

THE VALLEY
1988 - 2017

PIERRE DE VALLOMBREUSE

THE VALLEY

PALAWAN PHILIPPINES

1988-2017

A photography exhibit by Pierre de Vallombreuse
at the National Museum of the Philippines



A FAMILY LEAVES THEIR CAVE TO LIVE DOWN IN THE VALLEY, 1994

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JEREMY BARNES
DIRECTOR
NATIONAL MUSEUM
OF THE PHILIPPINES

The project of *The Valley* Photographic Exhibition by French photographer Pierre de Vallombreuse marks the return of the National Museum to the study of the Tau't Batu in Palawan that began in 1977. After 1978 and the declaration of the Tau't Batu petroglyph as National Cultural Treasure, interest in the area waned. A revival of our concern happened during the preparation for this project and our Ethnology Division researchers Lyn Liza Silva and Allan Alvarez accompanied Mr. Vallombreuse in 2016. They are leading the research on the Tau't Batu that will serve to enhance this exhibition project and revisit the ethnography articulated in the publication *Tau't Batu Studies* (1983) edited by former National Museum Assistant Director and anthropologist Dr. Jesus Peralta.

Among the National Museum's mandates from 1998 is a cultural center. This means it takes the lead in the study and preservation of the nation's rich artistic and cultural heritage, in the reconstruction and rebuilding of our past, and the development of the national cultural wealth. This has certainly been promoted in our past projects with Alliance Française de Manille and the French Embassy. On 26 February 2015, the French President François Hollande was the guest of honor at the inauguration of the Ferrante Ferranti's exhibition of photographs "Encounters: World Heritage Baroque Churches of the Philippines" that compares features of our colonial built heritage with similar structures in South America and India. This was followed by the exhibition "A Vision for the Sensual City" by architect Jacques Ferrier that opened in 15 March 2016. The architect of the French Pavilion in the 2010 Shanghai Expo who merged art, design, and sustainable architecture, aiming to promote the quality of life of people working and living in his designed spaces.

As we celebrate this year the 70th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between France and the Philippines, the National Museum heartily supports our partner's special theme "PHILFRANCE: Feel French!". Through the French lenses of Pierre de Vallombreuse, we will experience seeing the Tau't Batu as he views them and the evocation that emanates from the 81 prints and 100 digital images in our collaborative exhibition. We are also invited to interpret the stories that are embedded in each of them. We will better appreciate them not as anthropological subjects as they have been represented in the past but as human beings living as best they could. Since his first acquaintance with the Tau't Batu in 1988, Mr. de Vallombreuse continues to appeal to us all to appreciate the Tau't Batu in the environment of their own choosing, yet are now being threatened by over-development and tourism.

After the exhibition's run in February 2018 in Manila, we hope to tour these photographs to different parts of the Philippines through our National Museum network. I would like to express my gratitude to Assistant Director Ana Labrador for leading the way in forging our international engagements and carrying them out through meaningful exhibitions and public programs. As we continue our research among the Tau't Batu, we also look forward to elaborating this project with Mr. de Vallombreuse at the Musée de l'Homme in Paris in 2018.

JEREMY BARNES

DIRECTEUR

MUSÉE NATIONAL

DES PHILIPPINES

Le projet d'exposition photographique *La vallée* du photographe français Pierre de Vallombreuse marque le retour au Musée National de l'étude sur le peuple Tau't Batu de Palawan qui avait débuté en 1977. En 1978, après que le pétroglyphe des Tau't Batu eut été déclaré trésor culturel national, l'intérêt pour la région avait perdu de l'ampleur. Notre préoccupation pour ce peuple a cependant été renouvelée en 2016 pendant la préparation du présent projet par nos chercheurs Lyn Liza Silva et Allan Alvarez, de la division Ethnologie, accompagnés dans leur démarche par M. de Vallombreuse. Ces derniers dirigent la recherche sur les Tau't Batu qui servira à rehausser la valeur du projet d'exposition tout en réexaminant l'ethnographie articulée dans la publication *Tau't Batu Studies* qui avait été éditée par le Dr. Jesus Peralta, anthropologue et ex-directeur adjoint du Musée National.

