

For Immediate Release

**Albertz Benda Presents
Jigger Cruz: *Picture Towards the Other Side***

**On view March 15 – April 21, 2018
515 West 26th Street
New York, NY 10001**

**Opening Reception:
March 15, 6-8pm**



The Exploration of Alibis, 2018. Oil on canvas.
60 x 54 inches (152.5 x 137 cm)



The Physical Embodiment of A Misunderstanding, 2018 Oil on canvas
40 x 30 inches (101.8 x 76.5 cm)

February 7, 2018, New York, NY - Albertz Benda is pleased to present Jigger Cruz: *Picture Towards the Other Side*, the Filipino artist's first major solo show in the United States. The exhibition follows his successful January 2016 showing in the gallery's project space.

The exhibition is comprised of Cruz's largest and most ambitious works to date, inspired by the both the political and social forces driving daily life in the Philippines as well as the quotidian objects that shape the artist's life Manila.

Cruz's oeuvre is characterized by the highly physical application of materials: bold marks made with pigment and tubes of oil paint, scissor gouges in the canvas and streaks of bright spray paint that blur distinctions between abstraction and figuration, painting and sculpture.

While in the past he has begun his compositions with figurative landscapes and portraits that he subsequently obscures with swathes of paint, he has reversed and expanded upon this process in the new work. Beginning with an abstract composition, he applies thick layers of oil pigment that develop into forms of flower vases, seated figures, and colorful interiors.

The theme of reversal or inversion is reiterated in the content of the work. *The Outside Life Inside Parisian Life* is a reinterpretation of Filipino painter and revolutionary activist Juan Luna's 1892 piece *The Parisian Life*, in which the silhouette of a female figure's skirt follows a mirror-image of the archipelago of the Philippines.

albertz benda

515 w 26th st | new york, ny | 10001
tel 212.244.2579 | www.albertzbenda.com

In referencing this work, Cruz addresses the legacies of colonialism in the Philippines and the frustrated prospects of future generations. He expresses simultaneously his disillusionment with the current state of affairs while contributing his own celebration of color, chaos, and texture. *The Exploration of Alibis*, depicting a ponderous figure sagging in a chair, reiterates the artist's sense of listlessness, this time featuring a contemporary sitter.

In the still lifes and interiors such as *Formless State of Distortion* and *The World of Bits and Pieces*, the physicality of Cruz's process is palpable in the sculptural quality of the paint. The expressive streaks, smudges, and clots of paint are the products of a highly performative practice.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jigger Cruz (Filipino, b. 1984) lives and works in Manila, Philippines. Cruz studied Fine Arts at the Far Eastern University in the Philippines and Design at De La Salle-College of St. Benilde. He has exhibited widely throughout the Philippines and internationally, including "Southeast Asian Abstraction: A New Dialogue," at Sotheby's Singapore and "A Book About Death" at the Emily Harvey Space, New York, NY.

His work can be found in several international collections, among them The Pinto Art Museum, Manila, PH; Saatchi Collection, London, UK; the Tiroche DeLeon Collection, Tel Aviv, IL; and the Zabłudowicz Collection, London, UK.

Media Contacts

For further information, images or to arrange interviews, members of the media may contact:

David Simanotv
Blue Medium, Inc.
+1 (212) 675-1800
david@bluemedium.com

albertz benda

515 w 26th st | new york, ny | 10001
tel 212.244.2579 | www.albertzbenda.com