

10 September
22 October 2023

DEAD
LOCKS



method

ladder

well's

the

TOTEM
SAPP
SAA

mugna gallery uypitching bldg
valencia-dgte hwy, bong-ao
valencia, negros oriental

The Well's Ladder Method

Deadlocks and Totem Yap Saa

Mugna Gallery presents "The Well's Ladder Method," a durational, performative exhibition with a four-part production phase to explore "the method" that visual artists Deadlocks and Totem Yap Saa have been experimenting on and developing.

More than a mere exhibition, the entire duration is a process — both controlled and unthethered — taking off their previous project "Intentionality."

A marked shift from "Intentionality" is having part of the process visible for a limited time; as opposed to the previous where the audience is only able to see the final product.

Speaking of time, it is one of the core components of "the method" — time allotted is limited so that one does not reach an "intention." The method finds that when one spends a prolonged time painting, then the work becomes subjected to the creator's will.

Deadlocks and Totem hypothesized that a being's mental state directed towards a specific object or action (i.e. painting) dictates the quality of that state: the intention. In this iteration of the project, they expand the scope and involve a bigger number of participants. Akin to a conductor, they harness the collective energies of Dumaguete artists, as well as other kindred spirits, for this collaboration.

In an age of uncertainty and post-truth, Deadlocks and Totem Yap Saa dissect what it means to be, by exploring not being; knowing what something is, by knowing what is not — an experience that hones in on and investigates what it means (and perhaps, takes) to make art.

