

# Kat De Guzman Artist Statement

Kat De Guzman is a Los Angeles-based artist working in photography and video. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts with an emphasis in Photography at California State University, Long Beach along with an Associate Degree in Studio Art and Art History from Moorpark College. Kat has exhibited locally in Southern California and has works featured in multiple publications such as *Hamburger Eyes* and *823*. She is an active member in *Off Season*, a photography collective based in Ventura County. Kat works with family photographic archives and documents portraits and landscapes with her camera to understand complex narratives from her experience as a first-generation Asian-American woman. She explores narratives similar amongst immigrant families about navigating in a Westernized society such as the United States. Kat maps out her cultural explorations through a combination of storytelling and conversations with people in her community. These efforts intend to heal wounds (contemporary and ancestral) within herself and other multicultural individuals who do not feel resolved in their identities and have assimilated into Westernized culture.

*Nagsasalita ka, nagsasalita ako (Part 2)* is the second in its video series by its respective name which translates from Tagalog, the Filipino language, to "you speak, I speak". The video series is an exercise to relearn Tagalog, my first known language growing up. My mother participates in this series as we try to exchange conversation. Choosing her to collaborate with me in the video series parallels my desire to reconnect to my sense of home and heritage through my mother tongue.