



Ashmolean NOW: Pio Abad

Lena Fritsch

Pio Abad

Dan Hicks

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- First Oxford show for Pio Abad
- Inspiration for the art includes Benin bronzes, and discussed by Dan Hicks (author of *The British Museum*)
- Published to accompany an exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum from 9 February to 8 September, 2024, which was shortlisted for the 2024 Turner Prize, and moved to Tate Britain, running until February 2025

Pio Abad's artistic practice is concerned with the personal and political entanglements of objects. His wide-ranging body of work, encompassing drawing, painting, textiles, installation and text, mines alternative or repressed historical events and offers counternarratives that draw out threads of complicity between incidents, ideologies and people. Deeply informed by unfolding events in the Philippines, where the artist was born and raised, his work emanates from a family narrative woven into the nation's story. Abad's parents were at the forefront of the anti-dictatorship struggle in the Philippines during the 1970s and 80s and it is the need to remember this history that has shaped the foundations of his work.

This beautifully designed book accompanies the Ashmolean Museum's second exhibition of its new *Ashmolean NOW* series, featuring the work of Pio Abad. Abad's artistic practice is concerned with the personal and political entanglements of objects. His wide-ranging body of work, which includes drawing, painting, installation, textiles and text, mines alternative or repressed historical events, offering counternarratives. Abad's new works link narratives found in the Museum's collections and Oxford with his personal life in the UK and Philippines, where the artist was born and raised. The book features a new text by Abad and contributions by art historical experts including Dan Hicks.

Pio Abad (b. 1983, Manila, lives and works in London) began his art studies at the University of the Philippines before receiving a BA from Glasgow School of Art and an MA from the Royal Academy Schools, London. He has exhibited at Centre for Contemporary Arts Glasgow; Gasworks, London; Whitechapel Gallery, London; Mackintosh Museum, Glasgow; EVA International Biennial, Limerick; Kadist, Paris; e-flux, New York City; Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong; Para Site, Hong Kong; 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney; and the Museum of Contemporary Art and Design (MCAD) Manila.