by Koki Lxx

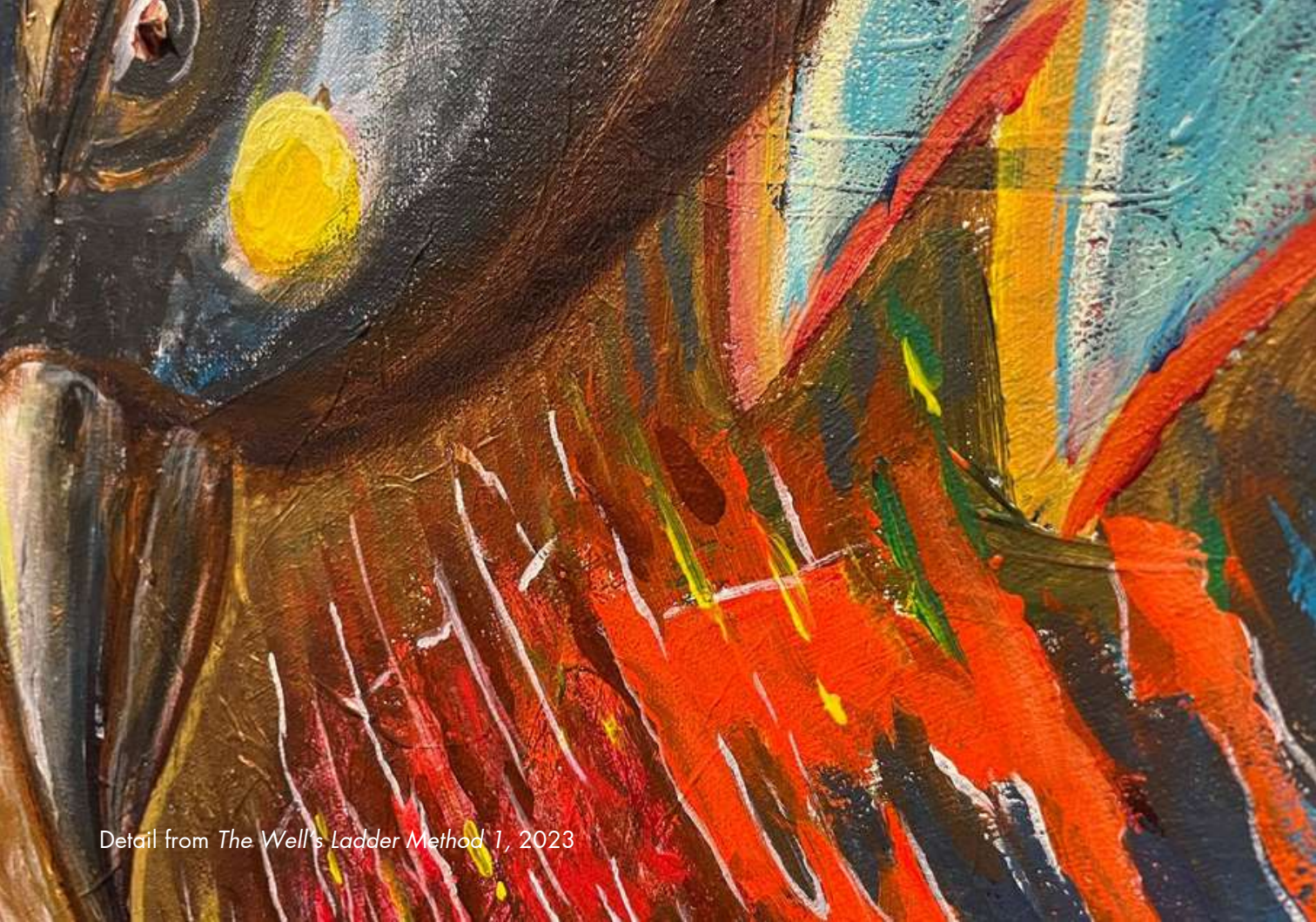




The Artists

Deadlocks is a self-taught artist, deeply influenced by the fascinating world of science, alongside his strong upbringing in the church. The artists' works are seeds of experimentations, attempts at solving different visual hypothesis', somehow a venture to unravel the mysteries of life.

Totem Yap Saa has exhibited a diverse body of work that reflects a deep commitment to creative expression. Notably, his solo exhibition, "That State of Mind," held at Project 20 Gallery in Quezon City in September 2017, showcased an introspective exploration of his artistic vision. Additionally, Totem has participated in numerous group exhibitions both in the Philippines and abroad. His artistic portfolio is characterized by its ability to communicate a distinctive perspective within the contemporary art landscape.



Detail from *The Well's Ladder Method 1*, 2023



The Well's Ladder Method 1
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
61 x 46 cm | 24 x 18 in
2 x 1.5 ft



The Well's Ladder Method 2
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
61 x 46 cm | 24 x 18 in
2 x 1.5 ft



The Well's Ladder Method 3
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
61 x 46 cm | 24 x 18 in
2 x 1.5 ft



The Well's Ladder Method 4
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
61 x 46 cm | 24 x 18 in
2 x 1.5 ft



The Well's Ladder Method 5
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
61 x 46 cm | 24 x 18 in
2 x 1.5 ft



The Well's Ladder Method 6
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
61 x 46 cm | 24 x 18 in
2 x 1.5 ft



The Well's Ladder Method 7
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
61 x 46 cm | 24 x 18 in
2 x 1.5 ft



The Well's Ladder Method 8
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
46 x 61 cm | 18 x 24 in
1.5 x 2 ft



Detail from *The Well's Ladder Method 10*, 2023



The Well's Ladder Method 9
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
61 x 46 cm | 24 x 18 in
2 x 1.5 ft



The Well's Ladder Method 10
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
61 x 46 cm | 24 x 18 in
2 x 1.5 ft



The Well's Ladder Method 11
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
46 x 61 cm | 18 x 24 in
1.5 x 2 ft



The Well's Ladder Method 12
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
61 x 46 cm | 24 x 18 in
2 x 1.5 ft



The Well's Ladder Method 13
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
61 x 46 cm | 24 x 18 in
2 x 1.5 ft



The Well's Ladder Method 14
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
46 x 61 cm | 18 x 24 in
1.5 x 2 ft



The Well's Ladder Method 15
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
61 x 46 cm | 24 x 18 in
2 x 1.5 ft



The Well's Ladder Method 16
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
61 x 46 cm | 24 x 18 in
2 x 1.5 ft



Detail from *The Well's Ladder Method 17*, 2023



The Well's Ladder Method 17
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
91.44 x 121.92 cm | 36 x 48 in
3 x 4 ft



The Well's Ladder Method 18
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
121.92 x 152.4 cm | 48 x 60 in
4 x 5 ft



The Well's Ladder Method 17
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
121.92 x 121.92 cm | 48 x 48 in
4 x 4 ft



The Well's Ladder Method 20
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
61 x 46 cm | 24 x 18 in
2 x 1.5 ft



The Well's Ladder Method 20
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
61 x 46 cm | 24 x 18 in
2 x 1.5 ft

About Mugna

Mugna Art Gallery is an innovative hub dedicated to bringing out the riches of local culture that defy common perception. The gallery supports emerging and undiscovered artists, providing painters, poets, filmmakers, sculptors, and other creative practitioners with the space that mediates between their ideas, the local community, and wider audiences. "Mugna", is the Visayan word for "create", embodies its name by engaging with artists and audiences, bringing together intellectual resources and materials to establish sustainable, satisfying, and meaningful sensory experiences.

Mugna was founded by Vincent Lopez and George Kuhn, art enthusiasts and patrons who have settled in Valencia on Negros Island. They developed this space as a platform for featuring a broad range of inspiring artwork from varied genres originating in the Philippines, with an emphasis on Negros Island and the Visayas.



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