



Ecdysis*

Nature:	<i>Sculptural Installation & Performance Bullet Dress</i>
Material:	<i>17,000 spent bullets of calibers 45, 49, 38, 9mm, 22, 5.56, 308 and Shotgun shells</i>
Dimensions:	<i>7.5 x 6.0 x 3.0 meters</i>
Weight:	<i>85 kilograms</i>
Production Year:	<i>2010</i>
Public Performances:	<i>12th International Cairo Biennale, 2010</i> <i>Nothing to Declare, Yuchengco Museum, Manila, Philippines. 2011</i>

Ecdysis is an interdisciplinary project that explores the process of dying and being reborn, the psychological and metaphorical losing and reconstruction of the self. The re-creation out of --and from-- destruction are expressed in this performance where I dwell in a dress made out of thousands of bullets among several bullet armour sculptures. Ecdysis is my continuous process of research in the nature of identity, the constant experimentation in life leading to an eventual discovery of the self in evolution and in metamorphosis.

The *Ecdysis* project draws from Toni Morrison's seminal work, *The Beloved*, as it speaks of the symbol of the onion. With the skin of an onion, the endless peeling of its layers is precisely the whole process of the search of the identity, the core of echoing a turbulent Asian past, and evoking recent massacres – physical and metaphorical - with still very fresh wounds. This attempt to delve in the “place”, surveying for associations of odysseys, moving from an ancient place – like Cairo or like Manila, cities haunted by memories, cities with ancient civilisations-- with a detritus of colonial influences. Exploring to define certain memories that tie us with a “place”, memories that involve, tell and retell our stories, those stories that host solid evidence of what was or can be seen and of what is no longer there.

“built out of compulsive repetition, in which the onion, as it were, is constantly being both peeled and reconstituted; in which memories are constantly being both exhumed and buried; and in which the mind of the storyteller is both imprisoned and set free in the act of retelling.”

And so, like the return of the enduring case of exploitation, *Ecdysis* is “both a reconciliation and a vexation, both a healing and a wounding.” **

*Ecdysis: (in zoology) is the shedding of an outer layer/skin.

** (Metcalfe, Stephen. *Why Is Beloved Beloved?*, May 18, 2006. <http://www.slate.com/id/2141971/> (accessed June 7, 2009)

