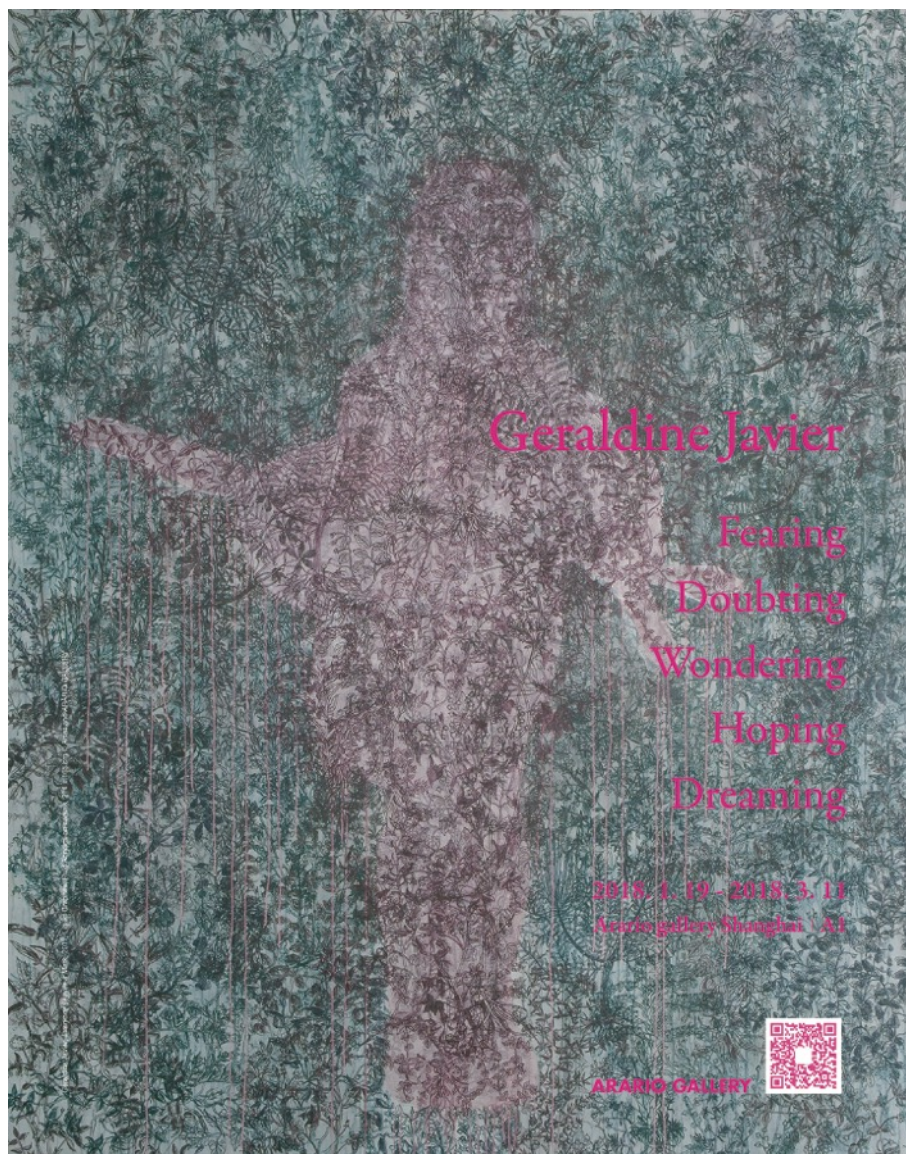


**ARARIO GALLERY SHANGHAI | 阿拉里奥上海**

**GERALDINE JAVIER | FEARING, DOUBTING, WONDERING, HOPING, DREAMING**



ARARIO GALLERY SHANGHAI is pleased to announce the opening of first solo exhibition of Geraldine Javier, *FEARING, DOUBTING, WONDERING, HOPING, DREAMING*, on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**Opening Reception:** 2018.1.19 (Fri) 5-7pm

**Duration:** 2018.1.19 (Fri) – 2018.3.11 (Sun)

**Venue:** Arario Gallery Shanghai, 1F, No. 2879 Longteng Avenue, Xuhui District, Shanghai, China

**\* Individual interview upon RSVP**

**\* Artist will present in Shanghai during 2018.1.11 – 2018.1.21**

**About the Exhibition**

Images of flowers and plants fill the large paintings and installations in this exhibition. Seems like a simple attractive scene at the first sight, however, the aesthetics, ideas and emotions involved in Geraldine Javier's works leaves viewers with a sophisticated and complex perception.

