



AROUND STAIRWAY



The images featured in Around Stairway speak volumes. Their silent presence tells stories of hope, community, peace, and justice. The community quarantine and ensuing lockdown during the pandemic's early days hushed our lives and helped us recalibrate our senses.

New opportunities to embrace nature through her soothing sights and sounds presented themselves. Our little paradise at Stairway, home to 13 boys under the Family Home Program, learned photography. Through the camera lens, the children captured beauty, emotion, color, and depth. An inspiring feat, each perspective elevates the senses and documents this unprecedented time within Stairway.

Thank you to Allesandro Brasile, who chose to teach the Stairway boys the art of photography and chess. We are grateful for your commitment. We value your family and you.

Enjoy this gift, borne of the unexpected. Around Stairway invites you to relax and reflect on nature and the power of imagination.

Monica D. Ray
Creative Director, Stairway Foundation, Inc

Children at Stairway are in a journey of establishing harmonious relations with the world, with nature and society. Along this journey, it is of primary importance that they also make sense of their relations with the images. Which images do we store in our memory, and what can they generate? Which are the neurological mechanisms of vision? How do you build a discourse through images, in reciprocity with the surroundings? These are some of the questions we paid attention to during the photography workshop, both in the collective and in the individual sessions.

The COVID-19 constrictions have undoubtedly weighed on what meaning could be generated by these gazes, but only insofar as it hasn't been possible to picture the sea, merely two hundred meters away from the main gate of Stairway Foundation. Far from being a major disturbance, though, this has perhaps even further strengthened searches and gazes that tell about distance, presence and the infinite...making even more manifest the notion that photographic images are not reality but a representation of it. Besides nature reminding everywhere in the world its very own specificity, made also of viruses, there is an event to celebrate: thirty years of Stairway. I have been here for three months, I am part of the celebration, invited to participate just like the children who have been living here for nine months. This is a place of the soul before being a physical place. How do you describe Stairway then?

A simple question, asked to each of the workshop's participants: which is your favourite place in Stairway? The answers came through intuition, proximity and by chance. It wasn't important to give them in any specific order. All were useful to take a few steps towards a destination, talk while going there, and explore once we got there. Exploring visions, observing with the pleasure of discovering one's self besides the place, a way of

inhabiting, a disposition to listening.

Habit, even the best of habits, makes us "blind", accustomed; it leads us to inhabit without looking nor paying attention. A cloud passing by today and that will never pass by with the same shape. A flower, many flowers.

A theatre and a bakery, a globe, a net, a border and a guitar, and much else.

Everything

these images present has a measure different from the copy. No two hearts are the same; each soul is here for itself and for everybody, gathered in an open stay of presence inside and around Stairway.

Alessandro Brasile, Puerto Galera, Philippines, 26th May 2020

AROUND STAIRWAY

a photographyc exhibition by

ALEX MARQUEZ
ASIA AREVALO
CARLO ABANTA
DEXTER CUNANAN
JEFFREY CASTILLO
JM KENNETH ASIS
JOHNMARK OROPESA
JOHN PHILIP DELA CRUZ
KENNETH OPTO
NORA KA' NHAI BRASILE
ROMMEL CANTARA
ROMMEL CUER
SHINICHI FUNAYAMA
SYMON ALCOBER
XJ LUTAP

