

# THE UNIFIEDFIELD NOMADIC ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM IN THE PHILIPPINES

#27 Galaxy St. GSIS Heights, Matina. Davao City, The Philippines.  
www.tufnomadicaiph.org - tufnomadicaiph@gmail.com

## **\* ONGOING OPEN CALL for 2017/ 2018.**

The Unifiedfield Nomadic Artist-in-Residence Program in The Philippines was initiated in 2013 and is currently working in collaboration with Balud Art Network.

Access to The Unifiedfield's Nomadic Artist-In-Residence program in The Philippines is open to all artists, filmmakers, musicians, writers and curators without restriction, but priority will be given to artists working on environmental and relational, site-specific projects on the experimental and interdisciplinary fringes.

The Unifiedfield will select the most interesting proposals, in terms of social and artistic interest, from the total number of applications. For artists who apply, this is a production-based residency where The Unifiedfield will assist the participants in the development of a new project or the continuation of an existing one in various regions of The Philippines. Please check at the end of this document some of the locations and the communities we have engaged with. We are currently expanding our network and other emplacements can be proposed, depending on the nature of the selected projects.

The Unifiedfield is an independent non-profit artist-run organization with no external funding. To cover the residency expenses we charge a residency fee (please note that we do not accept self-funded artists). The Unifiedfield can assist the artists with letters of invitation to enable to raise funds to cover the residency as well as the artist's production costs, living and travel expenses, etc. [Some of the participating artists-in-residence have been supported by their national funding bodies: Singapore National Arts Council, Singapore International Foundation, Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan, Danish Arts Foundation, Stroom Den Haag, Mondriaan Fund, The Japan Foundation Asia Center Fellowship Program, BMUKK, NÖ Kultur, and Austrian Embassy Manila]. The amount will vary depending on the project and travel costs of the nomadic residency. The Unifiedfield will design an itinerary and budget / week / person including: accommodation, meals, transport within The Philippines, interpreter, guide, assistance in the pre-production and realization of the projects, documentation and organization of several events for diffusion of the projects. The residency fees will also contribute to the sustainability and continuation of The Unifiedfield Artist-in-Residence Program in the future since we are planning to grant two local artists a year.

Genuinely attentive to the artists' needs, The Unifiedfield remains flexible, and if the occasion arises where a larger space is required for a certain event, The Unifiedfield can collaborate locally and internationally with other art spaces and institutions. Eventually, if circumstances allow and under the discretion of The Unifiedfield, we can organize several other presentations for further promotion of the artists.

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**+ INFO:** Working in the Philippines has provided the residency program with linkages to various communities, mostly in Visayas and Mindanao, which is beneficial to its nomadic program design. Depending on the needs of the artists' proposals, they are provided access to two or three areas, where they can work with not only institutions and art spaces, but communities ideal for the implementation of their projects. The residency program managers then act as mediators and facilitators of partnerships between the communities and the artists, encouraging the seeds for collaboration, and for community projects to be developed during the residencies.

The artists-in-residence are given unique opportunities for cultural immersions as they live in homestays in communities in a given period of time, from one week to one month. For the duration of the residency in each community, the host family, as well as the community elders and leaders are consulted with the development of residency projects, thus providing guidance to the artists and residency managers, and opening areas for collaboration.

Throughout its early years, The Unifiedfield Nomadic AiR Program in the Philippines has also worked on building a seed money to grant local artists opportunities to participate in its residency program. It is set to grant its second batch of local artists in 2017. With an expanding program, The Unifiedfield Nomadic AiR Program in the Philippines continues to create more linkages with institutions, art spaces, and organizations around the Philippines and abroad, to garner more avenues for the support and diffusion of its projects and artists residencies.

