

Entitling the untitled

By Siddharta Perez

Norlie Meimban introduces the dialectic of art through an undisguised encouragement in his next show, *Untitled*. Following the lead of the exhibition's name, all of Meimban's works are without titles yet they are not left – or at least urged against to be – in this condition. *Untitled* is an avid interaction of sorts, wherein the question of “When is an artwork finally done?” is central. Meimban unambiguously presents that the completion of an artwork does not solely lie on the artist's hands but he humbly allows the viewers of his works to seal the finish. “Untitled”, in this sense, is neither an imposing closure of a painting nor a passive exposition. With the advent of the conscious labeling or *de*-labeling through the imprint of “Untitled,” the entire exhibition is opened up into an avenue of various perspectives. “Untitled,” then, renders the painting as a discursive tool where layers after layers of meaning are unabashedly welcome.

The series Meimban produced for this one-man show does not shy away from what he is known for. A figurative painter, Meimban takes solace in tropical colored nudes – the strokes that make them refined and modest. The realist depictions that the viewer is subjected to title are jarringly juxtaposed with fruits. Encircling the figures, composing them or placed within the vicinity of the figures' grasp, these objects inflict an almost surreal energy to the paintings. In *Untitled*, lines have been crossed thus making the dialectic less constricting. Meimban strategically manipulates his skillfulness of technique and knowledge of objects to instill to his audience his limbo stance as a method of firing up lively dialogue among the viewers of this works.

Norlie Meimban graduated from the University of the Philippines and has recently taken part of a group show in Seattle, USA. An artist with realist inclinations, Meimban is the president of the Kulay Art Group, and is a member of FourArtGroup. *Untitled* opens on December 11, 2007 in Ricco Renzo Galleries and runs till January 11, 2008.