SUTURED STORIES

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Meanings, practices, and memories are re-inscribed in the diaspora, wherein new forms are re-imagined in the transnational exchange between the land of origin and new host country.

In these works, fragments of my homeland (Philippines) penetrate through ordinary materials and force a disruption in acts of noticing and, thus, in how we might understand the positions of unfamiliar details within the larger work.

In *at a distance*, familial objects are lodged all over a denim composition to emphasize the dilemma of excavation work. Individual and historical excavation, especially diaspora histories, requires construction from splintered histories. With written and remembered histories, the addition of fiction and imagined stories are entangled as a way to shatter a stable, dominant narrative.

turning a wet page is a collage of storm-ruined family photographs puzzled together on glass. Reminiscent of Abstract Expressionist paintings, these photographs, and my family's refusal to discard them, challenges the function of photography, representation, and object.

I tear, separate, then assemble disparate denim pieces in *roots and routes*, yet the material insists on its shape: it keeps the stretch made by the body even when torn apart.

In *follow*, denim is further dismantled and becomes the thread for suturing a pattern. From afar, the pattern looks unified; however, when seen closer, the colours are irregular and the stitching does not follow a pattern. Instead, each denim fray is but a splinter lodged through cotton. Like a splinter, the stitch punctures a new world, forcing itself into another, an awkward fragment that insists on a connection. On this unstable ground comes an assemblage of scraps that, at first split from a whole then lodged into another, now depend on each material's difference to hold each other.

Ramolén Laruan, *at a distance*, denim, thread, photographs, cyanotype, grommet, mylar, dimensions variable, 2020.

Ramolen Laruan, *turning a wet page*, glass, found frames, mylar, 10.5 " x 7.5 ", 2020.

Ramolen Laruan, *of roots and routes* salvaged denim, wood, thread, dimensions variable, 2020.

Ramolen Laruan, *follow*, salvaged denim fray on found fabric, 40" x 64 ", 2020.