DEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR

Juan Luna’s Revolution

A/P Kevin Chua

CHAIRMAN

Dr. Priya Manish Jaradi

Wednesday, 10 January 2018, 3 pm
History/Political Science Lounge, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences,
Block AS1, #04–01, 11 Arts Link, Singapore 117570

Abstract
Juan Luna (1857-1899), Filipino painter, spent the 1880s and 90s in Europe, exhibiting in several major European salon exhibitions. Together with José Rizal – doctor, intellectual, patriot – they formed a group known as the “ilustrados,” who were exposed to European enlightenment ideas, and committed to working towards the independence of the Philippines from Spain. If previous attempts have too quickly read Luna's painting in a nationalist and post-colonial light, this talk considers the strategic positioning of his painting with regard to European exhibition politics, and the heterochronic dimension of his painting with regard to time. By close readings of three canvases – Spoliarium (1884), Battle of Lepanto (1887), and The Blood Compact (1886) – this talk will reevaluate Luna's politics, in the years before the Revolution of 1896.

About the Speaker
Dr. Kevin Chua is Associate Professor of 18th- and 19th-century European and Southeast Asian art at Texas Tech University, USA. With a PhD in the History of Art from the University of California at Berkeley, Dr. Chua has held fellowships at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts in Washington, DC, and at the Center for 17th- and 18th-century Studies at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). He has published essays on Greuze, Girodet, and David, and is currently working on a book-length project on Greuze and vitalism in mid-18th century France. Dr Chua also writes on modern and contemporary art in Southeast Asia, and has published essays on Simryn Gill, Ho Tzu Nyen, Charles Lim, the Migrant Ecologies Project, 1950s Nanyang painting, and the politics of animality in 19th-century Singapore. His essay "Courbet after Sudjojono" is forthcoming in the journal Art History.

For enquiries, please contact the Seminar Coordinator,
Dr. Portia Reyes at hisrp@nus.edu.sg