To Hedonopolis, from Melancolony
Current Topography of Filipino Visual Arts

August 20 to October 19, 2007

Artist Talk
Thursday, September 6, 3 pm to 4 pm
Maraschi Room, Fromm Hall

Opening Reception
Thursday, September 6, 4 pm to 6 pm
Thacher Gallery

Curated by Rico Reyes

To Hedonopolis, From Melancolony: Current Topography of Filipino Visual Arts looks at the vast terrain of Filipino American visual art production. The viewer is no longer presented with points on a map to determine location but rather, the points are grouped to define regions or systems. For this exhibition, the points on the conceptual map represent artworks, and when these works of art are grouped together, their relationship to each other informs the other and its surroundings, while the aggregate begins to define a new system of thought. To Hedonopolis, From Melancolony is a new system of thought arising from the amalgamation of psychoanalysis, colonization, migration, artistic production, and survival in the 21st Century. This exhibition presents a preliminary map of two topographic systems developing within this galaxy, one called Hedonopolis and the other called Melancolony.

The twin systems of Hedonopolis and Melancolony provide both refuge and exposure to surveyors taking measure of a landscape continuously shifting. The elements that help define the boundaries of the system: psychoanalysis, colonization, migration, artistic production, economics, religion, labor, and survival in the 21st Century, are also the elements that keep these two systems dynamic and indefinable. To gain an understanding of these two systems, one must reflect on moments in time and space when the shifting landscape is frozen long enough to gaze out into the panorama and embed visual delights in memory. In this frozen moment, the viewer sees Melancolony, a land of nostalgia, memory, and longing or Hedonopolis, a virtual city of erasure, innovation, and pleasure.

The artists in the exhibit are Terry Acebo Davis, Yason Banal, Genara Banzon, Leo Bersamina, Emily Caisip, Crisanta de Guzman, Cirilo Domine, Reanne Estrada, John Yoyogi Fortes, Vince Golveo, Maryrose Cobarrubias Mendoza, Johanna Poethig, Charles Valoroso, Carlos Villa, and Jenifer Wofford.

This exhibition is co-sponsored by the Yuchengco Philippine Studies Program.

Filipino Student Exhibition
October 8 to October 19, 2007, Crossroads Gallery
Curated by Charleston Daulo and Nancy DiCianni
Opening Reception: Thursday, October 11, 4-6 pm