

# HUMAN PATTERNS

visual explorations by kym olympia

2018

## THE HUMAN PATTERNS

In 2012, the photos were taken as part of the qualitative research of our undergraduate thesis for the BS Architecture course at the Technological University Manila. My thesis partner and I spent a whole week at the 9 coastal barangays (Alima, Maliksi 1, Maliksi 2, Maliksi 3, Digman, Poblacion, Sinaguelasan, Talaba 2 and Zapote 5) of Bacoor Bay, documenting the current state of the "poorest of the poor" - the fisherfolks. Our thesis was about the failure to provide the security of tenure for the fisherfolks at the coast. They are part of the growing number of informal settlers we considered as "special cases" for although they are original settlers, they are also victims of land conversion and urban sprawl. We were awarded best thesis for the BS Architecture batch of 2013.

Fast-forward to 2018, I was contributing to a book about architectural fictions and the current state of the city. One of my stories is "Walang Kotrabida" which is about the ripple of cruelty as opposition to the usual positive counterpart, ripple of kindness. One may thought of it as pessimistic and only focuses on negativity but it also tackles our own cruelty unknowingly imposed to others creating a cycle - a cycle that everyone may just be a prey of. Looking for materials that would best fit my new endeavor, I stumbled upon my files from almost 6 years ago. The exploration takes on the struggle between negative - positive, the ironies in between and the conflict to attain balance that consist realities of life.

The exploration is out of the curiosity of making an unpleasant scene, pleasant. The process starts by color manipulation and mirroring of images, leading to exploring duplication and multiplication. Certain patterns start to emerge the more the source image becomes unrecognizable until only the interesting geometries are left. The resulting product is a familiar image that seems indiscernible at first glance until it slowly unveils itself to the keen observer, by memory and rationality.

This particular collection of 9 visual prints is my take to remind us to always look at anything with optimism no matter how cruel the reality may seem.

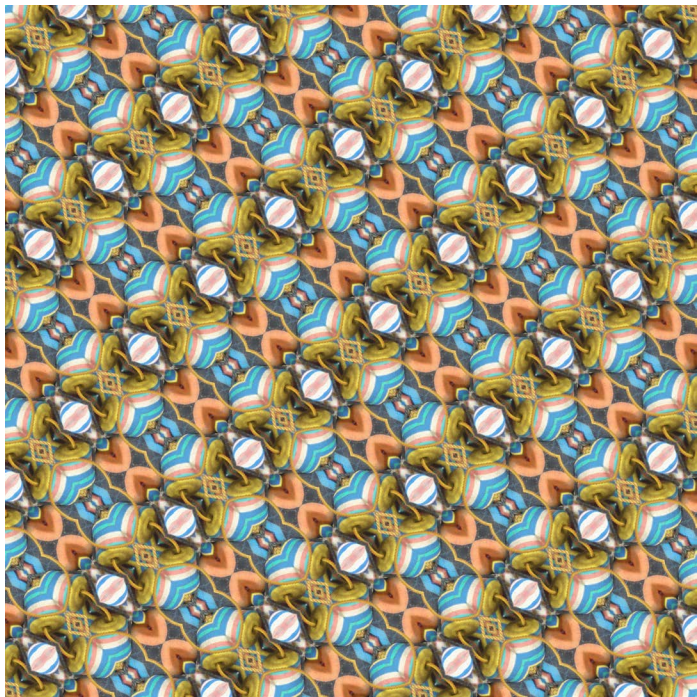


site : 9 coastal barangays at bacoor bay

year: 2012

edited: 2018

credits: bernadeth rebustes, thesis partner



"buoy"

12" x 12" archival digital print edition of 5

visual explorations by kym olympia

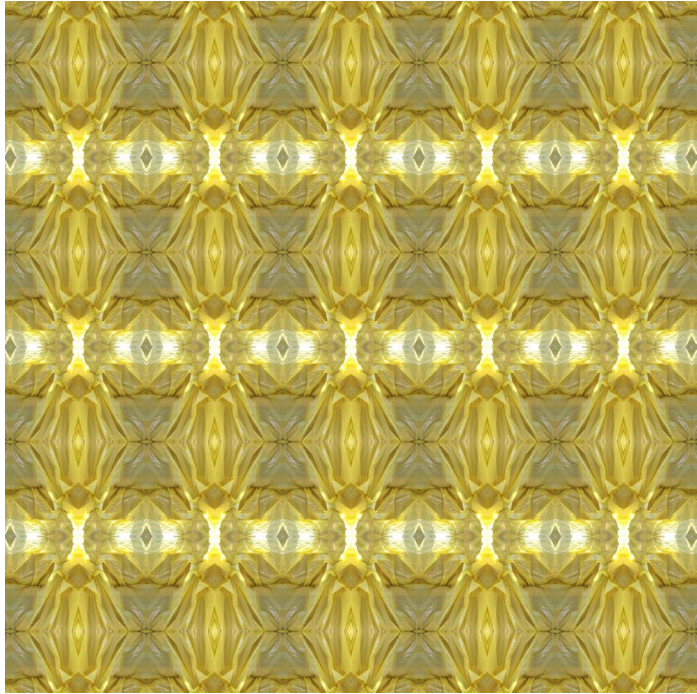


*buoy*

Buoys are used in fishing to mark locations of nets left adrift.

