

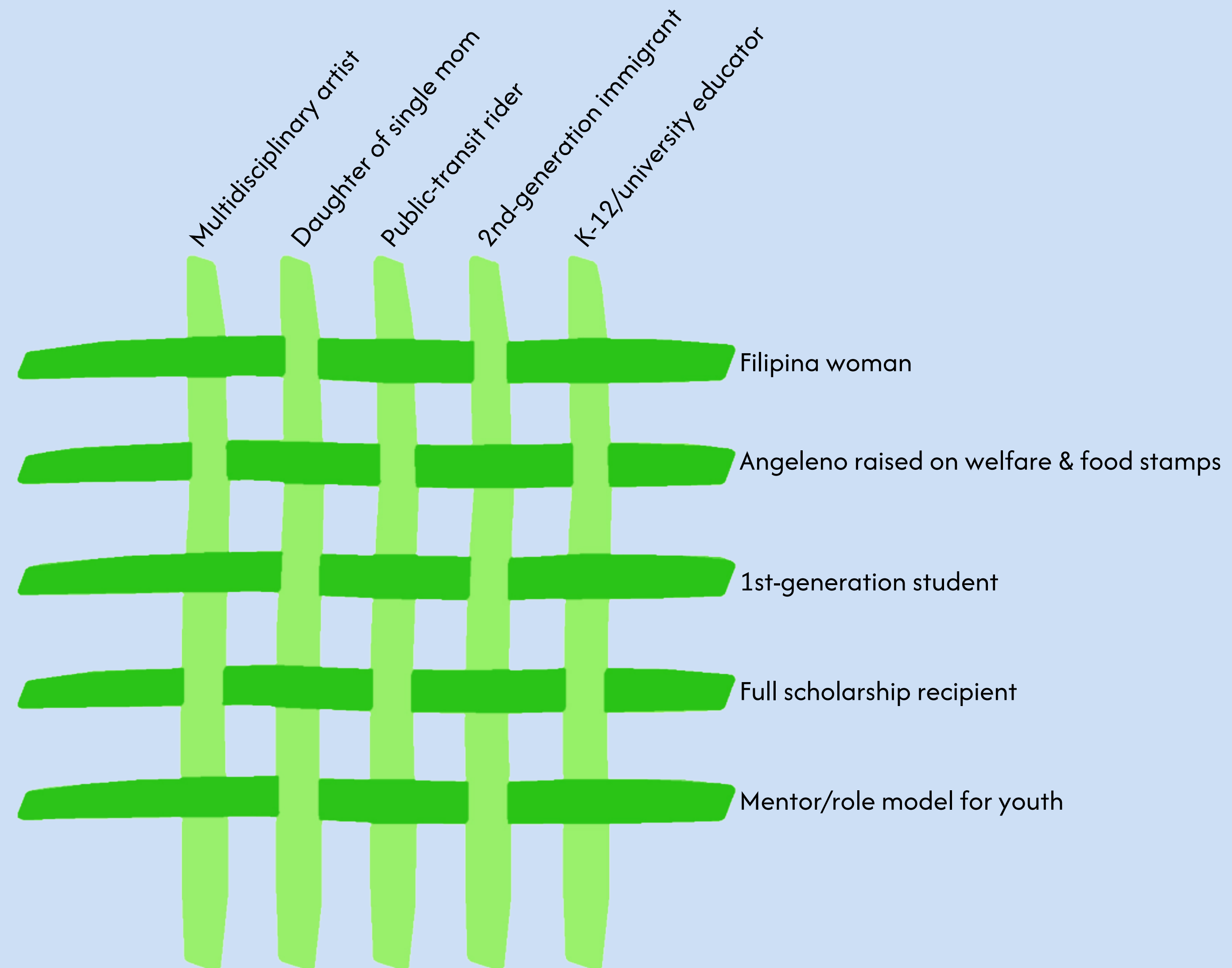
Baka Sakali

2025 Artist Presentation



Nicolei Buendia Gupit
Filipina-American Artist
b. Los Angeles, CA, USA

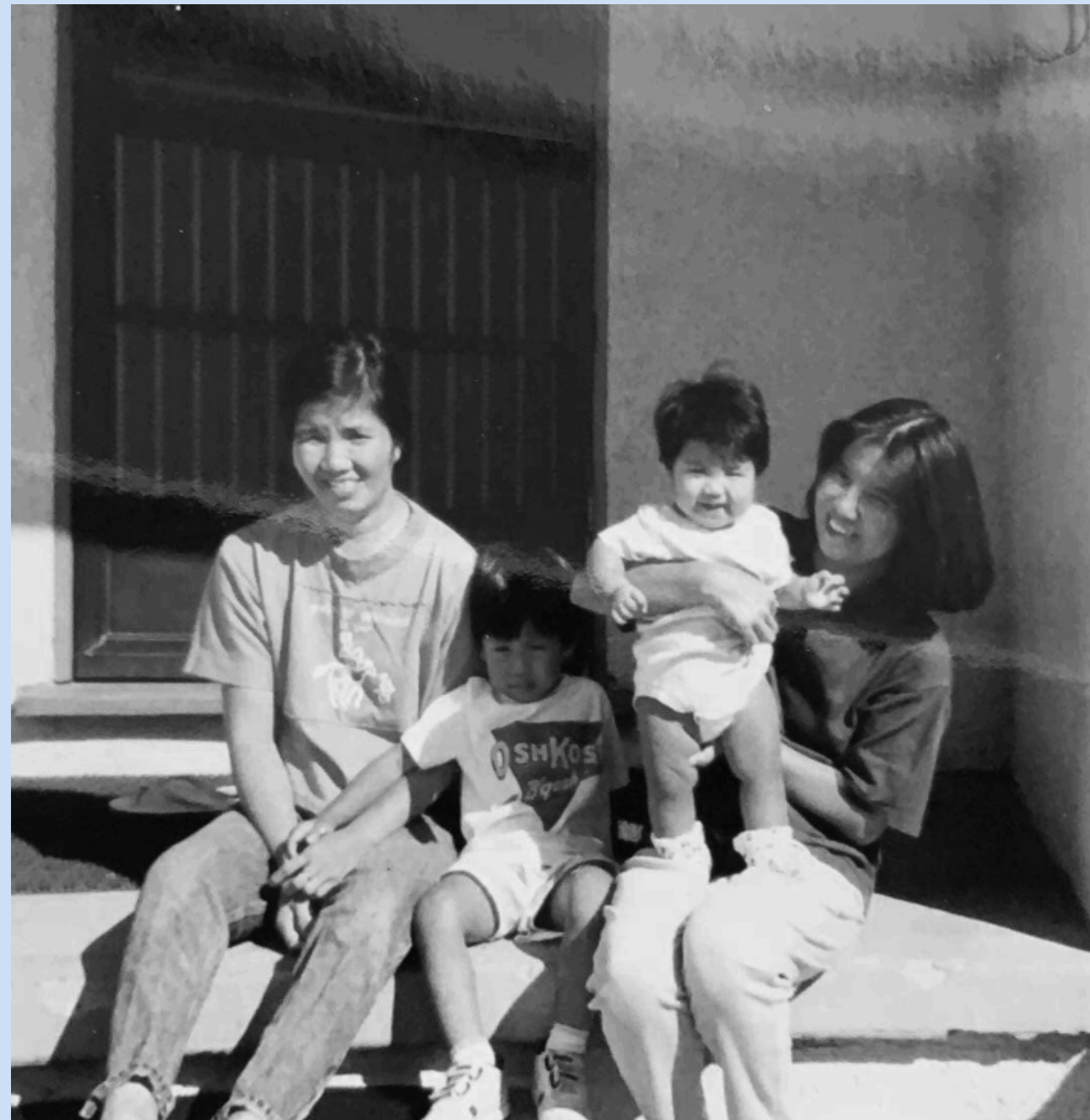
Strands Woven in My Identities



“Baggage means no matter how far you go, no matter how many times you immigrate, there are countries in you you’ll never leave.”

—Elaine Castillo, *America Is Not the Heart*

Family Background



In 1977, my mother and her siblings moved from the Philippines to the U.S. Pictured here are my mom and aunt, the two people who raised me.

Family Background



After serving in the U.S. Navy for 20 years, my uncle petitioned my grandparents to obtain green cards, and my grandparents petitioned the rest of their kids including my mom.

Family Background



My 3 siblings and I were raised by a single parent. A few years after I was born in 1990, we moved back to the Philippines. Whether in the U.S. or in the Philippines, our home was always bilingual.

