

ara contemporary Presents Carmen Ceniga Prado's Solo Exhibition *Doorway* in the Main Gallery and Group Exhibition *ruins and blueprints* in the Focus Gallery

Jakarta, 2025 — ara contemporary is pleased to present its first dual exhibition program, spanning both of the gallery's spaces—Main Gallery and Focus Gallery. In the Main Gallery, *Doorway*, a solo exhibition by Singapore-based Spanish artist Carmen Ceniga Prado, will be on view. Simultaneously, the Focus Gallery will showcase *ruins and blueprints*, a group exhibition featuring seven Southeast Asian artists.

***Doorway* by Carmen Ceniga Prado**

Carmen Ceniga Prado's practice explores her own body and its spectrums through abstraction, particularly the in-between feelings and internal sensations that arise before they are categorized by the body and mind as emotional or physical. Here, abstraction is used to depict the formless and visceral, offering an entry point into an embodied space. Ceniga Prado's past engagement with wood carving reflects an investment in materiality and process. The tactile, labour-intensive nature of carving provided a grounding physicality; however, it also imposed formal constraints when attempting to convey states of flux and indeterminacy. As she delves deeper into her own body, following a diagnosis of chronic pain, painting or mark-making becomes a way to access and express bodily presence and movements. It raises questions such as: *What shape does a sigh have?* Painting becomes a tool for accessing the liminal space between emotions and physical sensations, embracing their impermanence and transformations.

Doorway carries the sensitivity to the nuances of the body, and the inward process of attuning to its shifting sensations. These notions about the body emerged more fully after Ceniga Prado's relocation to Southeast Asia. She employs a limited palette, tonally expanded through the use of transparency. The interplay between opacity and translucence suggests shadow and light more than colour itself, ultimately creating space and depth. The gradual tonal shifts evoke a sense of change and emphasize the subtle movements between shades. In this way, the rhythm and vitality of her marks are brought to the forefront. In her new body of works, Ceniga Prado also stitches together pieces of canvas fragments, a technique that resembles piecing together fragments of understanding until a full image is seen. This process mirrors the ongoing journey of learning about our ever-changing internal bodies. In tracing the body's quiet rhythms, her paintings gesture toward a language beyond words, one that unfolds by looking into the spaces in between.

ruins and blueprints

ruins and blueprints explores the continuous conversation between history and the present, particularly the reinterpretation of historical events or contexts through the lens of present perspectives. The works in the exhibition examine the enduring relevance of history and its continued influence on the present, using the metaphor of ruins as a starting point. Through their works, the seven artists delve into the legacies of the past that have or continue to shape the present, examining how revisiting history can illuminate tensions between historical accuracy and contemporary reinterpretation. While firmly rooted in the present, the works reflect on how the past continues to inform current views, practices, and actions, demonstrating the ways in which history remains embedded in today's lived experiences.

Together, the metaphors of ‘ruins’ and ‘blueprints’ suggest a cyclical relationship in which the past shapes the present, and the present, in turn, lays the foundation for the future—a continuous loop of remembering and reimagining.

Exhibiting Artists :

Agan Harahap
Dita Gambiro
Enka Komariah
Ipeh Nur
Irfan Hendrian
Lai Yu Tong
Natalie Sasi Organ

About ara contemporary

Established in 2025, the gallery's name ara comes from the abbreviation of the founders' names: Arlin, Ramadanti, Chandra. Beyond that, the word holds a layered meaning that aligns with the gallery's philosophy. In Sanskrit, ara means a place of shelter, adaptability, and consideration of others. These values are at the heart of ara contemporary, shaping its role in the arts community.

The gallery's focus will center on artists, from emerging to established, whose practices engage with the context of Southeast Asia, exploring the connections between immediacy and global discourse. Founded with the mission to thoughtfully advocate for Southeast Asian artists, ara contemporary aims to serve as a dynamic platform for dialogue and collaboration and to contribute to the burgeoning art scene in the region and beyond.

Main Gallery :

Doorway by Carmen Ceniga Prado
5 July – 3 August 2025

Focus Gallery :

ruins and blueprints
5 July – 3 August 2025

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