the **boring** studio





"Ingress"

12" x 12" archival digital print edition of 5

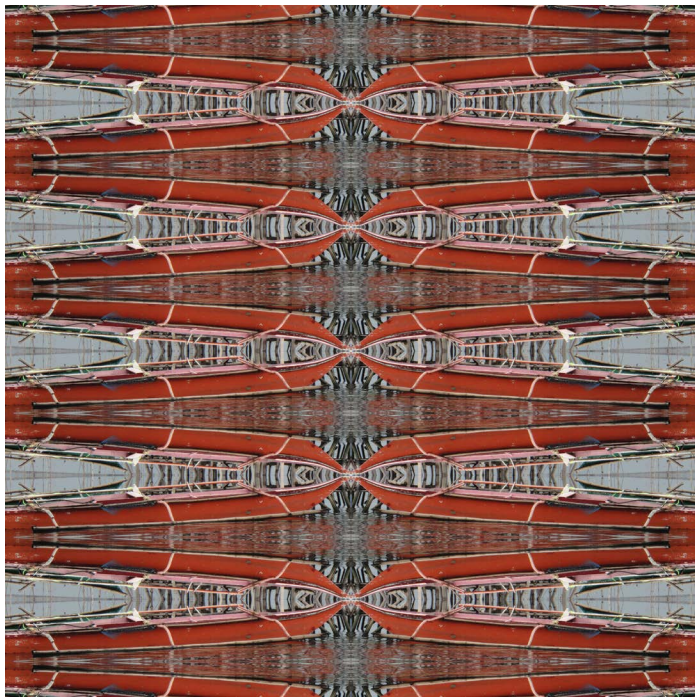
visual explorations by kym olympio



*welcome*

An entrance to a fisherfolk's hut (house). Huts are raised on stilts and are mostly made of bamboo, nipa and other found materials.

the **boring** studio



"refuge"

12" x 12" archival digital print edition of 5

visual explorations by kym olympio

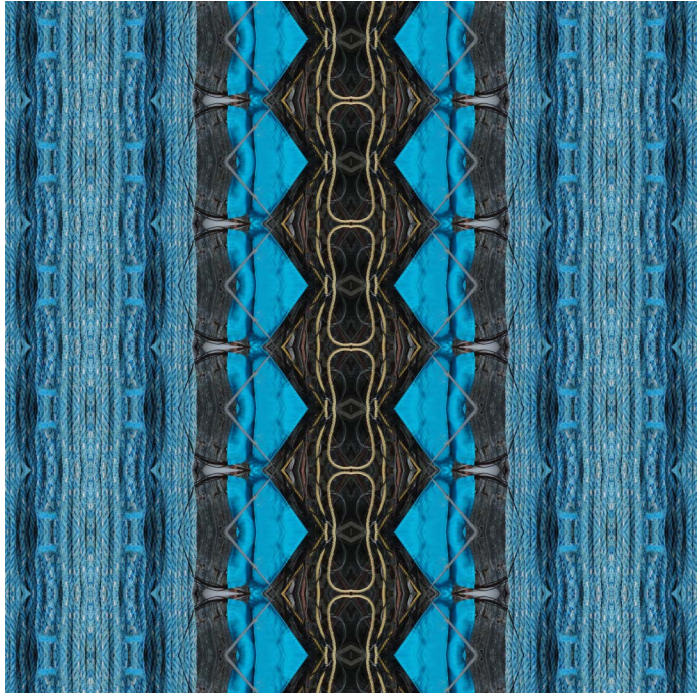


*huts*

*A fisherfolk readies for a harvest at stilted huts in the middle of the Bacoor bay. These huts serve as refuge during the harvesting of mussels that only occurs after every 6 months. The huts can only be accessed by fishing boats.*

the **boring** studio





"lubid"