What does it mean to be Filipina *and* American?



From 2014 to 2019, I taught English at K-12 schools in the **Federated States of Micronesia** (1 year), **South Korea** (2 years), and **Taiwan** (1.5 years).

Typhoon Survivors



Typhoon Survivors



Video Documentation: <https://vimeo.com/719654537>

Date: 2021

Duration: 11 minutes 13 seconds

Materials: 1080p HD video projected
onto suspended fabric

Speaking by: Niña Jhacel
Batobalonos, Maria Bernadette
Carpio, Ma Minette Banigoos

Exhibited in: CICA Museum in South
Korea, Cade Gallery in Maryland, and
Elsewhere Studios in Colorado

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“Diaspora always takes place after a border crossing.”

—David Palumbo-Liu, *Asian/American: Historical Crossings of a Racial Frontier*

Pamilya Series





**Pamilya - March 12th,
1922, in memory of the
artist's grandmother, Fidela
"Nanay Dela" Raqueño
Gregorio, who was born on
this day**

Date: 2022

Dimensions: 3 ft x 10 ft x 3 ft

Materials: Resin, paper pulp, paper
clay, video projection, printed image,
wood, LED, and sound equipment

Speaking by: The artist's family
members

Exhibited in: The Broad Art Museum
in Michigan

Video Documentation: <https://vimeo.com/719654408>

Installation View

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Detail Shot



Pamilya - April 17th, 1942,
in commemoration of
the artist's grandfather,
Francisco "Tatay Kikoy"
Hebreo Buendia, who
survived the Bataan Death
March on this day

Date: 2022

Dimensions: 3 ft x 10 ft x 3 ft

Materials: Resin, paper pulp, paper
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in Michigan

Pamilya - May 1st, 1898, in remembrance of the period of American colonization of the Philippines which began on this day; May 1st, 1934, in observance of the Philippine Independence Act which took effect on this day

Date: 2022

Dimensions: 3 ft x 10 ft x 3 ft

Materials: Resin, paper pulp, paper clay, video projection, printed image, wood, LED, and sound equipment

Speaking by: The artist's family members

Exhibited in: The Broad Art Museum in Michigan



Installation View



Detail Shot

Pamilya - May 1st, 1898, in remembrance of the period of American colonization of the Philippines which began on this day; May 1st, 1934, in observance of the Philippine Independence Act which took effect on this day

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Speaking by: The artist's family members

Exhibited in: The Broad Art Museum in Michigan

Searching for Water



Not All Rivers Flow Into the Sea



Video Documentation: <https://vimeo.com/889474031>

Date: 2023

Materials: Watercolor residue from melted ice on paper

Dimensions: 16.5 in x 11.7 in

Exhibited in: Art Fair Philippines in the Philippines

Residues of Water



Video Documentation: <https://vimeo.com/889474031>

Date: 2023

Materials: Watercolor residue from
melted ice on paper

Dimensions: 16.5 in x 11.7 in

Exhibited in: Art Fair Philippines in the
Philippines

In the Age of Abundant Scarcity

Date: 2023

Materials: Cast resin and waste materials from local lakes and rivers in the Philippines

Dimensions: 10.6 in x 48 in x 12 in

Exhibited in: Art Fair Philippines in the Philippines



“Diasporas around the world live in a double exile:
away from their native land and away from their mother
tongue. Displacement takes on many faces and is our
everyday dwelling.”

—Trịnh Thị Minh Hà, *elsewhere, within here: immigration, refugeeism, and the boundary event*

Migrant Belonging(s)



Migrant Belonging(s)

Date: 2023

Materials: Paper clay casts of migrant objects described by interviewees, acrylic and dry pigment, bamboo, and vinyl text

Dimensions: 3.5 ft x 9 ft x 5 ft

Exhibited in: spazioSERRA in Italy





Migrant Belonging(s) (Detail)