Stairway founders

Monica D. Ray
Lars C. Jorgensen

Coordinator project

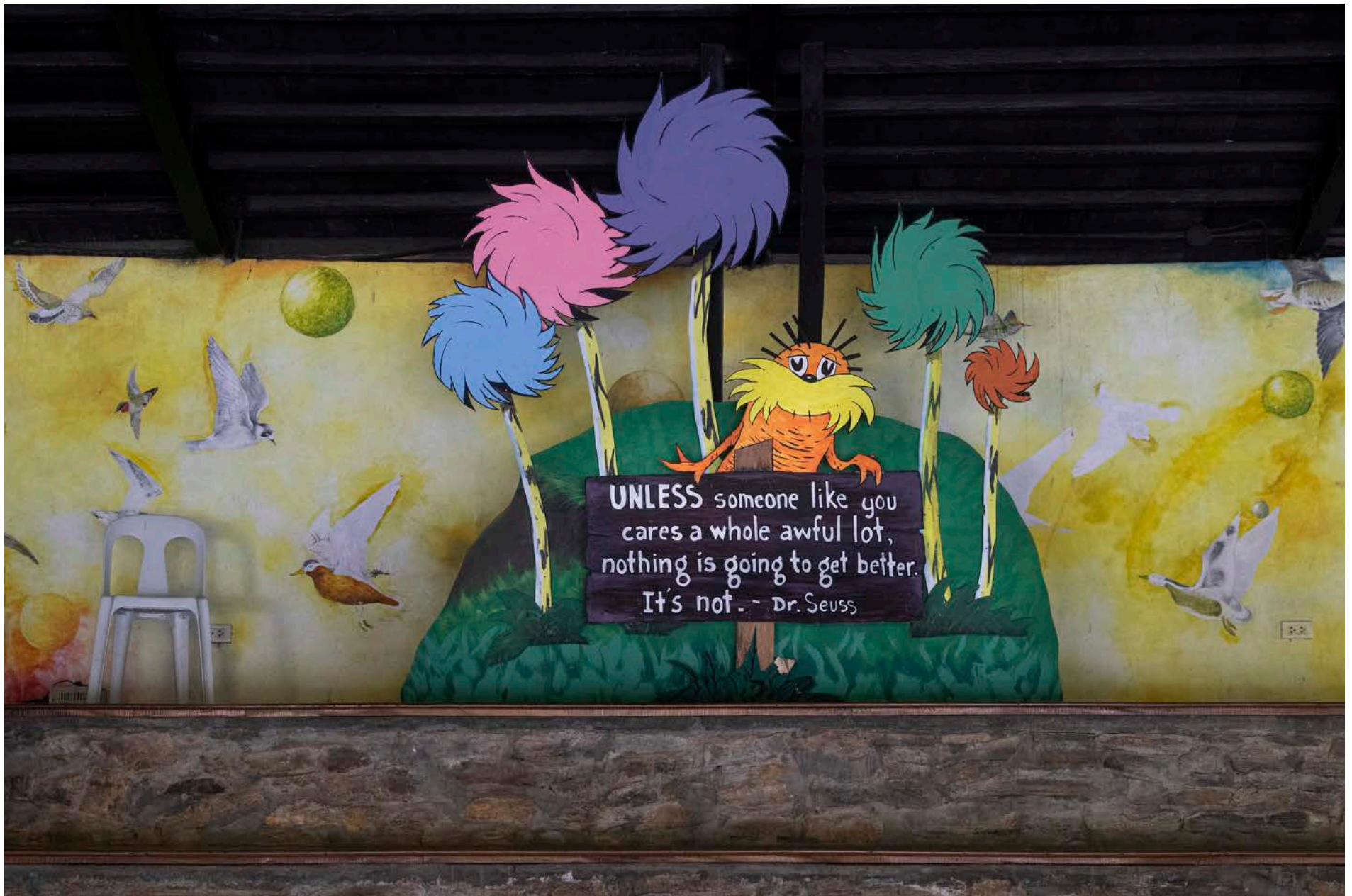
Alessandro Brasile

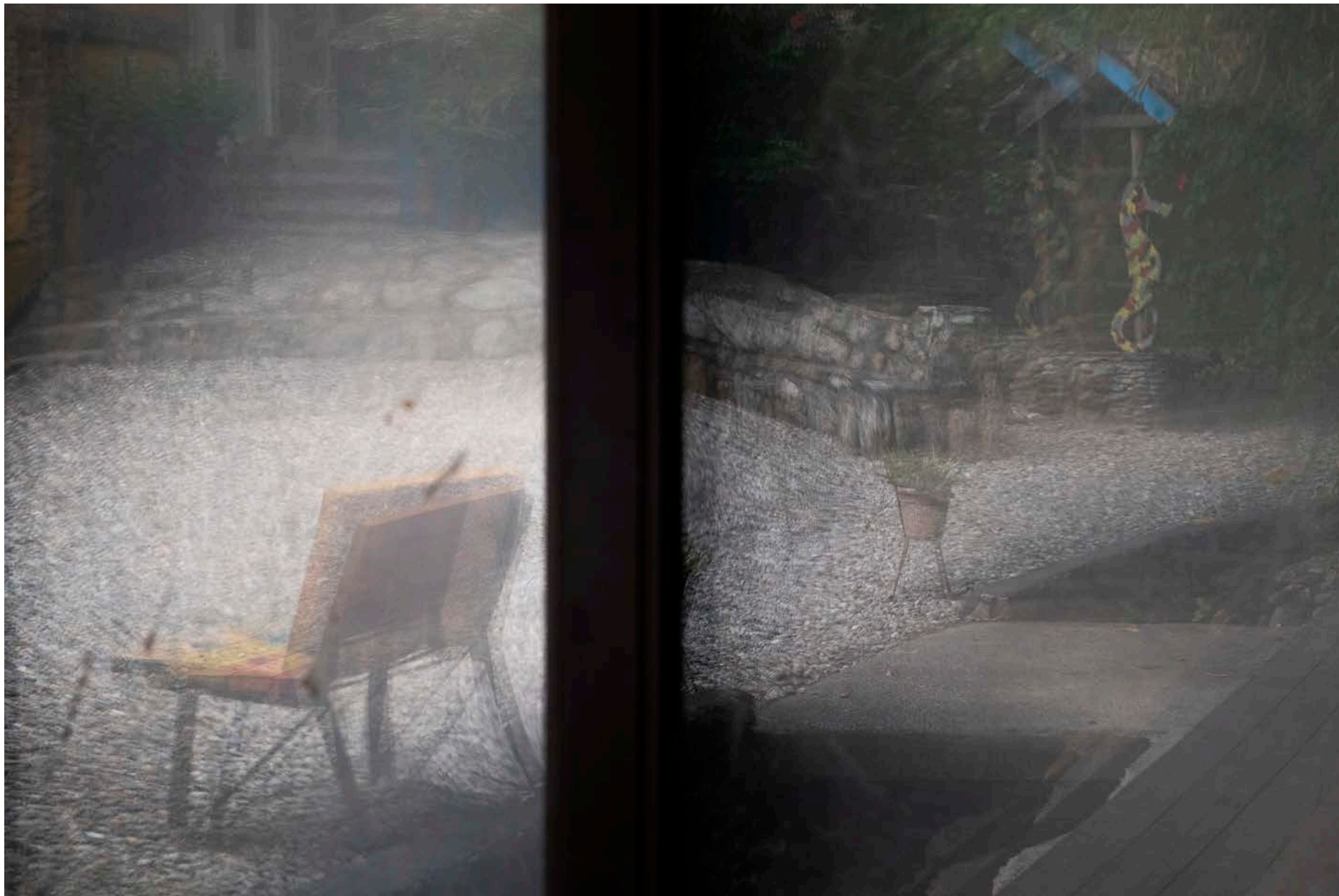
