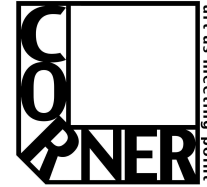


PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release



Corner
2912 N. Milwaukee Ave. (storefront)
Chicago, IL 60618
info@cornerchicago.com
www.cornerchicago.com
Grace Needlman, Gallery Director, 216-533-2824



FOCUSING (Vol. II)

Alejandro T. Acierto

October 1 - November 15, 2016

Focusing (Vol. II) is a continuation of Alejandro T. Acierto's exploration of the breath through the colonial history of Filipino involvement in the 1904 World's Fair. *Focusing* delves into the history of the Philippine Constabulary Band (PCB), a group of militarized musicians brought to the 1904 World's Fair in connection with the 'live zoo' exhibition of Filipinos. This history touches on the representation of savagery vs. civilization, control and freedom, adaptation and displacement and how Filipinos, through the direction of an African American musician Walter E. Loving, sought their own liberation. Within the context of the PCB, the act of playing a wind instrument evokes an experience of constricting the breath and is a way to begin to articulate methods of control, power, and restriction. For Acierto, the marching band became a technology through which US colonialism was able to impose its own imaginary, and it is through this research that he investigates how Filipinos could reassert themselves.

As a musician and installation artist, Acierto will be activating the history of the PCB through archival images, sonic and sculptural interventions, and a series of performances and programming. The centerpiece of the gallery will feature a sound installation surrounded by archival images from the Fair and other ephemera from the era. Acierto will be partnering with local schools and music organizations to host a series of performances including open rehearsals and public screenings.

Sunday, 10/2, 3-5pm **Parade**

The PCB's parade through the World's Fair represented both colonial cooptation and a form of self-expression. Reopen questions around this conflict-ridden history through a re-envisioned reenactment of the parade in the streets of Avondale. Everyone is welcome!

Sunday, 10/16, 3-5pm **Public Screaming**

Participate in a public ritual of amplification and focused breath. Bring your frustrations and constrictions and be prepared to let it all loose. Moments of unimpeded screaming will be coordinated by the artist on the sidewalk outside Corner.

Sunday, 11/6, 6-8pm **Interlude**

Witness the unfolding of the controlled breath through an afternoon of musical interludes and performances with some of Chicagoland's most innovative musicians. Orchestrating a group of experimental musicians who are reshaping the trajectory of music and instrumental technique, the artist performs new musical and sound works to coincide with this exhibition.

Saturday, 11/12, 6-8pm **Closing**

Celebrate the closing of the show with an informal public gathering featuring footage of contemporary Filipino marching bands and delicious Filipino food.

All Corner events are free and open to the public. Unless otherwise noted, audiences of all ages are welcome. We do our best to provide snacks and drinks at each event. Gallery staff speak English, Spanish, and Cantonese.

Alejandro T. Acierto is an artist and musician working in time-based media. He has exhibited his work at the Film Society of Lincoln Center, Issue Project Room, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Art Institute of Chicago, Salisbury University, SOMArts and presented performance works at the Brooklyn International Performance Art Festival, Center for Performance Research, and Center for New Music and Technology. Acierto has held residencies at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Banff Centre, High Concept Laboratories, and Chicago Artists' Coalition. He is a FT/FN/FG Consortium Fellow, a Center Program Artist at the Hyde Park Art Center, and is on faculty at UIC and Truman College. Acierto received his undergraduate degree from DePaul University, a MM from Manhattan School of Music, an MFA in New Media Arts from University Illinois at Chicago, is a recipient of the Kranichsteiner Musikpreis at the Darmstadt Festival for New Music, and founding member of contemporary music collective Ensemble Dal Niente in Chicago. www.alejandroaciertocom

Corner is a project space created to foster conversation and community in the Avondale neighborhood through interactive visual and performing art. It is a laboratory for artists who want to explore what else can happen in a gallery besides viewing. Located in a storefront on an old part of Milwaukee Avenue, Corner has been a sausage shop, a school for Polish children, a travel agency, a Mexican bridal boutique and, currently, the studio of artist Lynn Basa, founder of Corner. As the neighborhood continues to change, Corner intends to become a space of public meeting, discussion, and action. With huge floor to ceiling windows facing the corner of Milwaukee and Drake, Corner is a space in which artwork can play a uniquely active civic role.