

MARIA JEONA ZOLETA

Visual artist & independent publisher | Manila, Philippines

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PROFILE

Maria Jeona Zoleta (b. 1989, Manila) works across painting, fluorescent sculpture, performance, DIY video and independent publishing. Her practice explores sexuality, dreams, trauma and Filipino animism through a playful, unsettling visual language shaped by internet imagery and the everyday textures of Metro Manila. Her publishing and collaborative projects connect visual art, sound and small-press communities internationally.

EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP

- 2021** The Alternative Art School, MAIIAM South East Asian Fellowship; courses with Gridthiya Gaweewong and Marinella Senatore.
- 2007-2011** BFA, Painting, University of the Philippines Diliman.

AWARDS & GRANTS

- 2026** Gottlieb Emergency Grant.
- 2015** Thirteen Artists Award, Cultural Center of the Philippines, for My Monster Manual Made in the Ghetto or 3D PRINTING UR SOUL.
- 2014** Ateneo Art Awards recipient, for The Unicorn Club, 1335 Mabini.
- 2012** Asian Cultural Council grant, Bastards of Misrepresentation: New York Edition.

SELECTED RESIDENCIES

- 2025** Artists Unlimited, Bielefeld, Germany.
- 2016** A-I-R Aurora, Baler, Philippines.
- 2014** Fontanelle, Adelaide, Australia.
- 2012** Topaz Gallery, New York, USA.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026** Cute But Nasty, Bunso Gallery, Greenhills, Philippines.
- 2025** Dirty Ice Cream in a Poor Party, Artists Unlimited, Bielefeld, Germany.
- 2019** Filling a Cup With Wine to Chase the Dragon in Me, Finale Art File, Philippines.
- 2018** I Swallowed My Hard Drive, Finale Art File, Philippines.
- 2016** Tropical Snowflake, Finale Art File, Manila, Philippines.
- 2015** My Monster Manual Made in the Ghetto or 3D PRINTING UR SOUL, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Manila.
- 2014** Fanta-Z Freak Make-up Kit, Fontanelle Gallery & Studios, Adelaide, Australia.
- 2013** Super Duper Kool Fever IRL 43va, Equator Arts Project, Gillman Barracks, Singapore.

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Selected artist CV | Exhibitions, publishing & collaboration

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS & PERFORMANCE

- 2026** Carnival Corpse, with Timo Roter, Q.E.D. Gallery, Hamburg, Germany.
Noise performance, Theatre Nights, Hajusom with Kampnagel, Hamburg, Germany.
- 2025** Paradise/Parasite, Galerie Melike Bilir, Hamburg, Germany.
dinge / things, curated by Franziska Glozer, MOM Art Space, Hamburg, Germany.
Materiality, curated by Annie Pacaña, ESC Biennale, FUB, Escolta, Manila.
- 2024** Work Must Wait while We are Sharing a Nutshell, Galerie Melike Bilir, Hamburg, Germany.
- 2023** In Excess, curated by Joyce Toh, Gajah Gallery, Singapore.
Kaon na ta!, Iloilo Museum of Contemporary Art, Philippines.
- 2022** EMOTIONAL ASIA: Miyatsu Daisuke Collection, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan.
- 2019** Princess/es des Villes, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France.
- 2018** Bastards of Misrepresentation: Planet Merde, Galerie Melike Bilir, Hamburg, Germany.
- 2015** Full of Peril and Weirdness, curated by Robert Peckham and Wanwan Lei, M WOODS, Beijing, China.
- 2014** Brave New Worlds: My Utopia in Ur Dystopia, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Philippines.
- 2013** Manila Vice, MIAM, Sète, France.
- 2012** Bastards of Misrepresentation: New York Edition, Queens Museum, New York, USA.

INDEPENDENT PUBLISHING & SELECTED BOOK FAIRS

Possessed Planets / Bizarre Bookstore. Small-press publishing and pop-up activity connecting visual art, text, printed matter and international independent publishing communities.

- 2026** Indiecon, Hamburg, Germany; Taipei Art Bookfair, Taiwan; pop-up at Abe Archive Books, Ipoh, Malaysia.
- 2025** MISS READ, Berlin; Paris Ass Bookfair; Taipei Art Bookfair; Tokyo Art Bookfair. Bizarre Bookstore pop-ups at Kiosco and Koufuku Stand / Happy Beans, Tokyo; Alpas Pilipinas, Berlin.
- 2024** Paris Ass Bookfair; Taipei Art Bookfair; Kuala Lumpur Art Bookfair.

SELECTED CURATORIAL, TEACHING & COLLABORATIVE WORK

- 2026-present** Founder, POSSESSED!, a nomadic, artist-run space and public programme for workshops, performance, music and independent publishing, developed with Kei Nakano, John Jayvee del Rosario and Martin "Bohovee" de Mesa.
POSSESSED! at Cubao Expo, Quezon City.
POSSESSED! at Call of the Mild, Mang Rudy's, Makati.
- 2024-present** Sound projects and collaboration with Jayvee del Rosario, Luna Madrigal and others through Itlog Power.
- 2020** Curator, Pet Porno, Altro Mondo Picasso, Makati, and Kamias Special Projects, Quezon City.
- 2018** Art Instructor, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, Manila.
- 2017** Curator, Paralyzed by Paradise, Artery Art Space, Quezon City.
- 2015-2017** Production design for music videos and live performance with Joe & I and Eyedress.
- 2014** Curator, Destroy3000YearsofCulture (or save pic as.gif), Post Gallery, Cubao X, Manila.
- 2009-present** Sound art and performance as Jol3na.