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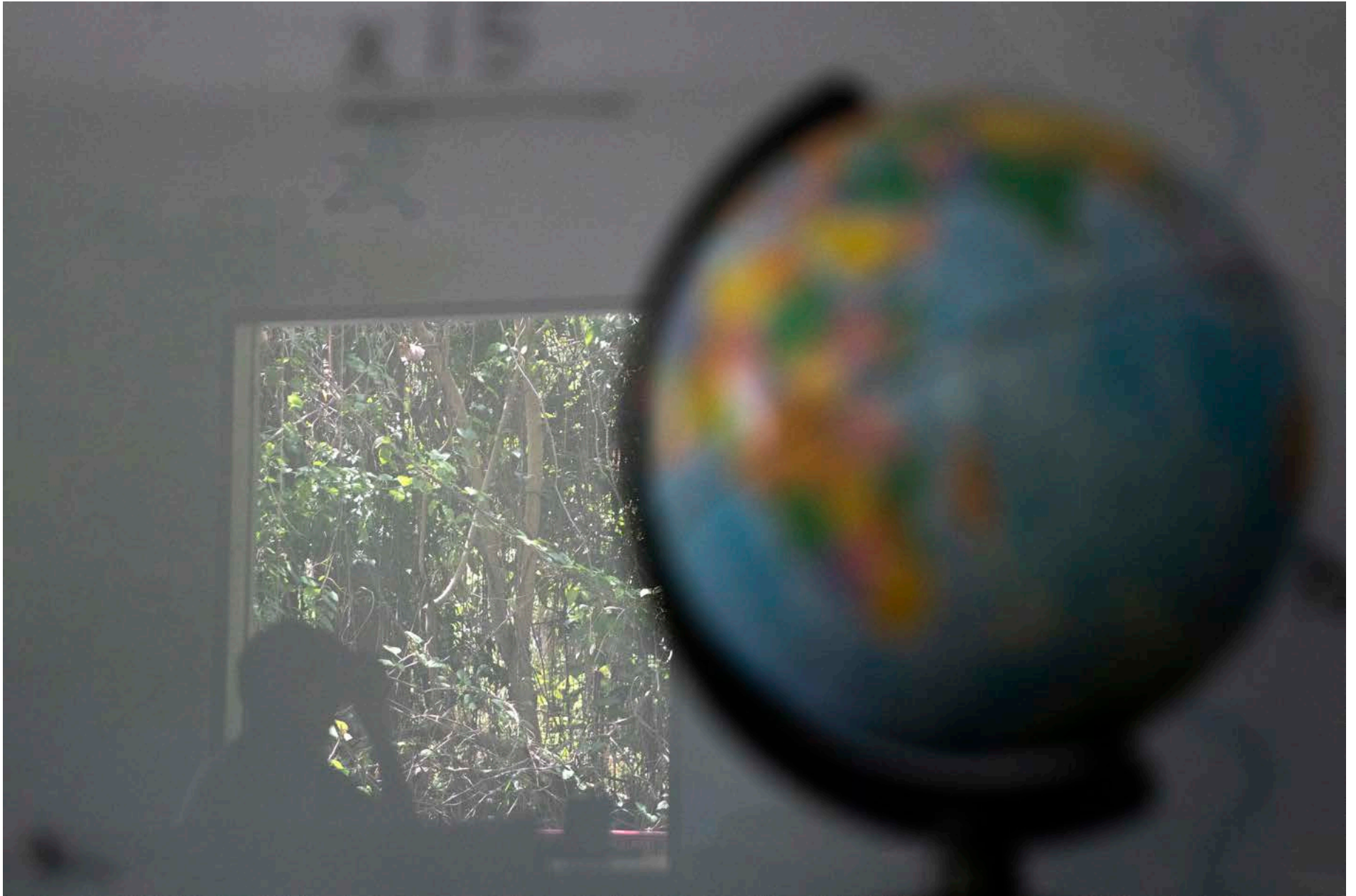
Donnalyne Uanan Baccay-Agbing
Daphne
Monic Amboy
Kath S Valdez
Susan Serafico
Rose Angelie Arevalo
Annaliza Candia
Lee Ann Medrano
Chiara K Cattaneo
Pia Alkærsig Larsen
Jhonnie Arevalo
Jhao P. Gutierrez
Magnus Peterson
Rasmus Pedersen

