



CABINETS AND CURIOSITIES

RAI CRUZ

JANUARY 13, 2023

2020 was unlike any other; it will be etched in our collective memory as a time of unprecedented challenges. A pandemic swept across the globe, disrupting lives, economies, and societies in ways we never imagined. A quarantine was implemented, and there was a wave of uncertainty. There was separation, anxiety, and loss.

During the artist's isolation, the exploration of woodworking and carpentry became, to a certain degree, therapy for the artist. This became an opportunity to reflect on ideas about fear, personal growth, and resilience. In addition to this, a question surfaced about the relevance and function of contemporary visual art in a third-world context plagued by a virus. "Cabinets and Curiosities" is a recollection of the artist's experiences, these are then displayed as images on multiple layers of wood assembled and mounted on small cabinets, which the artist made himself.

The fear of getting sick, the unknown nature of the virus, and the potential for serious illness or death were major sources of fear for many. Compounded by the constant changing situation and lack of clear answers, these fueled fear and unease about the future. "Sometimes it Feels Like Drowning" is the feeling of getting overwhelmed by the anxious thoughts.

During long queues in groceries, "Pecking Order: Waiting for My Turn" the image of an anthropomorphized cat casually sipping his drink is the artist, thoughts wandering, contemplating about his position in a society wherein some are more favored. During the uncertainty of the times, the artist wondered, will there still be opportunities? Is art-making really essential? - the same way as food and medicine? Perhaps these questions will linger beyond the extent of the pandemic.

The pandemic's impact on internet usage is undeniable. It highlighted the internet's power to connect people, facilitate work and education, and provide much-needed entertainment. However, there is a dark side to this, "Many Eyes Yet Blind" are the virtual eyes, a monstrous amalgamated beast spawned from the warped reality of social media.

The echo of paths not taken, the ache of chances missed - that is regret. "Looking into the Past, Closed Eyes for the Present" and "Searching for Lost Things" are ponderings of past decisions, which in truth are - irrelevant because those things are already in the past. Despite this, it can still be a compass that can guide us and hopefully, transform us to be better.

VINYL ON VINYL

WWW.VINYLONVINYLGALLERY.COM
INFO@VINYLONVINYLGALLERY.COM

2241 LA FUERZA 1, CHINO ROCES AVENUE
MAKATI, PHILIPPINES 1233



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Rai Cruz

Fire Breathing, 2024

Oil paint, aerosol spray paint, graphite, acrylic paint on layers of wood

20h x 36w x 13d in

50.80h x 91.44w x 33.02d cm

₱ 58,000.00



Rai Cruz

Searching for a Fleeting Flame, 2024

Oil paint, aerosol spray paint, graphite, acrylic paint on layers of wood

17h x 20w x 15.50d in

43.18h x 50.80w x 39.37d cm

₱ 38,000.00



Rai Cruz

Hauntings and Superstitions, 2024

Oil paint, aerosol spray paint, graphite, acrylic paint on layers of wood

26h x 24w x 5d in

66.04h x 60.96w x 12.70d cm

₱ 34,000.00



Rai Cruz

Growing Lost Limbs, 2024

Oil paint, aerosol spray paint, graphite, acrylic paint on layers of wood

12h x 12w x 4.50d in

30.48h x 30.48w x 11.43d cm

₱ 20,000.00



Rai Cruz

Intermittent Metamorphosis, 2024

Oil paint, aerosol spray paint, graphite, acrylic paint on layers of wood

12h x 12w x 4.50d in

30.48h x 30.48w x 11.43d cm

₱ 20,000.00



Rai Cruz

Searching for Lost Things, 2024

Oil paint, aerosol spray paint, graphite, acrylic paint on layers of wood

12h x 12w x 4.50d in

30.48h x 30.48w x 11.43d cm

₱ 20,000.00



Rai Cruz

Sometimes it Feels Like Drowning, 2024

Oil paint, aerosol spray paint, graphite, acrylic paint on layers of cut wood

12h x 12w x 4.50d in

30.48h x 30.48w x 11.43d cm

₱ 20,000.00



Rai Cruz

So Many Eyes, Yet So Blind, 2024

Oil paint, aerosol spray paint, graphite, acrylic paint on layers of cut wood

15.50h x 18w x 17d in

39.37h x 45.72w x 43.18d cm

₱ 38,000.00



Rai Cruz

Loyal to a Slow and Painful Bloom, 2024

Oil paint, aerosol spray paint, graphite, acrylic paint on layers of cut wood

15.50h x 18w x 4.50d in

39.37h x 45.72w x 11.43d cm

₱ 32,000.00



Rai Cruz

Looking into the Past, Closed Eyes for the Present, 2024

Oil paint, aerosol spray paint, graphite, acrylic paint on layers of cut wood

29h x 24w x 5d in

73.66h x 60.96w x 12.70d cm

₱ 34,000.00



Rai Cruz

Pecking Order: Waiting for My Turn, 2024

Oil paint, aerosol spray paint, graphite, acrylic paint on layers of cut wood

15.50h x 18w x 4.50d in

39.37h x 45.72w x 11.43d cm

₱ 32,000.00