

# Ahmad Fuad Osman: Archipelagic Alchemy

*An exhibition that explores the history of the empire through seas and islands*

December 12, 2023–March 29, 2024

Opening Reception:  
December 12, 2023,  
6–8pm

Gallery Hours:  
Monday–Friday  
10:30am–5:30pm

The International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP) presents *Ahmad Fuad Osman: Archipelagic Alchemy*, an exhibition that addresses the history of the empire by looking at relationships between seas and islands.

Presenting the installation *Run for Manhattan* by Ahmad Fuad Osman, this exhibition is curated by Carlos Quijon, Jr. for ISCP's project space. *Run for Manhattan* gathers archival clippings, popular culture materials, and a newly commissioned speculative video. All pertain to an episode of colonial history involving an exchange of islands in the seventeenth century between two colonial powers. The English traded Pulau Run, one of the Spice Islands, present-day Moluccas, in exchange

for New Amsterdam, present-day Manhattan, traded by the Dutch. The exhibition's focal point will be an expansive image of the signing of a treaty in 1667 that ended the Second Anglo-Dutch War, and included a provision about the exchange of these two islands. Osman's work shows a moment in colonial history, European exceptionalism and its postcolonial implications.

Ahmad Fuad Osman has presented work internationally at venues including the Vargas Museum in Manila, Philippines; Kunsthal Rotterdam, The Netherlands; Sharjah Biennale, United Arab Emirates; Singapore Biennale, Singapore; The Singapore Art Museum, Singapore; Silverlens Gallery, Philippines; and Yokohama Museum of Art, Japan, among others.

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Carlos Quijon, Jr. is an art historian, critic, and curator based in Manila who is currently a curator in residence at ISCP, and curator of the Philippines national pavilion at the 2024 Venice Biennale. He was a fellow of the research platform *Modern Art Histories in and across Africa, South and Southeast Asia (MAHASSA)*. He writes for *Artforum* and *CNN Philippines*; his essays are included in *SEA: Contemporary Art in Southeast Asia and Writing Presently*; and his exhibitions include *Courses of Action*, Para Site and Goethe-Institut, Hong Kong; *Minor Infelicities*, Post Territory Ujeongguk, Seoul; and *In Our Best Interests*, NTU ADM Gallery, Singapore. Carlos Quijon, Jr. is currently a curator-in-residence at ISCP.

This exhibition is supported by Asian Cultural Council; Hartfield Foundation; Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council; New York State Council on the Arts and the New York State Legislature; James Rosenquist Foundation; and William Talbott Hillman Foundation.



Romeyn de Hooghe (1645–1708), *Peace Conference at Breda*, unknown, etching, 20 x 16.3 in. The Elisha Whittelsey Collection, The Elisha Whittelsey Fund, 1949. Courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art

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### About ISCP:

Founded in 1994, ISCP is the fourth-largest visual arts residency program in the world and a global leader in the field of visual arts residency programs. ISCP supports the creative development of artists and curators, and promotes exchange through residencies and public programs. Housed in a former factory in Brooklyn, with 35 light-filled work studios and two galleries, ISCP organizes exhibitions, events and offsite projects, which are free and open to all, sustaining a vibrant community of contemporary art practitioners and diverse audiences. Over 1,800 artists and curators from more than 90 countries, including the United States have undertaken residencies at ISCP.

ISCP does not discriminate on the basis of disability in terms of admission, access, or employment. ISCP programs and activities are accessible to visitors with disabilities. Accommodations are made to the best of the institution's ability, depending on individual visitors' needs. To request accommodations, please contact [info@iscp-nyc.org](mailto:info@iscp-nyc.org) or call 718-387-2900.



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