ko4eC0vuBo>
8. Martha Atienza interview about *our islands* 11°16'58.4"N 123°45'07.0"E
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UynIJMI9Of0>
9. Uudam Tran Nguyen, interview about *Serpents' Tails* (2015)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9xQPrM83Fg>
10. Thao Nguyen Phan, interview about *Becoming Alluvium* (2019)
<https://vimeo.com/374624761>
11. Mun Kao & Zedeck Siew, *A Thousand Thousand Islands*. A Southeast Asian-themed fantasy visual world-building project for role-playing games.
<https://athousandthousandislands.com/> &
<https://www.patreon.com/athousandthousandislands/posts>
12. Kyun-chome, Making a Perfect Donut (2017-2018)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPYi09mo6S8>
13. The Propeller Group interview about *Television Commercial for Communism* (2016)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-Lqlq86kQE>
14. Green Papaya Art Projects, *Right People Wrong Timing*. A series of texts on defunct or inactive independent Asian arts initiatives that had crossed paths or ran parallel to Papaya's own 20-year history
<http://rpwt.greenpapaya.art/>
15. Carlos Celdran, *The Future of Manila* TEDxDiliman Talk (2012)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DyGxQhng->