JOHN ALEXIS B. BALAGUER

Curator, Critic, Cultural Worker

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ABOUT ME

Multi-awarded Cultural Manager, Curator, and Critic based in Manila. Founder of Curare Art Space, curatorial agency for emerging contemporary art. With extensive experience in arts management, museum and gallery operations, cultural research, art writing & criticism, and arts education in the heritage, museum, gallery, and auction industries.

EDUCATION

The European Graduate School

Certificate in Expressive Arts Facilitation

2025

The Arts & Health Institute Philippines
Magis Creative Spaces

University of the Philippines - Diliman

Graduate Coursework in MA Art Studies

2016-2026

Curatorial Studies (45 Units)
Art Histories & Theories (12 Units)

Ateneo de Manila University

AB Communication - Film & Media Studies
Minor in Creative Writing - Poetry

2008-2012

Financial Aid Scholar
Honorable Mention

EXPERIENCE

Curator — Present

Curare Art Space

Collaboration with contemporary artists by managing art exhibitions, including curation, marketing, art writing, and criticism. Providing learning experiences for art publics and developmental opportunities for artists. Consultant for expert advice on arts related matters.

Instructor / Lecturer of Fine Arts — 2022 - 2026

University of the Philippines - Diliman & Baguio

Developing a course outline and lesson plans that meet program requirements. Presenting lesson plans on General Education and Fine Arts courses and assessing students fairly on course material, projects, exams, and other objectives.

Operations Manager & Head of Research — 2019 - 2021

Palacio de Memoria Heritage House

Assists the Director in the overall operations and business results of the Euro-Filipino Heritage organization by planning, developing and implementing policies and goals. Leads all business units of the company including the Museum, Auctions, Events, and Research units.

HONORS & AWARDS

Philippine Heritage Award (Proponent, Adaptive Reuse)
Office of the President of the Philippines
2021

Purita Kalaw Ledesma Award for Art Criticism
Ateneo Art Awards
2019

Loyola Schools Award for the Arts
Ateneo de Manila University
2012

Honorable Mention (Batch 2012)
Ateneo de Manila University
2012

EXPERIENCE

Curatorial Researcher
2017 - 2019

Ayala Museum

Conducts scholarly research on Global, Traditional, Philippine 19th century, and Modern art objects in the collection to further exhibition and publications. Assists museum Curators in writing list of objects, timeline, concept briefs, and exhibition texts.

Museum Educator
2015 - 2017

Ayala Museum

Designing education programs for the museum and providing learning experiences for the museum's diverse publics. Mediating, interpreting, and encouraging audiences in active learning, and conducting guided tours and exhibition education programs.

Gallery Manager
2013 - 2015

Archivo 1984 Gallery & The CCP Shop by Archivo

Managing the business units of the gallery and other branches. Client coordination and communication with artists. Gallery representation at local and international art fairs and events. Assistance in exhibition design and curation, and setting art work sales and targets.

VOLUNTEER WORK

AIESEC Brno

Global Community Development Program
Brno, Czech Republic

2010

Meditation Teacher

Wounded Healer PH, Reiki Wellness Manila,
The Yoga Shala, & Esoteric Society of the Philippines

2013 - present

Language Instructor

English as a Foreign Language Teacher
Roi-et, Thailand

2012

LINKS

Linkedin Profile

https://www.linkedin.com/in/johnalexisbalaguer/

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Fellow, Art Criticism

Asian Cultural Council, New York, USA

2024

Art Writer-in-Residence

Salzburg Art Association, Austria

2024

Scholar, Humanistic Academy of Life & Arts

Fo Guang Shan, Philippines, Taiwan

2023

Fellow, Curatorial Development Workshop

Japan Foundation Manila

2018, 2022

Art Writer Grant (Kanto.com.ph)

Kanto.com.ph & Scavolini Italy

2021

Art Writer Grant (Art Asia Pacific)

Art Asia Pacific Magazine, Hong Kong

2019

Fellow, Curatorial Mentorship Program

Bellas Artes Projects, Manila

2018

CERTIFICATIONS

Psychological First Aid

Psychlink Consulting

2022

Teaching Effectiveness

University of the Philippines

2022, 2024

AGILE Project Management

On-Off Group

2021

Engage & Empower People

Development Dimensions International

2021

Exhibition Preparation

Fundacion Sanso

2017

PROJECTS

Exhibitions (Curator)

- Palacio de Memoria
  - Curator, PDM Institutional History (Permanent Collection)
  - Curator, PDM Museum of Christian Heritage (Permanent Collection)
  - Researcher, PJL Lhuillier Museum
  - Researcher, Casa de Memoria Auctions

- Ayala Museum
  - Researcher, "Zobel: Toward Abstraction"
  - Researcher, "National Artist in the BPI Collection"
  - Researcher, "Historia: The BPI Art Collection"
  - Researcher, "F.V. Coching: Komiks at Kultura"
  - Researcher, "Arturo Luz: First Light"
  - Researcher, "Urban Labyrinth: Rodel Tapaya"
  - Researcher, "Alfonso Ossorio: A Survey"
  - Researcher, "Art and Family: Justiniano, Mariano, and Leoncio Asuncion"