12" x 12" archival digital print edition of 5

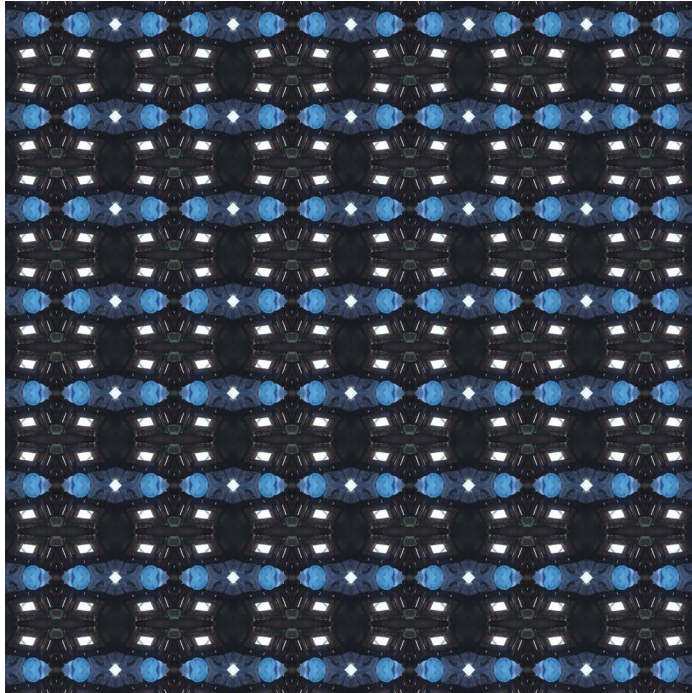
visual explorations by kym olympio



*drying fish*

Most of the fisherfolk can not afford the convenience and comforts of technology. Drying fish is still the best possible way to preserve food for longer storage periods.

the **boring** studio



"lotrine"

12" x 12" archival digital print edition of 5

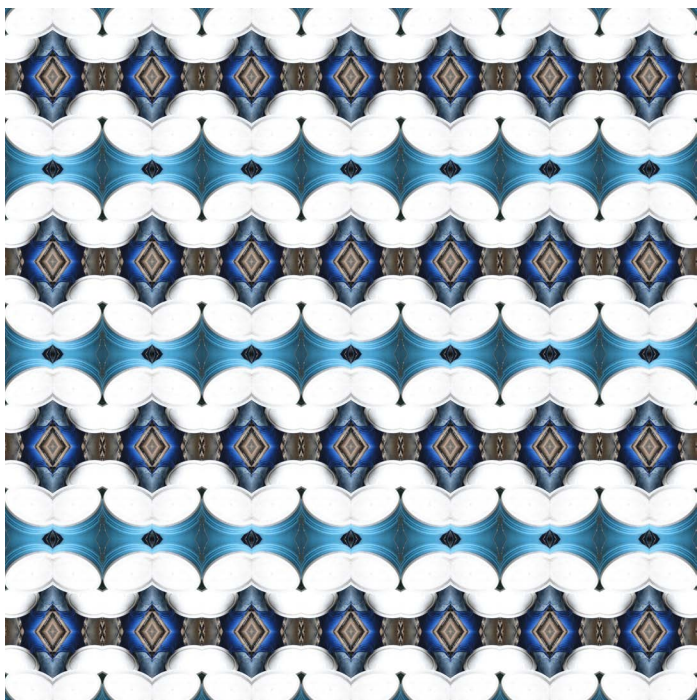
visual explorations by kym olympio



*toilet and shower*

Most huts lack the proper sanitary facilities. A section of a fisherfolk's hut is used as a "toilet and shower" where all wastewater including fecal matters fall directly to the water below.

the **boring** studio



"tulay"

12" x 12" archival digital print edition of 5

visual explorations by kym olympio

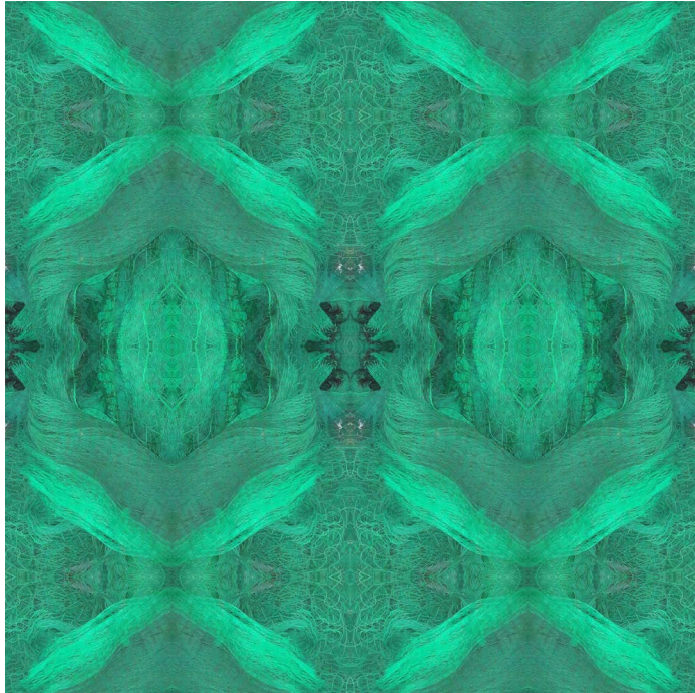


deck

*Huts are connected by boardwalks, shared decks and walkways made of bamboo. Used containers of petroleum, paint and other materials are reused for all utility purposes.*

the **boring** studio





"lambot"