AROUND STAIRWAY

















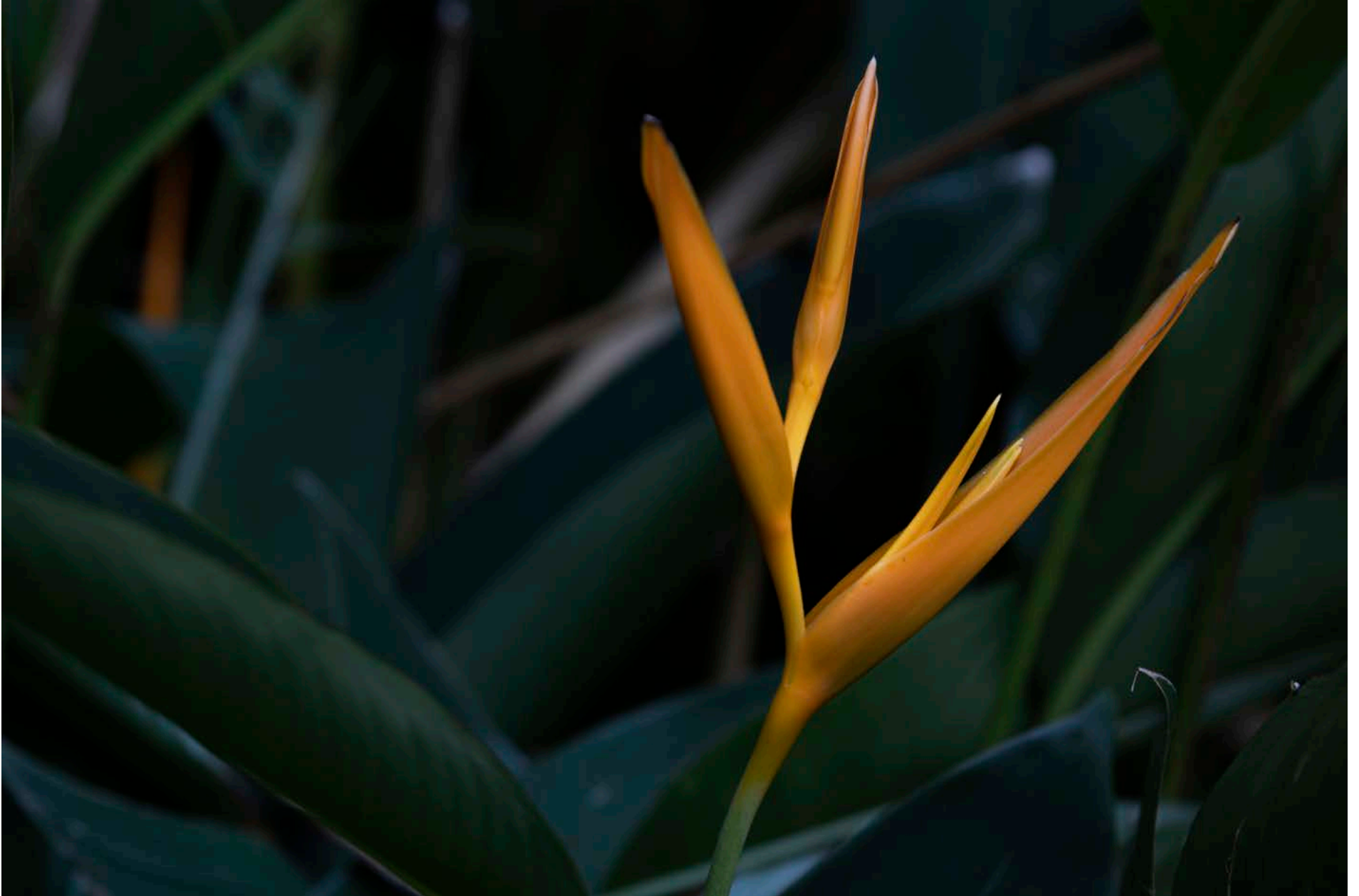




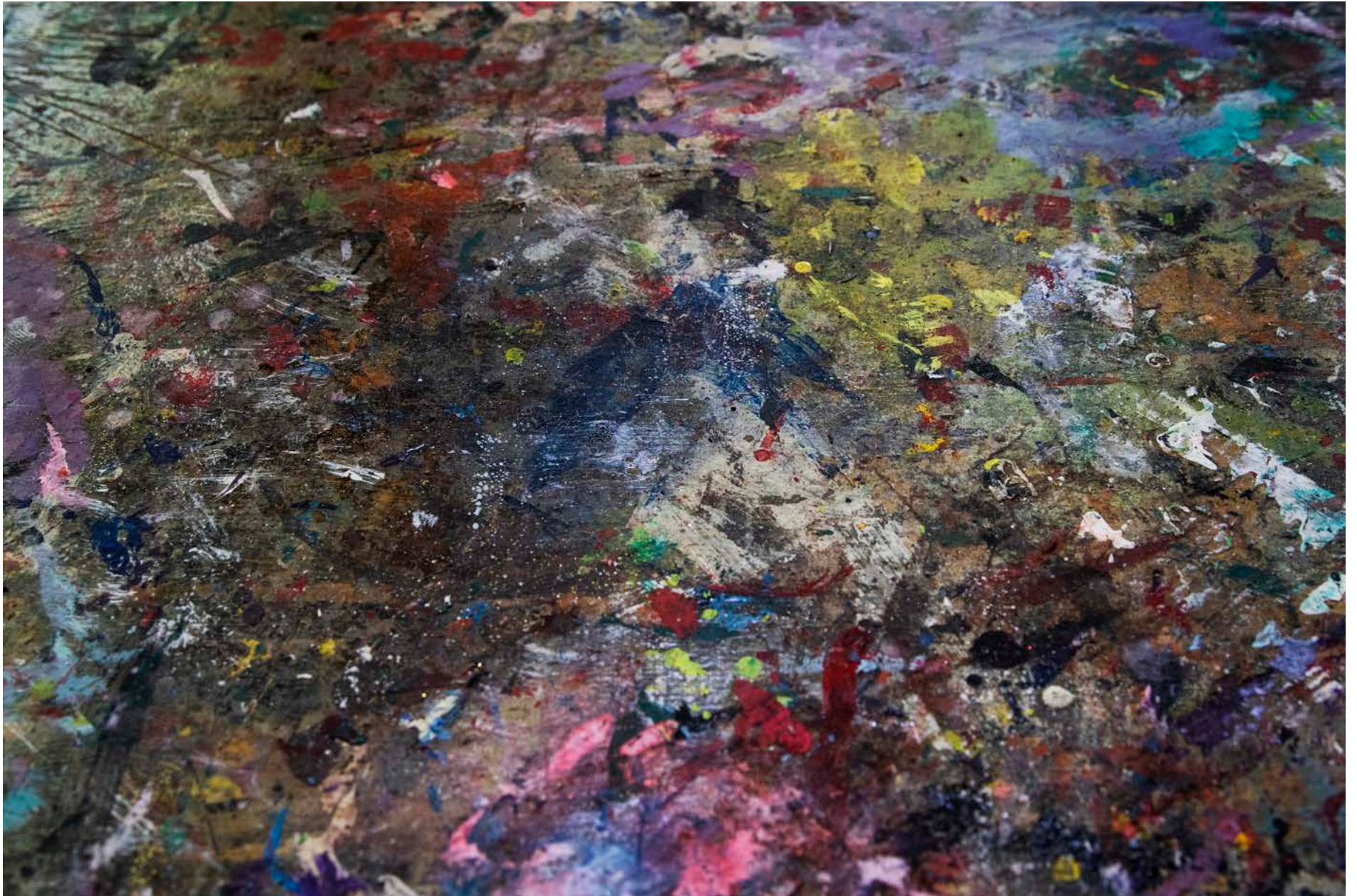










































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The Lorax is such a good thing, and beside the Lorax there is a chair but no person.
But I imagine there is a person, and I see the word 'Imagine' made of rocks.
The stage is a good place because if you're sad, you can stay on the stage.
The stage has its imagination.