Parmi les mandats du Musée National depuis 1998 se retrouve celui d'être un centre culturel. Cela signifie que le Musée est devenu le fer de lance dans les études et la protection du riche patrimoine artistique et culturel de notre nation, dans la reconstruction et la reconstitution de notre passé et dans le développement de notre richesse culturelle nationale. Nos derniers projets en collaboration avec l'Alliance Française de Manille et l'Ambassade de France en ont certes fait la promotion. Le 26 février 2015, le Président français François Hollande fut l'invité d'honneur à l'inauguration de l'exposition du photographe Ferrante Ferranti intitulée " Rencontres : Eglises baroques du patrimoine mondial aux Philippines " qui présentait les caractéristiques du patrimoine des constructions coloniales comparées aux structures semblables que l'on retrouve en Amérique du Sud et en Inde. L'exposition suivante " Vision pour une ville sensuelle " de l'architecte Jacques Ferrier a ouvert ses portes le 15 mars 2016. L'architecte du pavillon français à l'Expo 2010 de Shanghai qui fusionnait art, design et architecture durable, visait à promouvoir la qualité de vie des gens qui travaillent et vivent dans les espaces qu'il avait conçus.

Alors que nous célébrons cette année le 70ème anniversaire des relations diplomatiques entre la France et les Philippines, le Musée National soutient de tout cœur la thématique spéciale de notre partenaire « PHILFRANCE: Feel French! ». À travers la lentille française de Pierre de Vallombreuse, nous allons non seulement faire l'expérience d'une rencontre avec les Tau't Batu comme le photographe les perçoit mais aussi ressentir l'évocation qui émane des 81 tirages et 100 images numériques présentes dans notre exposition collaborative. Nous serons par le fait même invités à interpréter les histoires profondément ancrées dans chacune de ces photographies. Nous allons pouvoir mieux apprécier ce peuple non pas en tant qu'objet ethnologique, comme il le fut par le passé, mais plutôt comme êtres humains qui tentent de survivre du mieux qu'ils peuvent. Depuis sa première rencontre avec les Tau't Batu en 1988, M. de Vallombreuse continue de nous inviter à apprécier ce peuple qui évolue dans un environnement qu'il a choisi mais qui, aujourd'hui, se voit menacé par le surdéveloppement et le tourisme à grande échelle.

À la conclusion de cette exposition à Manille en février 2018, nous espérons partir en tournée avec ces photographies vers les différentes régions des Philippines par le biais de notre réseau du Musée National. J'aimerais exprimer ici toute ma gratitude à la directrice adjointe Ana Labrador pour ouvrir la voie en forgeant nos engagements internationaux et en les menant à terme grâce à nos expositions significatives et programmes publics de grande importance. Alors que nous continuons notre recherche au sein des Tau't Batu, nous attendons aussi avec impatience l'élaboration du présent projet avec M. de Vallombreuse au Musée de l'Homme à Paris en 2018.

JEREMY BARNES

TAGAPAGPAGANAP PAMBANSANG MUSEO NG PILIPINAS

Ang proyektong *Valley Photographic Exhibition* ng litratistang Pranses na si Pierre de Vallombreuse ay nagtatakda ng muling pag-aaral ng Pambansang Museo sa mga Tau't Batu ng Palawan na sinimulan noong 1977. Pagkatapos ng 1978 at ang pagpapahayag ng petroglyph ng Tau't Batu bilang Pambansang Kultural na Kayamanan, naglaho ang interes sa kanila. Muling nabuhay ang aming interes habang naghahanda para sa proyektong ito, at sumama ang mga mananaliksik naming sina Lyn Liza Silva at Allan Alvarez ng Dibisyon ng Etnolohiya kay G. Vallombreuse noong 2016. Pinamumunuan nila ang pananaliksik sa Tau't Batu na makadaragdag sa eksibisyong ito at balikang tanaw ang etnograpiyang nalalahad sa lathalaing *Tau't Batu Studies* (1983) na pinamamagitan ng dating Katuwang na Direktor ng Pambansang Museo at antropologong si Dr. Jesus Peralta.

