EDITOR’S INTRODUCTION

KK 25

The regular section of issue 25 of Kritika Kultura features articles which contribute to fields such as media studies, ecocriticism, and film studies. Emily Kui Ling Lau’s “Interactive Meaning Potentials in Weight-loss Web-advertising: The Female Body in Crisis” examines weight loss advertisements in order to demonstrate how factors such as distance, contact, and point of view evoke problematic relations between the represented and the viewer. Rina Garcia Chua’s “Dismantling Disaster, Death, and Survival in Philippine Ecopoetry” looks at the poetry of Merlie Alunan and Abercio V. Rotor through the concept of “dismantling”: a way in which a “space for survival” is opened up by making visible the “scars of history” within the context of disaster. Finally, Patrick F. Campos’s “Kidlat Tahimik and the Determination of a Native Filmmaker” revisits—by way of participative research, field notes, and interviews—the work of Kidlat Tahimik, particularly his orientation towards notions of independent Third World cinema.

KK 25 contains two Forum Kritika sections: the first one—guest edited by Jose Mario C. Francisco and Shanthini Pillai—focuses on Christianity and the nation in Southeast Asia. In particular, examples from Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines are taken into account by scholars such as Albertus Bagus Lakasana, Pham Hung, Coeli Barry, Jojo M. Fung, Mark Joseph Calano, Jayeel Serrano Cornelio, Catherine Gomes, and Jonathan Y. Tan.

The second Forum Kritika—guest edited by Joel David—looks into aspects of star culture in Philippine cinema. Scholars featured include Joel David and Patrick D. Flores on Nora Aunor, Jerrick Josue David on Sharon Cuneta, and Louie Jon A. Sánchez on Judy Ann Santos. The Forum Kritika on star culture concludes with a literary essay—once more on Nora Aunor—by Wilfredo Pascual.

The book reviews section Short Takes features assessments on Charlie Samuya Veric’s Histories: Poems by E. San Juan, Jr., Romulo P. Baquiran, Jr., Patrick D. Flores, Rina Angela Corpus, and Ramón C. Sunico.

The Monograph Series on diaspora, migration, transnationality, and identity has two articles in KK 25. Gloria G. Gonzales’s “The Alien, the Citizen, and the Triumphant Capitalist” establishes correspondences between the characters in Charlson Ong’s Banyaga: The Song of War with Georg Simmel’s notion of the stranger. Gonzales
argues that the “marginalization of the Chinese has led them to specialization in trade and commerce” which, consequently, oriented them “towards exceptionalism.” Sherwin Mendoza’s “Landlessness, War, and Displacement in Literatures of Mindanao and Sulu” considers texts from Carlos Bulosan, Ibrahim Jubaira, Loren Hallilah I. Lao, and oral histories from Land Tenure Stories in Central Mindanao with the aim of “clarify[ing] the relationships of Filipino Americans to the diaspora of Christian settler colonists in Mindanao.”

Finally, the Literary Section places in the foreground selections of poetry and fiction by young and emerging writers, whose works offer new prospects in literary form and approach. The section contains Allan Popa’s “Deposition from the Cross and Other Poems”; Dennis Andrew S. Aguinaldo’s “The Second Law”; Josh Uyheng’s “Visitation”; Genevieve Jorolan-Quintero’s “Loom of Dreams”; Rodrigo Dela Pena, Jr.'s “Requiem”; Enrico C. Santos’s “The Afternoon I Learned the Use of Sex”; Oscar Tantoco Serquina, Jr.'s “We Have Intimated Too Much of Ourselves to This City”; Genevieve L. Asenjo’s “Greetings from Sacred Mountain” as translated by Michelle Tiu Tan; and B. B. P. Hosmillo’s “For He Is the Necessary Locus”

In line with our aims over the past years, we at KK carry on organizing public events such as the lecture and reading series. For the first semester 2015-2016, the Lecture Series will feature Vicente Rafael and Stephanie Faye Munyard, while the Reading Series will feature Ericson Acosta, as well as the editors of Plural and Transit. The readings and lectures—in conjunction with journal publication—represent Kritika Kultura’s engagements within academe and its wider public contexts: activities which aim to illuminate concerns that we as a global community face at present.

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