- Archivo 1984 Gallery
  - Exhibitions Coordinator, "Revelations: A Jaime de Guzman Retrospective"
  - Exhibitions Coordinator, "Kristoffer Ardena at Art Fair Philippines"
  - Exhibitions Coordinator, "Archivo 1984 at Art Fair Philippines 2015"
  - Exhibitions Coordinator, "Archivo 1984 at Art Fair Philippines 2014"
  - Exhibitions Coordinator, "Archivo 1984 at Manilart 2015"

- Curare Art Space
  - Curator, "Imo Kalag, Imo Bakero" by Frank Alexi Y. Nobleza, Art Camp (2024)
  - Curator, "Planet of the Pangit" by Mel Araneta, Anima Art Space (2024)
  - Curator, "There Is a Stranger Breaking In, I Am the Shadow" by Garibay, Simbulan, de Laza, Rodgers, Alvarez, & Lopez, Studio Maya (2024)
  - Curator, "Bodies That Matter" by Gelo Zarzuelo, Anima Art Space (2024)
  - Curator, "Trying to find something better" by Gerome Soriano, Anima Art Space (2023)
  - Curator, "Casting Off The Shroud" by Lucian Arcos, Anima Art Space (2023)
  - Curator, "An Apartment in Naga" by Panch Alvarez (2022)
  - Curator, "#NoVision2020" by Nicko Caluya (2020)
  - Curator, "Lahat ng Nag-aangas ay Inaagnas" by Paolo Tiausas (2019)
  - Curator, "Space Between Thoughts" by Therese Nicole Reyes (2018)

Exhibitions (Artist)

- Artist, Liminal Spaces (2025), International House, New York, USA
- Artist, Art in the Park (2023), Manila Collage Collective
- Artist, Art in the Park (2022), Manila Collage Collective
- Artist, Imagus (2022), Imahica Art Gallery
- Collaborator, Almost There (2022), Load na Dito Projects at Kamloops Art Gallery, BC Canada
- Artist, First Edition (2020), Cartellino Art
- Artist, First Base Group Exhibit (2019), Pineapple Lab Gallery
- Artist, 1st Ateneo Heights Artist's Workshop Exhibit (2010), Ateneo de Manila University

Exhibitions (Curatorial Writer)

- Writer, "Gathering Weights" by Johanna Helmuth, Finale Art File (2024)
- Writer, "Play House" by Aiko Go, Finale Art File (2024)
- Writer, "Visualizing Histories" by The Museum Collective, National Commission for Culture & the Arts Gallery (2023)
- Writer, "After A Thousand Miles" by Hsu Wen-Jung (World Exhibition Tour), Fo Guang Yuan Art Gallery (2023)
- Writer, "The Library of the Forgotten Future" by Gromiko Semper, Galeria Duemila (2022)
- Writer, "Between Layers" by Pancho Francisco, Finale Art File (2022)
- Writer, "Welcome to the Dog Show" by Francis Commeyne, Mo_Space (2022)
- Writer, "Art Lives Here" by JoeBau, Modeka Art Gallery (2022)
- Writer, "Mananahi" by Raffy T. Napay, Finale Art File (2022)
- Writer, "Trepidation" by Bembol dela Cruz, Finale Art File (2022)

Art Talks (Speaker or Moderator)

- APEX: Multimedia, Communication, and the Arts, Ateneo de Manila University (2022)
- Ikebana & Contemporary Art, Kalaw Ledesma Foundation Inc. (2022)
- Darnay Demetillo Artists Award, University of the Philippines - Baguio (2022)
- Roundtable: Visualizing Histories, The Museum Collective (2021)
- Art Talks: Art and Abodes, The Manila Bang Show (2021)
- APEX: Multimedia, Communication, and the Arts, Ateneo de Manila University (2021)
- ArtSpeak: Doktor Karayom & Archie Oclos in Conversation with John Alexis Balaguer, Ateneo Art Gallery (2019)
- Agora: A Roundtable Discussion with Arts Professionals and their Practice, Benilde Arts Management (2019)
- Promoting the Value of Libraries, Archives, and Museums in the Attention Economy, Ayala Museum (2019)
- ALAM: Information for All, UP Library Science Alumni Association (2019)

Collections Management

- Art Consultant, Private Collection (Metro Manila) (2022- 2023)
- Collections Manager, Private Collection (Metro Manila) (2022- 2023)
- Collections Manager, Private Collection (Quezon City) (2017-2018)

