



## ***SMS Double Barrel***

Nature: Performance + Installation + Single-Channel Video  
Material: Double Barrel Telescope made from 510 pieces 9mm, M16 Brass Bullets & spent Shotgun shells  
Production Year: 2013  
Public Performance: De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines, 2013

*SMS Double Barrel* is a interdisciplinary piece created for the curatorial project of Eileen Legaspi-Ramirez, entitled *Pagtitipon/Gathering*. *SMS Double Barrel* comprises a performance act across distance using the semaphore flag messaging system that was used in the maritime industry in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The international peace sign ☸, that represents letters "N" and "D" in a circle, signifies the two words "Nuclear Disarmament" is one of the best know semaphore signals.

On this day, 3 August 2013, I had the image from my dream that the rooftop of the Henry Sy building transformed into a big 'banca' (boat), in a sea with other bancas (rooftops) in the urban cityscape. Although the Henry Sy building was initially designed in the image of a tree, I have interpreted it as a naval vessel, where Manila swims in floodwaters during Monsoon rains and typhoon Maring. On this boat, the performance entails viewers to look through my '*double barrel*' binoculars installation, across to my alter ego on Burgundy Tower building signaling back. In this project, body movements and extensions are used as a transmitter of codes. These codes/messages are free of the emotional and cultural biases of social behavior. The semaphore flag signal system goes on to question digital versus analogue communication within this fast-paced society, filled with high-tech devices. This performance investigates and questions of social face-to-face interaction versus the virtual.

This consists of a performance of flag signalling from one building to another. The artist stands atop a 30-storey building and uses flag signals for a video shoot taken from across another building. The next day atop the building across, the video is played on a phone screen installed at the end of the '*double barrel*' sculptural binoculars, installed to face the building rooftop where the artist will have performed a day earlier. An earlier segment of the performance consists of flag signaling from





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