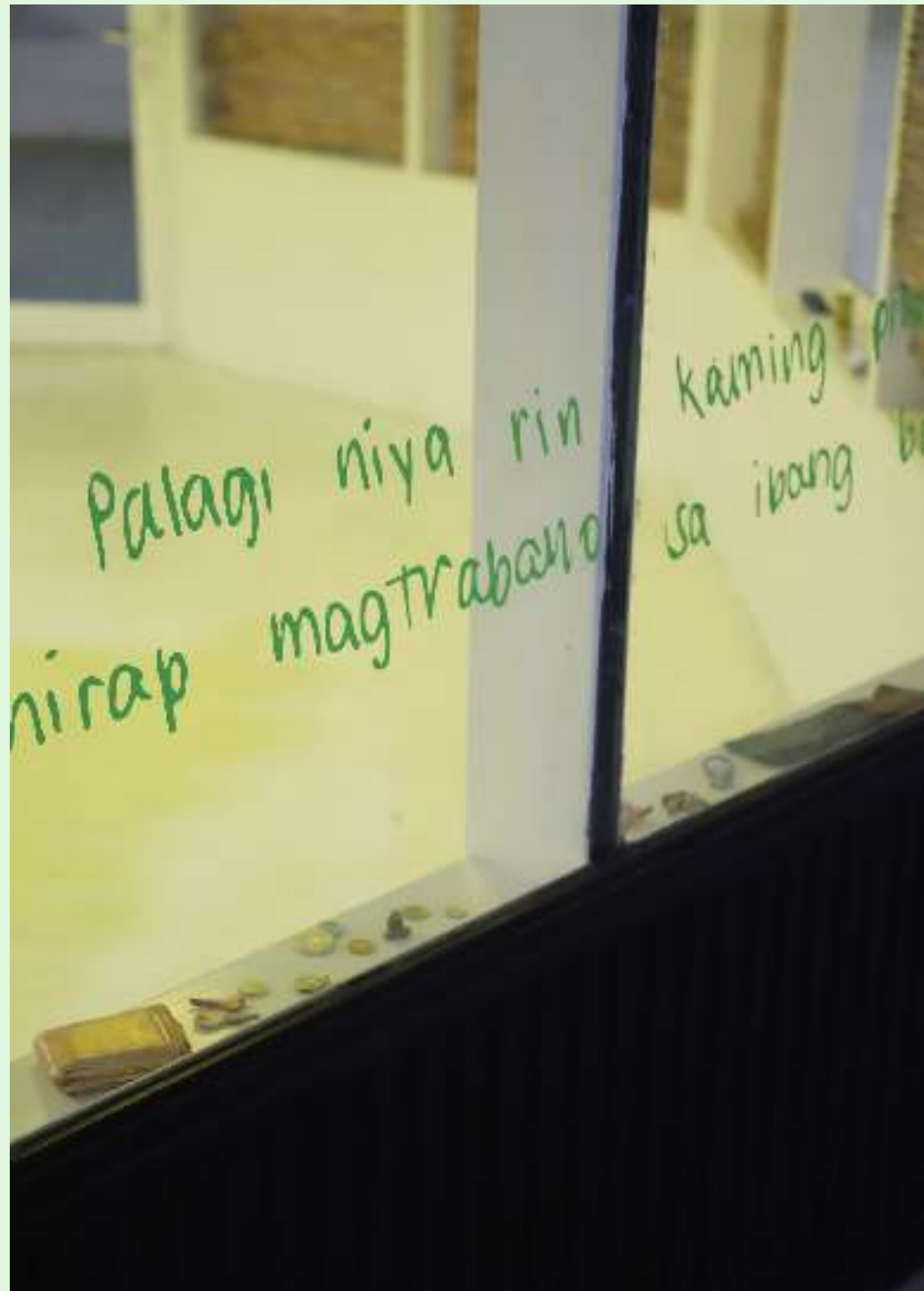
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Handmade Paper Works



Dreams of an Acacia

Date: 2024

Materials: Sumi ink, acrylic paint, and charcoal on artist's handmade paper (Abaca, torn lottery scratch-off tickets, and pulverized lottery scratch-off tickets) on unstretched canvas

Dimensions: 53 inches x 63 inches

Exhibited in: Altro Mondo in the Philippines



Mother Crossings

Date: 2024

Materials: Torn lottery scratch-off tickets, paper pulp, paper mache, printed images on foam board in twelve parts