Isa sa mga mandato ng Pambansang Museo mula 1998 ang pagiging sentro ng kalinangan. Nangangahulugan ito ng pamumuno sa pag-aaral at pagkalinga sa mayamang pamanang sining at kultural, sa pagbuong muli sa kasaysayan, at sa pagpapaulad ng pambansang kayamananang kultural. Ito ay naitaguyod sa ating mga nagdaang proyekto katuwang ang *Alliance Française de Manille* at ang Embahada ng Pransya. Noong ika-26 ng Pebrero 2015, naging panauhing pandangal ang Pangulo ng Pransya na si François Hollande sa pagpapasinaya ng eksibiyong "*Encounters: World Heritage Baroque Churches of the Philippines*" na mga larawan ni Ferrante Ferranti na naghahambing sa mga katangiang pamana ng panahong kolonyal sa mga tulad na istruktura sa Timog Amerika at India. Ito ay sinundan ng eksibisyong "*A Vision for the Sensual City*" ng arkitektong si Jacques Ferrier na pinasinayaan noong ika-15 ng Marso 2016. Ang arkitekto ng Pabilyong Pranses sa 2010 Shanghai Expo na pinagsasama ang sining, disenyo at pangmatagalang arkitektura, ay naglalayong itaguyod ang kalidad ng buhay ng mga taong nagtatrabaho at namumuhay sa kaniyang mga idinisenyo.

Sa ating pagdiriwang ng ika-70 anibersaryo ng ugnayang diplomatiko sa pagitan ng Pransya at Pilipinas, buong pusong nakikiisa ang Pambansang Museo sa espesyal na tema nitong "*PHILFRANCE: Feel French!*". Sa pamamagitan ng lenteng Pranses ni Pierre de Vallombreuse, mararanasan natin ang pagtingin sa mga Tau't Batu hindi lamang sa kanyang pananaw kundi maging sa pagpukaw na nagmumula mismo sa 81 larawang nakalimbag at 100 digital na larawan sa aming magkatuwang na pagtatanghal. Inaanyayahan din tayong bigyang kahulugan ang mga kwentong nakakabit sa bawat isa. Mas mapahahalagahan natin sila hindi lamang bilang mga paksa sa antropolohikal na pag-aaral na noo'y paglalarawan sa kanila, kundi bilang mga taong namumuhay ayon sa kanilang kakayanan. Mula nang unang pakikisalamuha niya sa mga Tau't Batu noong 1988, patuloy na nananawagan si G. de Vallombreuse sa atin na pahalagahan ang mga Tau't Batu sa kapaligirang kanilang pinili na ngayon ay nanganganib sa banta ng pag-unlad at turismo.

Matapos ang eksibisyon sa Pebrero 2018 sa Maynila, ninanais naming dalhin ang mga larawang ito sa iba't ibang bahagi ng Pilipinas sa pamamagitan ng aming mga kaugnayan sa Pambansang Museo. Nais ko ring magpasalamat kay Katuwang na Direktor Ana Labrador sa kaniyang pangunguna sa pagbuo ng aming ugnayang internasyonal at pagsasabuhay nito sa pamamagitan ng mga makabuluhang eksibisyon at programang pampubliko. Sa pagpapatuloy ng aming pananaliksik sa mga Tau't Batu, malugod kaming umaasa sa pagpapalawak ng proyektong ito kasama si G. de Vallombreuse at Musée de l'Homme sa Paris sa 2018.



THE SUN RISES OVER THE VALLEY, 2016





THIERRY MATHOU
FRENCH AMBASSADOR
TO THE PHILIPPINES
AND MICRONESIA

The Philippines is an archipelago of luxurious and diverse islands hosting various ethnic groups -- this is what illustrates the exhibition of Pierre de Vallombreuse. *The Valley* is organized by the Alliance Française de Manille together with the Embassy of France to the Philippines, and the National Museum of the Philippines.

Over the last thirty years the photographer has been staying many times with the ethnic groups of Palawan. Though they were living isolated from the rest of the Philippines until the early 1980's, they have been progressively affected by outside influences. Pierre de Vallombreuse describes this development as both a photographer and an ethnologist. His work invites visitors of *The Valley* to discover the universe of a native community. The fascination and the respect he gives to this community can be perceived in each photograph.

Beyond this testimony on the diversity of lifestyle, traditional customs, and knowledge, this exhibition also illustrates the research that Pierre de Vallombreuse has been pursuing for several years in different continents - tracking the roots of humanity and exploring the intimate relation between mankind and the environment. His purpose is to highlight the ability of the population to live in harmony with the planet and protect biodiversity. In the context of climate change and globalization, this challenge is most welcome.