PUBLICATIONS

Art Books and Magazines

- Ayala Museum
  - Fernando Zobel: Catalogue Raisonne (2019), Researcher
  - Arturo Luz: First Light (2018), Researcher & Writer
  - Alfonso Ossorio: A Survey (2017), Researcher & Writer
  - Art & Family: The Asuncion Legacy (2016), Researcher & Writer
  - Ayala Museum Magazine: Sensorium (2019), Managing Editor
  - Ayala Museum Magazine: Those Who Dare (2018), Managing Editor
  - Ayala Museum Magazine: Object / Subject (2017), Managing Editor
  - Ayala Museum Magazine: Dialogues (2017), Managing Editor
  - Ayala Museum Magazine: Views (2017), Writer
  - Ayala Museum Magazine: Storytellers (2016), Writer
  - Ayala Museum Magazine: Roots (2016), Writer
  - Ayala Museum Magazine: No.2 (2016), Writer
  - Ayala Museum Magazine: The First Issue (2015), Writer
  - In Focus: Arts and Objects Explained (2019), Writer / Researcher

- Art Books (Other)
  - Dominic Rubio, monograph, Art+, Writer (2023)
  - Homegrown: A Collection of Genre Artworks (2023), Art+, Writer (2023)
  - Standing by A Doorway: Her Thoughts and Notes Beyond Working in the Arts (2023), Load na Dito, Contributing Editor (2022)

Articles

- Art Asia Pacific Magazine (Hong Kong)
  - Review: Lazy Projectors, Corinne de San Jose (February 2023)
  - Art Market Report: Art Fair Philippines 2022 (April 2022)
  - Review: Throw, Hide, & Twist, Joe "JoeBau" Bautista (August 2021)
  - Review: Striking Affinities, Santiago Bose, Silverlens (April 2021)
  - 2021 Almanac, Philippines entry (January 2021)
  - Where I Work: Norberto Roldan | Issue 120 (September-October 2020)
  - Review: Unusual Tranquility, Archie Oclos, et al., Vinyl on Vinyl | Issue 120 (September-October 2020)
  - Profiles: Joven Cuanang | Issue 119 (July-August 2020)
  - 2020 Almanac, Philippines Entry, (January 2020)
  - Review: Equation of State, Martha Atienza, Silverlens | Issue 117 (March-April 2020)
  - Review: More Light Than Heat, Lesley Anne Cao and Lao Lianben, Calle Wright | Online (Oct 2019)
  - Review: Normal Scheduling will Resume Shortly, Poklong Anading, CCP | Issue 116 (November-December 2019)

- Ocula (New Zealand)
  - Review: From Salzburg to Hannover: What Constitutes Normality?, Salzburger and Hannover Kunstverein, Austria & Germany, 2024
  - Critic's Picks: Presence and Possession: Key Works from 9 Filipino Artists, Gajah Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia, 2024
- Kanto.com.ph
  - Review: Tao, Archie Oclos, Staten Island, New York, 2025
  - Interview: The Philippine Pavilion at Venice Biennale, Mark Salvatus and Carlos Quijon Jr., 2024
  - Interview: In Excess at Gajah Gallery Singapore, Mark Justiniani and Joyce Toh, 2023
  - Interview: The Philippine Pavilion at Venice Biennale, Gerry Tan, Fe Prudente, and Yael Buencamino, 2022
  - Review: Thirteen Artists Awards Exhibit, Cultural Center of the Philippines, 2022
  - Annual Report: 2021 Arts and Culture Review (Philippines), 2021
  - Profile: Mayumi Hirano of Load na Dito, 2021
  - Review: To put, to gather, and to put together, Shanna Orencio, Pinto Museum, 2021
  - Interview: Jo Tanierla, Pagburo-Pag-alsa, Vargas Museum, 2021
  - Review: Nature is Never Spent, Jason Dy SJ, Vargas Museum, 2021
  - Review: Repetitio, Celeste Lecaroz, 1335 Mabini, 2021
  - Review: The Last Tattooed Women of Kalinga, Jake Verzosa, Silverlens, 2021
  - Interview: Tenten Mina, Doers, 2021
  - Featured: John Alexis Balaguer, Heirlooms, 2021
  - Featured: Curare Art Space, Changemakers, No. 1, 2020
  - Featured: John Alexis Balaguer, No. 1, Vol. 2, 2017
- Art+ Magazine
  - Listening to the Leaves, Jason Dy SJ, 2024

Creative Works

- Heights Ateneo
  - Heights, Regular Folio, 2019
  - Heights, Regular Folio, 2017
  - Heights, Regular Folio, 2016
  - Heights LX, 2012
  - Heights Seniors' Folio, 2012
  - Heights Vol LIX No 2, 2012
  - Heights Vol LIX No 1, 2011
  - Heights Vol LVIII No 2, 2011
  - Heights Special Folio, 2011
  - Ateneo Heights Artists' Workshop Exhibit, 2010
  - Ateneo Heights Artists' Workshop Exhibit, 2010
  - Ateneo Heights Artists' Workshop Exhibit, 2010
  - Zine (Heights Special Issue), 2010
  - Heights Vol LVIII No 1, 2010
  - Heights Vol LVII No 2, 2009
  - Heights Vol LVI No 3, 2009

Poetry

- Heights Seniors' Folio, 2012
- Heights Vol LIX No 2, 2012
- Poetry, Voices for Peace, 2012
- Poetry, U-Magazine, 2010
- Lyrical Penalty (Anthology), Wordclay Publishing, 2008

Non-fiction

- Stache Magazine, June 2012