The rich and compelling vision of Geraldine Javier (B. 1970, Philippines) makes her recognizable through East Asia artists. In the early years of her career, Geraldine's works often focused on isolated figures, sometimes melancholy or morbid, but often touched with a quirky sense of humour. In recent years, she has started using inks and liquid acrylic rather than oil paint. Increasingly, her interest is in an exploration and experience of color, light and space. She has always made installations in tandem with her paintings and these are now filled with embroideries of plants.

Once she was known as a figurative painter, and recently she is more focusing on the nature. She left the congested metropolis of Manila a few years back to live in the mountains in the south side of the city. There she has built a garden on the edge of the jungle.

This is Geraldine Javier's first solo show in China and the first time that the artist doesn't include figures in her work – though two do appear, like ghosts, as shadows. Instead of this, there are over a thousands of plant studies: Flowers to be painted and formed one over another one on the canvas, with additional washes and marks, which appears to be a cloud of flowers. Meanwhile, in the installations, each plant is embroidered and framed separately. Hanging from the ceiling, these plants seemingly to float in the air and eventually shape themselves to a form of clouds.

These works are beautiful. There are so many details and crafts to delight in. But, despite the presence of diversified plants, rather than traditional flower paintings, Geraldine's works are more like abstract paintings such as Jackson Pollock. They are immersive, especially the installation in which one can enter. One is invited to lose oneself in them, or gain a different sense of being.

In addition, the exhibition also pays homage to two late artists — the Cuban artist Ana Mendiata and the English film-maker Derek Jarman, who have passed away before their time. In their art creation, they both utilize nature and gardens to express a view of the world and a way of living. Geraldine shows her admire via one large painting, which is dedicated to the gardeners of Kabul who even during the civil war risked the flying bullets to nurture and care for their gardens.

These works were made in a world facing ecological crisis devastation; the exhibition is both about our love and need for flowers and plants, and the fear of losing them – that they may float away. The French philosopher Voltaire famously finished his philosophical novel *Candide* with the retort, "let us now cultivate our garden." For him, the garden was not a place to hide and escape reality, but a metaphor for compassion, responsibility and pragmatism – a call to improve his immediate surroundings. The same is true of this exhibition.

Selected Artwork



Geraldine Javier | *To The Gardeners of Kabul* | Fluid Acrylics, Liquid Graphite on Canvas | 243 x 243 cm | 2017

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**About the Artist**

Geraldine Javier was born in 1970, received her B.F.A. from University of the Philippines, Dilman, Philippines, in 1997, and B.S. in Nursing at University of the Philippines, Manila, Philippines in 1991. JAVIER has been exhibiting her works internationally. Her solo exhibitions include *Chapel of Many Saints*, Art Fair Philippines, Makati City, Philippines, 2014; *Beyond the Veil*, ARARIO GALLERY, Seoul, Korea, 2013; *Curiosities*, Jorge B. Vagas Museum, Dilman, Quezon City, Philippines, 2013; *Project Room 1*, Gillman Barracks, Singapore, 2012; *Playing God in an Art Lap*, STPI, 2011; *Museum of Many Things*, the Valentine Willie Fine Art, Singapore, Singapore. Her group exhibitions include *Voice of Asia*, ARARIO GALLERY, Shanghai, China, 2017; *Between the Streets and the Mountains: Four Artists from the Philippines*, ARARIO GALLERY, Shanghai, China, 2016; *A Tribute to Reberto Chabet*, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Manila, Philippines, 2013; *Migration Melbourne Edition*, Ormond Hall Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia, 2012; *Thrice Upon A Time : A Century of Story in the Art of the Philippines*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore, Singapore; and she participated at Prague Biennale, Prague, Czech Republic, 2009. In 2003, she was awarded with the “Thirteen Artists Award”, issued by the Cultural Centre of the Philippines (CCP), Manila. Today, she is recognized as a leading figure in contemporary Filipino art both on a local and international level. Her works have been permanently collected by NCCA (National Center for Culture and Arts), Philippines; Central Bank of the Philippines, Philippines; Escuela de Bellas Artes, Philippines; Las Casas De Filipinas De Acuzar, Philippines; Singapore Art Museum, Singapore, and ARARIO MUSEUM, Korea.

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