



Edwin Tuazon

## Kapre (A tree-dwelling creature)

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Oil on canvas. 48" x 36" by Edwin Tuazon (Artist)



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*Kapre* is a popular mythical creature from Philippine mythology and folklore. It is generally depicted as a tall, hairy giant sitting in trees and smoking a large cigar or *tabako*. It is typically nocturnal and omnivorous. While often mischievous (leading people astray and scaring off children), it is not always considered inherently evil; however, a part of it is ominous and sinister.

### **Kapre's Symbolism**

I painted this illustration of a kapre in a masterpiece that connects the myth to contemporary issues in the Philippines, specifically the drug problem under former President Duterte's administration. Holding and sniffing a huge cigar, kapre symbolises the Filipinos' rampant use *of* and engagement *with* prohibited drugs in the Philippines. The wickedness and power of the "drug lords" have tremendously added societal pressure and intensified the entangled relationship between corruption, drug involvement, and drug addiction. This nonstop sniffing of the *tabako* symbolises perverse addiction, a human frailty that consumes and destroys the very soul of drug users.

### **Black Hawks Killing Doves**

Oozing with power and strength, black hawks symbolise the menacing force of drug lords, their corrupting influence, and the harsh consequences of the drug war. Black hawks represent a destructive force, while white doves traditionally represent peace, innocence, and justice. The act of killing the doves signifies that peace and justice are destroyed due to the prevalence of drugs, the coercive and manipulative power of those who control them, and the perversion of leaders who are supposed to protect the ordinary citizens.

*With additional descriptions from Nimrod L. Delante*

### **Bionote**

**Edwin Tuazon** is a self-taught artist whose mastery of visual storytelling will leave you spellbound. His artwork is not just a feast for the eyes; it's a captivating blend of impressionism, surrealism, and realism that resonates deeply with the human experience. Each piece tells a unique story, beckoning you to dive into a realm of emotion and imagination that is both profound and exhilarating. Tuazon's artistic journey is a shining example of passion and dedication. With an exceptional eye for detail and a fearless approach to colour, he transforms ordinary canvases into extraordinary realms that invite exploration. Whether showcasing the tranquil beauty of a landscape or the mysterious charm of a surreal scene, his art ignites a sense of wonder and introspection that is hard to forget. More about Edwin Tuazon at <https://sites.google.com/view/edwintuazon/about>