Dimensions: 67 inches x 77 inches x 1.25 inches

Exhibited in: Altro Mondo in the Philippines



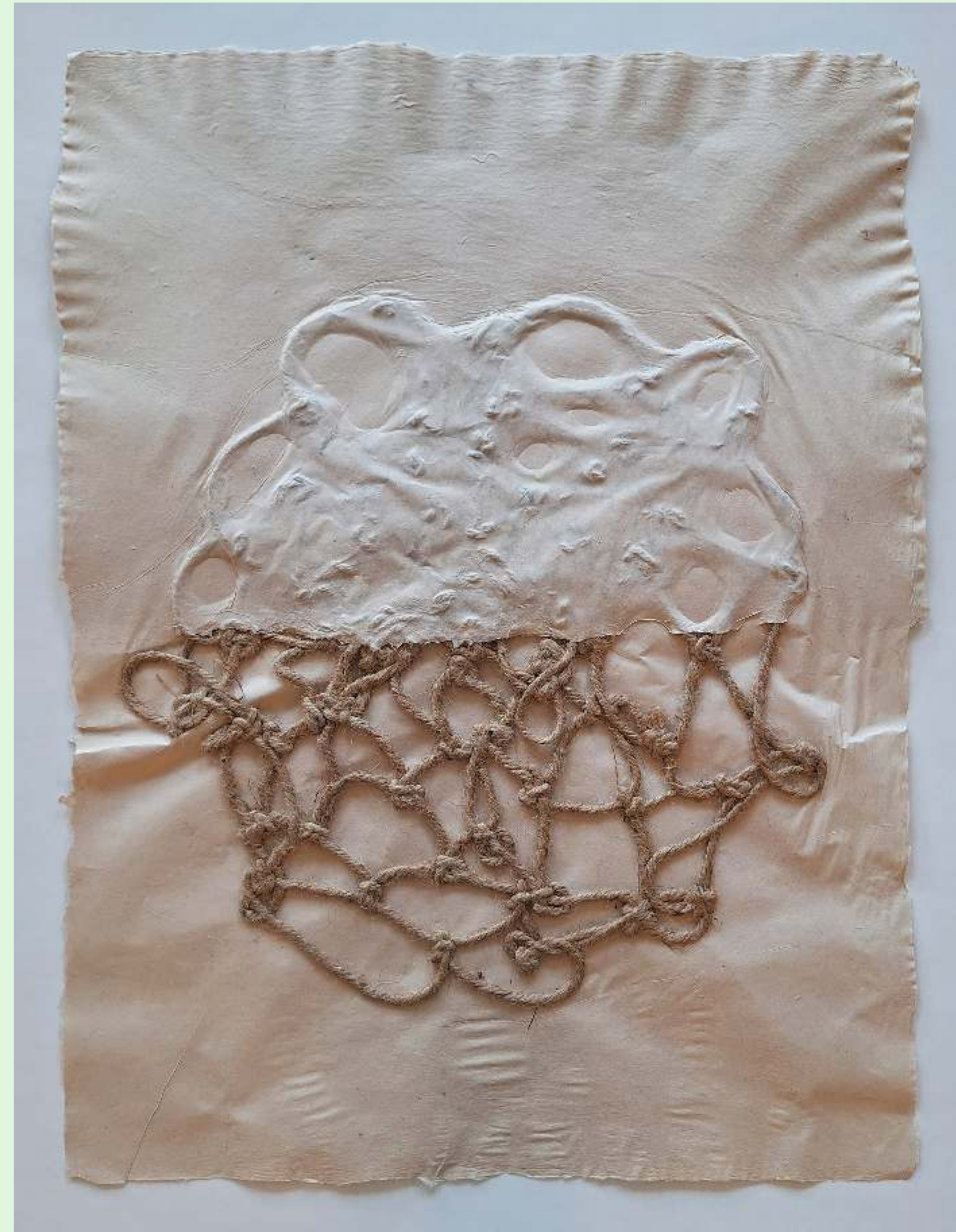
Weaving Tides

Date: 2025

Materials: Artist's handmade paper
(abaca, handwoven jute)

Dimensions: 22 in x 18 in each (30 in x
24 in with frame)

Exhibited in: Colburn Gallery in the U.S.



Paper Airplane

Date: 2025

Materials: Papier mache, abaca, pulverized lottery scratcher tickets, cardboard, foam board, video projection

Dimensions: Papier mache, abaca, pulverized lottery scratcher tickets, cardboard, foam board, video projection

Exhibited in: Colburn Gallery in the U.S.



Thank you for listening.