Organized in the framework of the "PHILFRANCE: Feel French!" festival, which celebrates the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between France and the Philippines and aims to become the annual synthesis of the exchanges between our two countries, this exhibition is a prime example of the wide range of the Franco-Philippine interactions, which have been nourished by collective encounters as well as individual paths and institutional links.

By connecting Palawan's ethnic groups to the celebration of this anniversary, Pierre de Vallombreuse reminds us that the promotion of a sustainable and solidarity-based growth is one of the founding principles of France's approach in the Philippines in accordance with the Paris Agreement on climate change. Beyond its artistic and ethnographic scope, this exhibition demonstrates the importance, as underlined by COP21, to include the indigenous people in the climate change-related process, as they are particularly vulnerable, and understand mitigation and adaptation mechanisms that will help in facing the ongoing changes.

Far from being a naive quest of the state of nature, *The Valley* is an invitation to build a common future which does not ignore the past but learns from the knowledge of the people who live in harmony with their environment.

THIERRY MATHOU
 AMBASSADEUR DE FRANCE
 AUX PHILIPPINES
 ET EN MICRONÉSIE

Archipel d'îles aussi luxuriantes que variées, les Philippines abritent une communauté de peuples divers et très anciens dont l'origine de certains remonte à la nuit des temps comme l'illustre l'exposition de Pierre de Vallombreuse intitulée *La vallée*, organisée conjointement par l'Alliance Française de Manille, l'Ambassade de France aux Philippines et le Musée national des Philippines.

Les tribus de Palawan, que le photographe suit depuis plus de trente ans et auprès desquelles il a longuement séjourné, vivaient isolées du monde philippin jusqu'à dans les années 1980. Elles ont été progressivement touchées par les influences venues de l'extérieur. C'est cette évolution que relate Pierre de Vallombreuse qui fait œuvre d'ethnologue autant que de photographe en invitant les visiteurs de *La Vallée* à découvrir l'univers d'une communauté autochtone dont on perçoit à chaque cliché la fascination mais aussi le respect qu'elle lui inspire.

Au-delà du témoignage sur la diversité des modes de vie, des pratiques et des savoirs traditionnels, cette exposition illustre la quête que Pierre de Vallombreuse a entreprise depuis de nombreuses années sur plusieurs continents sur les traces des Hommes racines pour explorer la relation intime existant entre l'humanité et son environnement et valoriser les cultures dépositaires de savoirs essentiels à la préservation de la biodiversité : un défi bienvenu à l'ère de la mondialisation et des changements climatiques.

Organisée dans le cadre du 70ème anniversaire de l'établissement des relations diplomatiques entre la France et les Philippines, occasion de lancer le festival « PHILFRANCE : Feel French ! », qui a vocation à devenir la synthèse annuelle des échanges entre nos deux pays, cette exposition illustre le foisonnement et la diversité des interactions franco-philippines qui se sont autant nourries de rencontres et de parcours individuels que de liens institutionnels.

Associant indirectement les tribus de Palawan à la célébration de cet anniversaire Pierre de Vallombreuse nous offre l'occasion de rappeler que la promotion d'une croissance verte et solidaire qui fonde la démarche de la France aux Philippines dans l'esprit de l'Accord de Paris sur le changement climatique, repose sur une approche inclusive. Au-delà de sa portée artistique et ethnographique, son exposition démontre l'importance, soulignée par la COP21, d'inclure les peuples autochtones dans les processus relatifs au changement climatique, compte tenu de leur vulnérabilité mais aussi de leur contribution à la compréhension des mécanismes d'atténuation et d'adaptation qui permettront de faire face aux mutations en cours.

Loind'une quête naïve de l'état de nature, *La vallée* est une invitation à construire un avenir en commun qui n'ignore rien du passé ni des enseignements que peuvent nous livrer ceux qui vivent au plus près de leur environnement.