## WHO WE ARE

**Marta Moreno Muñoz** is a Spanish performance and video artist with a background in experimental theatre and other time-based arts. She is at present in a transitional stage, shifting towards the conceptualization of larger-scale projects exploring the complex interchange between performance art and cinematic language. Currently nomadic, she is working on personal art projects, researching for her PhD Thesis "Art as an Experience of Dissolution of the Self" and directing The Unifiedfield; Marta Moreno has lived, produced and engaged in artistic works in Spain, UK, Turkey, India, The Netherlands, Indonesia, Singapore, The Philippines and exhibited internationally.

**Angely Chi** is a Filipino artist and writer. Together with Marta Moreno Muñoz, she co-directs The Unifiedfield Nomadic Artist-in-Residence Program in The Philippines. Chi has been organizing small, independently-funded multimedia events and initiatives in Davao since 2009.

**Melissa Claire Barrera** graduated cum laude with a degree in Communication Arts from the University of the Philippines in Mindanao. She is also an activist with pro-people stand on social issues and currently organizing several community events; she was the head organizer for the first ever city-proper Pride March in Davao. Melissa is the new project assistant for The Unifiedfield Nomadic Artist-in-Residence Program in the Philippines.

**RAM Botero** is a self-taught visual artist and gender activist from Compostela Valley Province. She studied in the University of the Philippines in Mindanao under the Communication Arts program. RAM previously worked for an environmental NGO, BAN Toxics!, as a community organizer in Mt. Diwata, Compostela Valley and T'boli, South Cotabato. Both are the biggest mining areas in the Philippines. She is also apprenticing and assisting artists both local and foreign for The Unifiedfield Nomadic AIR Program in The Philippines and Rm. 74 in Davao City.

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## **SOME OF THE COMMUNITIES WE HAVE ENGAGED WITH [PAST PROJECTS]**

### **-Secret island in Surigao del Sur**

This small island off the coast of Surigao del Sur (Mindanao, Philippines) is home to a protected marine sanctuary and about a hundred residents. A side of it faces the Pacific Ocean, indeed a natural paradise. The local population live with little electricity, supplied by a few solar panels, and earn their living through fishing, copra production, and banca-making. Life can be hard on the island for the fisherfolk during the monsoon months, and they wait out the days and weeks of heavy rains, strong winds, and huge waves, subsisting on fish caught near shore, shells, kulo (breadfruit), and supplies from the mainland. But during summer, they enjoy the bountiful harvest from the seas including bangsi (flying fish), and bolinaw. Swells from the Pacific Ocean have made some spots on the island ideal for surfing, and have attracted several local and foreign surfers over the years, in the process influencing the island's youth to take up the sport. The older locals would sometimes spend time watching local and visiting surfers on the waves.

On the island there are no cars, guesthouses, or restaurants. The Unifiedfield arranged a home stay for artists-in-residence with a fisherfolk family. Artists had their private bedroom and some other open communal places that shared with the members of the family and The Unifiedfield team.

### **-Bajau community in Matina Aplaya**

Sama-Bajau have sometimes been called the "Sea Gypsies" or "Sea Nomads". The Bajau settlement in Seaside II, Matina Aplaya, Davao City is home to more than 200 Bajau displaced residents. The Bajaus living in the Matina Aplaya settlement are emigrants from Zamboanga, which they fled from because of the presence of sea pirates in their fishing grounds, and other conflict issues. In Davao, they were adopted by a pastor, who helped them establish a settlement on a patch of beach on the Matina Aplaya coast. A significant number of the Bajaus still practice free diving and spearfishing but only a few now own boats. Others have taken alternative trades to earn a living such as selling second-hand shoes and clothes (to non-Bajaus), and selling food albeit mostly towards their own. This particular Bajau community has a SEC-registered organization called The Bajao Association, which is affiliated with local and international organizations. The community and its association have hosted both local and foreign researchers and language students who are learning the Bajau's native language Sinama.

