

RYAN LEE

RYAN LEE GALLERY LLC
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Stephanie Syjuco

Frieze, New York

May 8-15, 2020, Preview May 6-7

RYAN LEE wishes everyone health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. The gallery is pleased to present a solo booth by Stephanie Syjuco for the 2020 edition of Frieze New York. The central work, *Dodge and Burn (Visible Storage)*, 2019, is a sculptural installation featured in Syjuco's solo exhibition *Rogue States* at CAM St. Louis.

Syjuco envisions the work as a contemporary still life, composed of hundreds of images and two hand-sewn dresses, presented in the form of a stage set. The work explores narratives of colonialism and power through the lens of art history, modernism, and ethnography. The images featured are set variously against a bright green chromakey background – a visual effect used to composite multiple images and insert a new background – and a black and white checkered background that references Photoshop's transparency background, rendering the subject invisible but physically present. The garments are made with the same materials: an American gown in chromakey, and a traditional Filipino Baro't Saya made from transparency cloth, evoking the way the objects are vulnerable to external narratives being superimposed upon them. The work includes images of disparate objects largely sourced from the internet, from tropical fruit, to traditionally woven fabrics, to pictures of gradient paint samples for skin colors. The works draw attention to the way lingering effects of Colonialism continue to permeate even innocuous seeming aspects of society, and create lasting power imbalances.

A series of Syjuco's works featuring chromakey and transparency backgrounds, including several featured in Syjuco's episode of Art21, will also be on view. The works explore her fascination with ideas of insertion and negation, eliciting how subjects can be altered by the history that preceded them. Among the works will be *Chromakey Aftermath (Standard Bearers)*, 2019, which features two figures holding flags, depicted from behind, and draped in chromakey fabric. The details of the figures are largely obscured by the fabric, representing the way they can be imposed upon.

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Stephanie Syjuco (b. 1974 Manila, Philippines) works primarily in sculpture, installation and photography, leveraging open-source systems, shareware logic and flows of capital to create friction between high ideals and everyday materials. Her conceptual craft practice translates digital content and process into physical experience, often with an active public component that invites viewers to participate as producers or distributors.

Previous projects include starting a global collaboration with crochet crafters to counterfeit high-end consumer goods; presenting a parasitic art counterfeiting event, “COPYSTAND: An Autonomous Manufacturing Zone” at Frieze Projects, London (2009); and “Shadowshop,” an alternative vending outlet embedded at SFMOMA that explored how artists navigate the production, consumption and dissemination of their own work (2010-11). In 2016, Syjuco was commissioned by Art in America to illustrate an article on virtual reality museum tours, for which she produced eight 3D captures of American colonial displays at the de Young Museum and used glitches to emphasize the hidden histories of these artworks and artifacts. In 2018, Syjuco was featured in the ninth season of Art21’s series *Art in the Twenty-First Century*. In 2019, Syjuco’s work was featured in exhibitions at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University; the University of Kentucky Art Museum and Institute of Contemporary Art / Boston, among others.

In 2020, Syjuco’s work will be included in several exhibitions such as *Someday is Now* at the New Britain Museum of American Art, *Never Done: 100 Years of Women in Politics and Beyond* at the Tang Museum, *This may or may not be a true story or a lesson in resistance* at De Appel, Amsterdam and *Stephanie Syjuco: The Visible Invisible* at the Blaffer Art Museum.

To see Stephanie Syjuco talk about her practice on Art21, please click on this [link](#).