

## "I Felt Like I Danced Before" – Jason Garcia Ignacio

**J**ason Garcia Ignacio is a Filipino dancer who won the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's Art Award in the Outstanding Emerging Artist category. Jason has extensive experience performing for international audiences. He just came back from his Middle Eastern Tour where he had a chance to perform in Jordan, Ram Allah, Israel, and United Arab Emirates. Jason has been passionate about dance since a young age. He was first spotted performing at his mother's office at age 12 and was offered professional training. When he started dancing, he said it felt like he had been doing it all his life.

**Joanna:** How many hours per day do you train?

**Jason:** I have dance classes and rehearsals everyday from Monday to Friday. It takes six to eight hours, sometimes even twelve.

**Joanna:** You have a gymnast-type of body. It must be hard to achieve this effect. Are you on any special diet?

**Jason:** I was more flexible when I was younger. Now I have to work harder on my body. It's very important for me to take care of myself. I need a lot of sleep to condition my body to dance. No, I'm not on any special diet. I burn a lot of calories while dancing. I also do yoga. It helps me to re-boot.

**Joanna:** Do you consider yourself more a performer or an athlete? I know you were a second runner up for the 1998 Aerobic Gymnastic Games in Malaysia.

**Jason:** Good question! During shows I'm a performer but at dance classes I'm more an athlete. Ballet requires you to be an athlete. When I'm performing I focus on an artistic approach. I always try to find new things in the same dance when performing. I improvise a lot. Each performance is different; I try to keep it fresh. If it was only about gymnastics it would turn into routine. I hate to practice dance to perfection, it loses all the magic.

**Joanna:** Has all the international travel helped you grow as a performer?

**Jason:** I started to perform professionally abroad when I was 14. It opened my eyes to different cultures. Traveling changed my life for the better, it broaden my

knowledge about race, and I am able to appreciate how I look, to be proud of who I am, and where I am from; and able to see the nuances and resemblance of humanity through languages, cultures, and physical features. I am not afraid to live anywhere I want, I can easily adjust to one culture after the other. I understand that there is so much out there to see, to feel and to touch, and yes; traveling changed my life.

**Joanna:** Where do you reside? Which place do you consider your home?

**Jason:** I'm very patriotic. Philippines have always been my home. I know there are more opportunities for me elsewhere; that is why I haven't lived in the Philippines since I was 14. Being away from home has never been an issue for me. I have performed internationally a lot since a young age. It helped me build my confidence. Performing helps me express myself; I come out of my shell. Stage became a playground for me; I'm not scared or intimidated.

photo by Paul Gordon Emerson

**Joanna:** Where can we see you performing?

**Jason:** I have been awarded a grant from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to create and develop a piece "The Mountain." It's about global warming and it was inspired by a volcano that erupted in the Philippines. "The Mountain" will be performed on the Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

By Joanna Rutkowska



## TRAINEE IN ACTION

Gemma Lumley came to New York from Australia to learn about curatorial work at art museums. She is currently interning at the Chelsea Art Museum where she learns how to handle art work, including doing inventory and installation, and how to make creative decisions in this process. During her 12-month stay in the U.S., Gemma has been involved in curating two exhibitions and publishing catalogues. Gemma has been taught the many ways non-profit organizations in the U.S. operate, from outreach to partnerships, sponsorships and grants. "The internship has been invaluable to me for highlighting what can be learned in a class room, and what can be learned outside of the class room, and how important it is to have both sets of experience." After completing her internship in the fall she plans to return to Australia to further her study in art history.

By Joanna Rutkowska



photo courtesy Gemma Lumley



# International Photography Under the Louvre



photo by Emmanuel Nguyen Ngoc/Paris Photo 08

The 12<sup>th</sup> *Paris Photo* exhibition will bring together galleries from around the world from November 19 - 22, 2009. This annual event takes place in the Carrousel du Louvre, a 3,000-square-meter space beneath the pyramid at the Louvre. In 2008, more than 37,000 guests visited *Paris Photo*, including visitors from 47 countries. A video from last year's event is available online at [www.parisphoto.fr](http://www.parisphoto.fr).

Each year *Paris Photo* hosts a guest-of-honor country or region. Last year Japan was honored and this year a selection of Arab and Iranian galleries will be recognized, including the Assar Art Gallery and the Silk Road Gallery in Tehran. One of the five Iranian photographers who visited the U.S. with IA&A's ArtBridge Program last fall will be exhibiting at *Paris Photo*. See Mina Momeni at *Paris Photo* this fall or discover her work online at [www.artsandartists.org/artbridge.php](http://www.artsandartists.org/artbridge.php).

By Anna Smith

## INTERNATIONAL ARTS & ARTISTS

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[www.artsandartists.org](http://www.artsandartists.org)

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photos by Joanna Rutkowska

## Spotlight on... *Artomatic 2009*



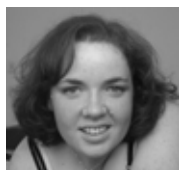
For the 10<sup>th</sup> time in its history, *Artomatic* has opened its doors to the public. This annual art festival transforms unused building space into a field of expression for various artists. For five weeks in early summer visitors at *Artomatic* enjoy art events spread on nine floors of a brand new, unfinished office building. This includes visual and installation art, theater performances, dance and comedy, three music stages, street performances such as fire dancing and drum troupes, fashion

show a film screening theater as well as workshops and seminars. Participation in *Artomatic* is open to all, from emerging to established artists. This provides participants the opportunity to work with other artists and learn from one another. This year *Artomatic* has more than 1,000 visual artists exhibiting and 600 performing artists.

IA&A participates at *Artomatic* as part of the Arts Resource Center. ARC is hosting about 30 different organizations that are beneficial to artists and arts supporters. As a member of the ARC, IA&A's representative is available to meet with artists and visitors in the ARC room for three days during *Artomatic*.

By Joanna Rutkowska

## Featured Artist: *Jenny Walton*



Jenny Walton is one of the artists exhibiting her work at *Artomatic* this year. Jenny is a contemporary artist who is finishing up her residency at

Pyramid Atlantic Art Studio in Silver Spring, MD. She is trained painter, but uses many different mediums in her work. She currently lives in the Washington, D.C. metro area and works at International Arts & Artists as the Assistant to the President and Special Projects Coordinator. Website: [www.jennywaltonart.com](http://www.jennywaltonart.com)

By Joanna Rutkowska



Left: *Adam's Rib*, monotype, 20" x 10" ©2009

Right: *Consumption*, monotype, 20" x 10" ©2009



[www.usartstraining.org](http://www.usartstraining.org)

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