XJ LUTAP



Reflection allows you to see yourself in anything, like a mirror.
It is for you to see your face when you wake up in the morning.

JOHNMARK OROPESA



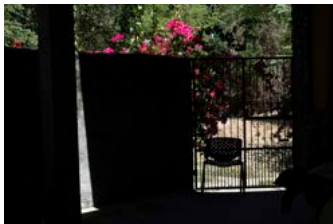
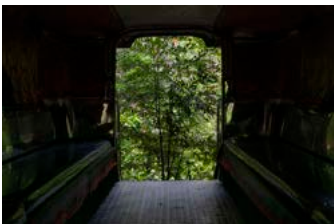
You can play in the hut, strum the guitar and get some rest.
You can also have a good chat and play chess in the hut.

CARLO ABANTA



To learn is the key to a lot of things you need.
But in order to learn, you should learn to listen to the people who teach you.
It is for you to have something you can use in the future.

SYMON ALCOBER



For the protection of all people who are important to me, having limitation will give them safety.
I also need a right border or limitation so I will be saved from wrong doings.

ROMMEL CANTARA



I see everything that is white and blue, fantastic things.
Dark or light is great, there are fantasies emerging from these pictures.
Life, joy, or everything that is good make you better.
SHINICHI FUNAYAMA



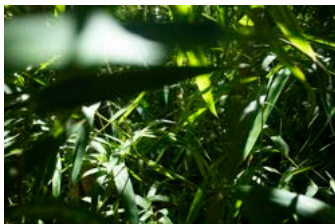
The pictures I took are flowers with different colours and forms.
I like flowers because they are beautiful.
I feel happy capturing them.
KENNETH OPTO



I can see in the table different images that I did not see the first time I saw it.
It is like a history of accident painting on that table.
A history of different images in one place.
ALEX MARQUEZ



Vegetables garden.
ASIA AREVALO



Going up. What does it mean?
For me, going up means reaching a goal, crossing a finishing line, and going beyond.
Going up means reaching another level, and then another. Doing something, and then something more difficult. Sometimes I go up until reach the sky.
NORA KA' NHAÍ BRASILE



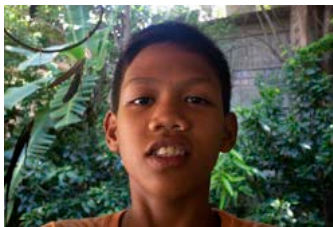
Small trees are wonderful things in the world.
They give air and food so people and animals can eat.
They also help people, animals and others.
ROMMEL CUER



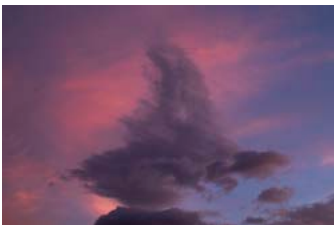
Rest is a way to replenish our energy and to start a new day.
Rest is what we need when we are tired.
You will take a rest, but you will not stop.
JEFFREY CASTILLO



On a closer look, you can see the map of an island. But if you will look at it from a little farther, you will never expect that it is only a court.
Sometimes our view about things differs depending on how near or far we look at them.
JOHN PHILIP DELA CRUZ



The photos show a group of kids. Deep in thought.
Maybe they are thinking about the challenges they are facing or about their dreams.
JM KENNETH ASIS



My pictures show different clouds.
The cloud is free in the sky. It can go around the Earth and it can take up any form it wants.
Just like the clouds, I want to become free in achieving my dream.
DEXTER CUNANAN



AROUND STAIRWAY was awarded an Honorable mention in the photography category
 at the international art competition *Covid 19 Politics in Art*
 organized by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and Human Art Dialogue NGO.

