

This is Me

Curated by Bong Lozano
Edoweird Gallery
June 27 - August 11, 2026

Aaron Cabangis, Benksy, Blic, Bob Galura, Brisa Amir, Cel Som, Cheese Co, Chno, Christal Cheung, Dan Ariola, Dane Miranda, Denver Garza, Emmanuel, Eva Dulay, Fickle, Gelo Montiero, Gino Abino, Jack Marion, Jan Sunday, Jaret Pinto, Jay Sarmiento, Jazel Villamarin, JellyfishKisses, Jeric Cruz, Jho Co, Jorem Biadoma, JoshSan, Judy Uson, Junjun Sta Ana, Karl Christopher, Kean Mendez, Kirk Dijamco, Lala Montserrat, Li Cabangis, Lizzy Lorenzo, Lorden Jay, Magenta, Mark Salvatus, Melvin Bautista, Miggy Innumerable, Mira Angeles, Nasser Zulueta, Niel Reyes, Omok, Peter Lang, Ralph Barrientos, Ram Deverdera, Rem San Pedro, Rhaye dela Cruz, Selah Vee, Shahani Tania, Tamara Go, Tanya Villanueva, Tekla Tamoria, Tom Russ, Tonette Alban, Tyang Karyel, Wani Pilar, Wika Nadera, Yana Ofracio, Zean Cabangis, Zeus Bascon

For centuries, galleries have mirrored the Cartesian ego—the intellect detaches itself from the body, the earth, and the community to observe, categorize, and master. There is an implied command to conquer in this paradigm: the curator becomes a distant, hyper-critical arbiter, and the artwork is reduced to an object of intellectual extraction or transactional value. We are left with an art scene that is clever and critical, but desperately starved of care.

Marking a profound personal milestone—a transition from a film director to a cultural worker and companion, *This is Me* brings together over sixty artists to celebrate a shared survival. The majority of these participants have navigated the same spaces alongside fellow artists, gallerists, collectors, and the curator, forming connections that began amidst the ambient noise of crowded openings or through random, serendipitous encounters. Central to this exhibition is the curator's slow, deeply compassionate relational practice, not forged through studio visits or institutional networks, but around a table, through the intuitive vocabulary of oracle and tarot readings. To sit across from an artist and lay down cards is to dissolve the traditional boundaries of curator and maker. It is an act of mutual vulnerability which requires a different kind of listening: one that honors the body's wisdom, the validity of intuition, and the quiet anxieties that accompany the creative life.

By acknowledging serendipity as a relational aesthetic, this gathering of cultural practitioners enacts a subtle decolonial pedagogy. It elevates ways of individuating that hyper-rationality has historically dismissed as unintelligible, reclaiming intuition and connection as legitimate modes of being. Spanning painting, sculpture, photography, mixed media, and performance art, the exhibition functions as a configuration of camaraderie: each artist was invited to present a work reflecting how they wish to be seen, whether through a literal self-portrait or a piece that embodies their creative identity. *This is Me* is thus not an assertion of the isolated and the individualistic, but rather, an invitation into a kind of pluriverse—a world where many worlds fit, and where the self is only ever realized through its entanglement with others.

The resulting gathering is a tribute to the diverse ways we create, adapt, and find safety in holding space for one another—we see mentors standing alongside those they have guided, long-standing friendships manifest through aesthetic affinities, and artists challenging their own boundaries. It is an expansive gesture of witnessing: an acknowledgment that our identities are never static, but are constantly co-authored by the people who hold space for us. (**JA Balaguer**)