### **-Batug, Leyte**

Batug is a remote rural barangay in the municipality of Dulag, Leyte in Eastern Visayas. It is home to more than 400 residents whose major source of livelihood are farming and copra production. But the 2013 Typhoon Yolanda destroyed most of their coconut trees, which lessened the production of copra and other coconut-related industries. A concerted effort with local NGOs, the Barangay Local Government Unit (BLGU), and the international organization Earthship Biotecture in 2013-14 led to the building of a disaster resilient Windship in Barangay Batug in 2014. The Windship became the venue of a workshop by The Unifiedfield's artist-in-residence Stine Gro in April 2015.

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## THE UNIFIEDFIELD

The Unifiedfield is an independent art space and artist-run organisation focusing on the experimental aspects of sound, video and performance art. It previously occupied a traditional complex amongst rice fields in Yogyakarta (Indonesia), subsequently moving into a cave in Granada (Spain) before settling in an antique building nestled in Granada's historical Moorish quarters, the Albayzin, where it ran an artist residency for three years. In 2013, The Unifiedfield initiated its Nomadic Artist-in-Residence Program in The Philippines; this residency is currently working in partnership with the Balud Art Network, a program under SwitoTwins, a SEC-registered social enterprise in the Philippines.

Since its inception in 2009, some of the primary interests of The Unifiedfield have been the production and diffusion of new interdisciplinary and non-commercial forms of art, together with the creation of artistic exchanges between Asia and Europe. In this time, it has organized monthly video art screenings and experimental music concerts; produced site-specific works and held clandestine interventions in public spaces; initiated two Artist-In-Residence programmes; conducted workshops on performance and sound art; curated and exhibited at art institutions such as Nikolaj Kunsthallen (Copenhagen), the Museum Of Contemporary Art (Taipei), The Substation (Singapore), and the Singapore Art Museum; presented experimental music from Singapore at the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao as part of a fringe festival; produced The Future Sounds Of Folk, a project that attempts to use diverse musical traditions of Indonesia as a starting point for the development of new amalgams of experimental music, in partnership with Amsterdam-based institution STEIM.

Cultural activities organized by The Unifiedfield have educational, social, and environmental awareness dimensions. At present we plan to reclaim the cave we bought in Granada for its rehabilitation as housing, experimental art space, and international artist residency focusing on sustainability and relational art / social art projects with the community of San Miguel Alto- Sacromonte. We are also starting a community garden with Granada en Transición -In addition, this land lot will work as a space for gathering and a place to conduct permaculture workshops to children and adults. In this new stage we hope to establish alliances and partnerships with like-minded people and groups working towards the experimentation in the arts and the cultural and eco-social transformation.

The Unifiedfield / el campo unificado is about to launch its third residency program and the first edition of an annual arts festival in Castellar de la Frontera, Cádiz (Spain). In November 2017, six international artists will coincide in a beautiful Andalusian home at a medieval fortress in the heart of Los Alcornocales Natural Park. For this program, artists are invited to work out of their comfort zone to experiment with collaborative processes and ephemeral interventions in the village and the natural surroundings.

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## HOW TO APPLY

Interested parties please submit the following documents in a single PDF: info[at]theunifiedfield[dot]org with the subject header [TUF NOMADIC AIR Application Philippines(Name Of Applicant)] :

- a short text with the project proposal to be developed during the period of the art residency.
- a short text explaining how you think The Unifiedfield residency program could benefit your art-practice and how your project could benefit the local communities.
- what are your expectations and motivations.
- your bio/cv.
- artist statement.
- links to your website, projects, videos, etc...
- preferred period for the residency (please give 3 options in order of preference).

Next deadlines: 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017/ 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 / 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

We accept individual and group applications. Successful applicants will be informed by email and will subsequently be advised on funding procedures.

Apply now! For more information, contact us at: [tufnomadicaiph@gmail.com](mailto:tufnomadicaiph@gmail.com)

Thank you very much in advance for your interest and we look forward to receiving your applications!

The Unifiedfield Team.

\* **For pictures and info about past residency projects, check also our [Facebook page](#) / [Instagram](#)!**