

as usual

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Artist in Residence

Initially setting out to create work about the experience of migration, transit, travel and the experience of new things, taking cues from her encounters with the Overseas Filipino workers she came across in Taiwan and her own time spent working in Australia, Hazel's focus shifted weeks in after traversing across various parts of Metro Manila, becoming more familiar with its days in and days out.

What was at first novel to her, became usual. The manifestation of the wage gap on the streets of Metro Manila, which she was first so shocked by, began to integrate into her everyday. The more she would pass by the same families making their homes on the street, the more she would become used to it. The fear that a first-time visitor usually feels upon encountering these things settles into settledness. It gradually becomes an 'as usual,' as it is for most locals. There is a sadness to it, certainly.

However there the "as usual," still yields what some who visit this city find unusual, and surprised by, and that is the sense of hope and seeming contentment one might find still in the faces of the mothers who feed their children as they spend their days on the street, sitting on their homes made from cardboard, cats and dogs sleep, and laughter fills the air when these same children find themselves still living the life of a child as they play on the streets. At least, as usual.