12" x 12" archival digital print edition of 5

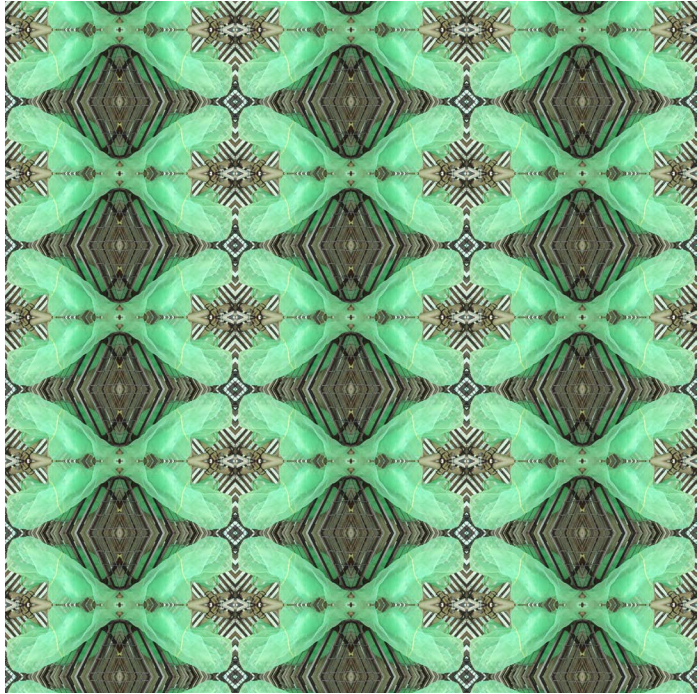
visual explorations by kym olympio



*fishing net*

Fishing nets are being prepared and repaired at the fisherfolk's common room that also serves as living room, dining and bedroom.

the **boring** studio



"siesta"

12" x 12" archival digital print edition of 5

visual explorations by kym olympia

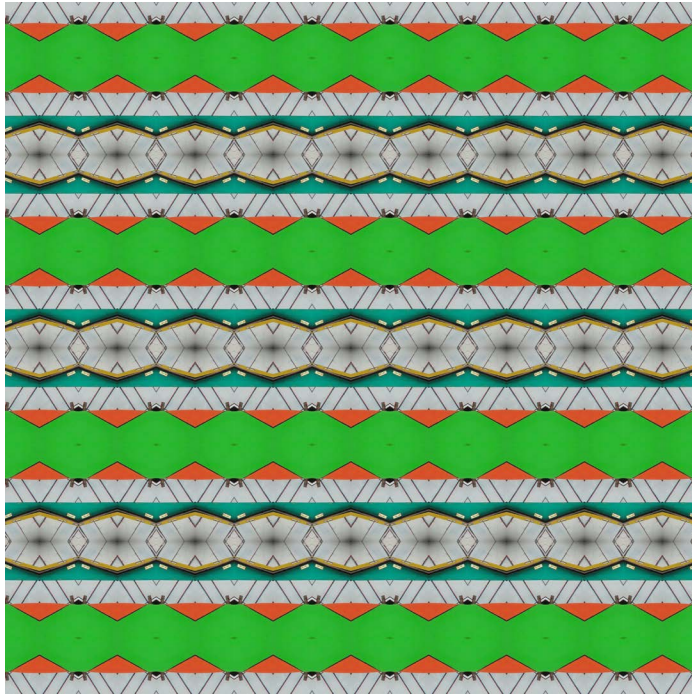


*a fisherfolk's bedroom*

This fisherfolk family has a bedroom made of bamboo. The bench made of split bamboo is also used as a bed and a folding bed is laid with banig for sleeping. A kulambo is used as a screen for mosquitoes and other insects.

the **boring** studio





"banderita"

12" x 12" archival digital print edition of 5

visual explorations by kym olympia



fishing boats

Fisherfolks build their own boats with the help of local craftsmen whose training, skills and knowledge of boatbuilding are only passed down from previous generations. They usually decorate the boats with vibrant colors and the boat letterings and graphic decorations are done by skilled painters (artists).

the **boring** studio





photos and illustrations by Kym Olympia

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED 2018

produced by The Boring Studio  
[www.theboringstudioarchitecture.com](http://www.theboringstudioarchitecture.com)

*The Human Patterns visual explorations will be featured in the Luya Publishing Press'  
upcoming book, Sabi-sabi Volume 01, 2019*