THIERRY MATHOU

EMBAHADOR NG PRANSYA SA PILIPINAS

Ang Pilipinas ay isang kapuluang sagana sa likas na yaman at tahanan ng iba't ibang pangkat-etniko—ito ang inilalarawan ng eksibisyon ni Pierre de Vallombreuse. Ang Lambak ay binuo ng Alliance Française de Manille katuwang ang Embahada ng Pransya sa Pilipinas, at ang Pambansang Museo ng Pilipinas. Sa loob ng mahigit tatlung taon, maraming beses na nagpabalik-balik at nakisalamuha si Pierre de Vallombreuse sa mga pangkat-etniko sa Palawan. Bagama't namumuhay silang hiwalay sa ibang bahagi ng Pilipinas hanggang sa simula ng 1980, patuloy silang naaapektuhan ng mga impluwensiyang panlabas. Inilarawan ni Pierre de Vallombreuse ang mga pagbabagong ito bilang isang litratista at etnolohista. Ang kaniyang mga gawa ay isang paanyaya sa mga panauhin ng *Ang Lambak* na tuklasin ang mundo ng katutubong komunidad. Ang pagkamangha at ang respetong ibinibigay niya sa komunidad na ito ay mababatid sa bawat larawan.

Maliban sa pahayag ng kaibahan ng pamumuhay, tradisyunal na kaugalian at kaalaman, ipinapakita rin ng eksibisyong ito ang pagsasaliksik na ginagawa ni Pierre de Vallombreuse sa loob ng maraming taon sa iba't ibang kontinente—ang pagtuntong sa pinagmulan ng sangkatauhan at paggalugad sa matalik na ugnayan sa pagitan ng tao at ng kapaligiran. Layunin niya na mabigyang-pansin ang kakayahan ng populasyon na mabuhay kaisa ang mundo at mapangalagaan ang sanlaksang-buhay. Sa konteksto ng pagbabago ng klima at globalisasyon, ang hamong ito ay malugod na tinatanggap.

Binuo sa balangkas ng kapistahang “PHILFRANCE: Feel French!” na nagdiriwang ng ika-70 anibersaryo ng relasyong diplomatiko sa pagitan ng Pransya at Pilipinas at naglalayon na maging taunang pagbuo ng palitan sa pagitan ng dalawang bansa, ang eksibisyong ito ay isang magandang halimbawa ng malawak na ugnayang Pranses-Pilipino, na pinagya-man ng sama-samang pagtatagpo maging ng mga indibidwal na tahakin at koneksyong institusyonal.

Sa pamamagitan ng pag-uugnay ng mga pangkat-etniko ng Palawan sa pagdiriwang ng anibersaryong ito, ipinapaalala ni Pierre de Vallombreuse na ang pagtataguyod ng napapanatili at nagkakaisang pag-unlad ay isa sa mga pangunahing salik ng ugnayan ng Pransya sa Pilipinas batay sa Kasunduang Paris sa pagbabago ng klima. Bukod sa makasining at etnograpihong saklaw nito, itinatampok din ng eksibisyong ito ang kahalagahan, na binigyang-diin ng COP21, na ilahok at gawing bahagi ang mga katutubo sa proseso at usapin na may kaugnayan sa pagbabago ng klima, bilang sila ang partikular na madaling maapektuhan nito, at maunawaan ang mitigasyon at mekanismo ng adaptasyon na makatutulong sa pagharap sa kasalukuyang pagbabago.

Higit sa isang inosenteng pakikipagsapalaran sa kapaligiran, *Ang Lambak* ay isang paanyaya sa pagbuo ng isang hinaharap na hindi nagpapabaya sa nakaraan kundi natututo sa kaalaman ng mga tao na namumuhay ng naaayon sa kanilang kapaligiran



A MAN CUTS OFF BRANCHES OF A TREE THAT OVERSEES PADDY FIELDS, 2015





A MAN GOES OFF HUNTING IN THE MORNING MIST, 2017

VIRGILIO S. ALMARIO
CHAIRMAN
NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Looking through the selected photographs of Mr. Pierre de Vallombreuse, one may understand the intricacies and complexities of the lives of the Tau't Batu—one may perceive the internal struggle of the community and the constant yet concealed push and pull of traditional and contemporary narratives and identities. It presents the fluidity of culture, primarily focusing on the blurred frontiers of the past and the present. The Taw Batu faced modernity with hybridity—a form of indigenization of cultural features, patterns and values; which translates as acceptance and resistance from total cultural domination. *The Valley* exhibition explores these questions of identity vis-à-vis the dominant external influences of the mainstream Filipino culture. It presents how the Taw Batu is confronted with the structures of the present-day discourses and its response to such hegemonic pressures.

