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Stephanie Syjuco, *Jeepney Ride (Kitchen)*, 2007, C-Print.
Courtesy the artist

**The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston presents sculpture, video, and
photographs in *Perspectives 164: Stephanie Syjuco: Total Fabrications***

Opening Reception: Thursday, December 11, 2008, 6:30-9:00 PM

On view December 12, 2008 – February 22, 2009

Houston, TX—The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston presents the first solo museum show of work by San Francisco-based artist Stephanie Syjuco. *Perspectives 164: Stephanie Syjuco: Total Fabrications* includes re-imagined Houston newspapers, forged modernist furniture, counterfeit remnants of the Berlin Wall, bootlegged videos, and photographs made with pirated tourist snapshots. The exhibition opens December 11, 2008 with a reception from 6:30 – 9:00 PM and is on view through February 22, 2009.

“Syjuco’s diverse body of work showcases a do-it-yourself approach in her search for how we construct, value, and perceive cultural authenticity. Throughout her work, she uses language and appropriation to speak to personal agency—that is an individual’s capacity to effect social change,” says Meredith Goldsmith, curatorial associate at the CAMH and the show’s curator.

The multi-part project *Towards a New Theory of Color Reading (El Día, Houston Forward Times, Manila Headline)* (2008), which has been created specifically for this exhibition, brings together prominent themes in Syjuco’s work: mistranslation,

misidentification, and minimalist aesthetics. For this work, Syjuco gathered copies of three community newspapers from the Houston area: the *Manila Headline*, a bi-weekly Filipino publication, *El Día*, a Spanish language daily, and the *Houston Forward Times*, the largest Black-owned weekly newspaper in the South. Based on the layouts of each newspaper, she created three new publications made entirely of abstract blocks of colors. The title of the newspaper and other identifying information become black rectangular fields, articles and other text are yellow, photos are cyan, and advertisements are red. Syjuco has printed these altered papers in editions of 2,000 each, so that visitors to the CAMH can interact with the works and take them out of the Museum—a minimalist work on paper for everyone.

Syjuco spent four days in Houston creating *Four Days Toward a New Modernism (Houston)* (2008), her most recent take on the stylish high-Modernist shelving unit originally designed in 1952 by Charlotte Perriand, a colleague of Le Corbusier. However, unlike Perriand's slick shelves, Syjuco's are constructed using only recycled materials on hand. In this case, those found onsite at CAMH.

Also on view: *The Berlin Wall* (2007-ongoing), Syjuco's collection of counterfeit rock fragments; *Body Double (Platoon/Apocalypse Now/Hamburger Hill)* (2007), a video triptych that examines Hollywood's use of the Philippines landscape in Vietnam War movies; and the photographic series *The Village (small encampments)* (2007).

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in the Philippines, Stephanie Syjuco received her MFA from Stanford University and BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. Her work has been shown nationally and internationally, and included in exhibitions at The New Museum, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art, and the California Biennial at the Orange County Museum of Art, CA; and The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, among others. She has taught at Stanford University, The California College of the Arts, and is currently a visiting professor at Carnegie Mellon University. Syjuco lives and works in San Francisco.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

All the following events are free and open to the public and take place at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston unless otherwise noted. Please check www.camh.org for additional programming and information.

Opening reception: *Perspectives 164: Stephanie Syjuco: Total Fabrications*

Thursday, December 11, 2008, 6:30-9:00 PM

Celebrate **Stephanie Syjuco's** opening reception beginning with the artist's gallery talk at 6:30 PM. On view through February 22, 2009 in the Zilkha Gallery.

Perspectives Talk: Cindi Strauss

Thursday, January 8, 2009, 6:30 PM

Cindi Strauss, curator of modern and contemporary decorative arts and design, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Perspectives Talk: Nana Last

Thursday, January 29, 2009, 6:30 PM

Nana Last, Ph.D., associate professor, Rice University, School of Architecture

PUBLICATION

Perspectives 164: Stephanie Syjuco: Total Fabrications will be available in The Museum Store.

Perspectives catalogues are made possible by a grant from The Brown Foundation, Inc.

EXHIBITION FUNDING AND SUPPORT

The *Perspectives* Series is made possible by major grants from Fayez Sarofim; The Studio, the young professionals group of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston; and by donors to the Museum's *Perspectives* Fund: Anonymous Fund at the Community Foundation of Abilene, Susie and Sanford Criner, Heidi and David Gerger, Leslie and Mark Hull, Kerry Inman and Denby Auble, Marley Lott, Mike and Leticia Loya, Belinda Phelps and Randy Howard, William F. Stern, and Vitol Inc.

The audioguide features commentary by Stephanie Syjuco.

EDUCATION FUNDING AND SUPPORT

The Museum receives support for its education programs from: M.D. Anderson Foundation, Baker Hughes Foundation, Chevron U.S.A. Inc., Louise D. Jamail, Marian and Speros Martel Foundation Endowment, and Nordstrom, Inc.

GENERAL SUPPORT

The Museum's operations and programs are made possible through the generosity of the Museum's trustees, patrons, members and donors. The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston receives partial operating support from the Houston Endowment, Inc., the City of Houston through the Houston Museum District Association, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, and Continental Airlines, Official airline of the Contemporary Arts Museum.

CAMH MISSION

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is an idea and a place shaped by the present moment. The Museum exemplifies the dynamic relationship between contemporary art and contemporary society through its exhibitions, public and educational programs, and publications. The CAMH provides the physical and intellectual framework essential to the presentation, interpretation, and advancement of contemporary art; it is a vibrant forum for artists and all audiences, and for critical, scholarly, and public discourse.

ALWAYS FRESH, ALWAYS FREE!

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard, at the corner of Montrose and Bissonnet, in the heart of Houston's Museum District. Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Thursdays to 9:00 PM, and Sundays noon to 5:00 PM. Admission is always free. For more information, visit www.camh.org or call (713) 284-8250.

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