

Galicano Perry O. Argel (b. 1957)

Perry Argel makes obsolete the very thought of obsolete. He describes himself as a functioning organism, clearing and fixing the space around him to reveal the purity of nature. In every assemblage, Argel presents different specimens linked to society's overall concept of what is and is no longer useful. His exhibitions include Anythink in Berlin (1996), Business of Fools in Babe, Germany (1996), and The Ritual of Daily Living at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (2004). His body of works includes interactive public art installations and eco-didactic structures. His tendency to create spontaneously with spaces, be they museums or unknown urban streets, has made documenting his past works challenging. Nevertheless, his artistry remains unaverred. He was recently featured during the Art Fair Philippines in The Link, Makati City (2020).

As a child, Argel would watch in awesome wonder how seeds or cuttings grow and transform, to bear colorful flowers and fruits, mainly from a garden his mother tended. "It was then that my sense of responsibility toward maintaining the balance of things around me prompted an inner desire to create- to let beauty flow," says the artist. This paved way for his "ritual of the daily living" philosophy and art practice.

Argel's contribution for [VIVA ExCon 2020] Kalibutan titled Ilistaran (Dwelling Place) concentrates on the artist's house as a intertwined idea of form and space. The artist's abode is intricately built with found objects that have been collected over decades of mindful travels and natural encounters. Ilistaran attempts to emphasize the direct causal connecting principle of Argel's creativism with nature. It probes the reciprocity of how he lives, where he lives; examining the artist's house including all the elements within it as one inseparable form of art, a synthesis of "being" and "doing."