As we celebrate 70 years of close cooperation between the Philippines and France, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) has collaborated with Alliance Française de Manille in the implementation of *The Valley* exhibition. On behalf of the NCCA, we wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Alliance Française de Manille and the Embassy of the French Republic for initiating this undertaking. This collaboration is a testament of the Philippines' commitment in further strengthening its cultural ties with France.

VIRGILIO S. ALMARIO

PRÉSIDENT

COMMISSION NATIONALE
POUR LA CULTURE ET LES ARTS

En parcourant la sélection de photographies de M. Pierre de Vallombreuse, les subtilités et la complexité qui caractérisent la vie des Tau't Batu apparaissent nettement. C'est ainsi que l'on perçoit clairement les luttes internes de la communauté et ses tiraillements constants, entre tradition et modernité. Il souligne la porosité de leur culture, en se focalisant principalement sur les frontières difficilement discernables entre le passé et le présent. Les Taw Batu font face à la modernité dans une sorte de dualité – une forme d'indigénisation des caractéristiques, des modèles et des valeurs culturels ; ce qui se traduit à la fois par l'acceptation d'une domination culturelle totale et une résistance à celle-ci. L'exposition *La vallée* explore ces questions d'identité sous l'angle des influences extérieures dominantes de la culture philippine conventionnelle. Elle expose la manière dont les Taw Batu sont confrontés aux idéologies dominantes et leur façon de répondre à de telles pressions hégémoniques.

Alors que nous célébrons 70 ans d'étroite coopération entre les Philippines et la France, la Commission Nationale pour la Culture et les Arts (NCCA) a collaboré avec l'Alliance Française de Manille pour la mise en œuvre de cette exposition. Au nom de la NCCA, nous souhaitons exprimer notre sincère reconnaissance à l'Alliance Française de Manille et à l'Ambassade de France pour avoir initié ce projet. Cette collaboration est le témoignage de l'engagement des Philippines à renforcer davantage ses liens culturels avec la France.

VIRGILIO S. ALMARIO

TAGAPANGULO

NG PAMBANSANG KOMISYON

PARA SA KULTURA

AT MGA SINING

Sa pagsipat sa mga piling retrato ni G. Pierre de Vallombreuse, maaaring maliwanagan sa kasalimuotan at kompleksidad ng buhay ng mga Tau't Batu—maaaring mahinuha ang tunggalian ng komunidad at ang patuloy ngunit tagóng paggigirian ng tradisyonal at kontemporaneong naratibo at identidad. Itinatanghal nito ang daloy ng kultura, pangunahing nakatuon sa malalabong hanggahan ng nakaraan at kasalukuyan. Kinakaharap ng mga Taw Batu ang pagkamakabago ng may kataasang uri—isang anyong pagsasakatutubo ng mga katangiang kultural, mga padron at halagahan; na isinasalin bilang pagtanggap at pagtutol sa ganap na dominasyong kultural. Ginagalugad ng eksibisyong *La vallée* ang mga katanungang ito ng identidad kaugnay sa nananaig na panlabas na impluwensiya ng namamayaning kulturang Filipino. Itinatanghal nito kung paano kinakaharap ng mga Taw Batu ang mga estruktura ng mga kasalukuyang diskurso at ang kanilang tugon sa mga panggigipit ng mga naghaharing-uri.

Sa pagdiriwang natin ng 70 taón ng matalik na pagtutulongan ng Filipinas at France, katuwang ng Pambansang Komisyon para sa Kultura at mga Sining (NCCA) ang Alliance Française de Manille sa pagsasagawa ng eksibit na *La vallée*. Sa ngalan ng NCCA, nais naming ipaabot ang aming taós-pusong pasasalamat sa Alliance Française de Manille at sa Embahada ng Republika ng France sa pangunguna sa gawaing ito. Patunayang kolaborasyong ito sa pangako ng Filipinas na lalong patatagin ang ating bigkisang kultural kasama ang France.



A YOUNG MAN GOES DOWN TO WORK IN THE FIELDS, 2015

