



Edwin Tuazon (Artist)

Amamayong (Sigbin)

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



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Amamayong or *sigbin* is a legendary creature in Philippine folklore. It is a nighttime creature that is said to suck blood from its victims' shadows. It is known for walking backwards with its head lowered between its front legs, a distinct ability to scan its prey because its hind legs are taller than its front legs. Amamayong has stealth abilities, powerful enough to lure and deceive its prey.

Myth has it that amamayong can control its victim from afar. It does not need to see its victim; one sniff away and the victim is paralysed in its location. It is believed to have a sixth sense, in which its single whiff might reveal not just what something is, but where it came from, how long it has been there, and how to locate it through amamayong's acute sense of smell.

Then it leans in, silently, creepily, invisible but active and present, and with just one sniff, it attacks its victim and renders them helpless.

Amamayong lives in a recluse in the remote and mountainous regions of the Philippines. Folklore has it that amamayong is actively seeking prey when dogs, even the biggest and strongest, are whining, whimpering, howling and growling in fear while cowering in their spaces. Even cats can be heard hissing out of fear. Amamayong is most active at midnight when the whole village is silent, and when most people are asleep.

But apart from it being mythical and feared by many, could we also say that amamayong is a symbol of greed and deceit? A symbol of a corrupt government that controls, manipulates, and annihilates people's desires, hopes and dreams? Could we say that amamayong is a signification of political paralysis that obliterates effective leadership and the courage of the Filipino to make things better and live a good life? How many more amamayongs will come to destroy the Filipino spirit?

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>