



THIS IS

# RESEARCH

Image Artwork: "Balikbayan Bakla Maya" Translation: "Return to the Country Queer Bird" (2016-2018, Koffler Gallery, UWAG, The Window Gallery YYZ) Medium: Homonormative Gay Porn Images, Artists Finger Nails, Whitewashed Birdcage & Balikbayan Box.

Image Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid

## Erasing a Country: An On-Going Series of Research

Julius Poncelet Manapul, Assistant Professor & Associate Chair of Contemporary Drawing & Painting, Faculty of Art.

Julius' work and research address eternal displacement through themes of colonialism, sexual identity, diasporic bodies, global identity construction, and the Eurocentric Western hegemony. It focuses on the hybrid nature of Filipino culture after colonialism and the gaze of queer identities as taxonomy. Hybrid images question the problematic side of queer communities that uphold homonormativity through whitewashing and internalized racism, which challenge forms of oppression.

Excavating their experience of immigration and assimilation through cultural erasure. Their research looks at the narratives for many diasporic queer bodies that create an unattainable imagined space of lost countries and domestic belongings through colonial pedagogy of knowledge and globalized imperial power.

A migrant Filipino artist from the Ilocano Tribe descendant, with Spanish heritage and Native American ancestry of the Cherokee Indigenous tribe from the US. Julius is a descendant relative of Maria Josefa Gabriela Carino de Siang, known as an anti-colonial fighter during the 18th-century Spanish rule over the Philippines, the first female leader of a Filipino movement for independence from Spain.

This research was supported by the Toronto Arts Council, University of Toronto, The Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies.

