

00:00:00:00 - 00:00:22:20

Francis

You can go into my photo number two, if that helps. So I started off, as I said, you know, looking for things that I was familiar with and I had used. So the example on the left is a photograph from the Philippine War collection. And I had been looking at this photograph through the Library of Congress because they have a copy of it online, too.

00:00:23:05 - 00:00:42:12

Francis

And I used the image to make a drawing. And the whole idea was the image on the left is a photograph of a quote unquote, dead insurgent during the Philippine-American War. It was common practice for American soldiers to actually document and photograph the dead, make postcards and kind of send it back as a record of the war and record of their conquest.

00:00:43:01 - 00:01:04:06

Francis

So the work that I had been doing is to kind of change, change the image and change the narrative, and basically remove the figure from the space, change the context, and give it a new future. The idea is to give a different kind of ending to this person's story. So instead of the person, the figure lying on the ground, I wanted him to be upright and to be floating.

00:01:04:18 - 00:01:32:13

Francis

So I wanted to look at first: things that I had been looking at but never saw in person, never handled in person, just to make that physical connection. And then as I moved, as I moved on, I decided to think about—well, since I'm dealing with narratives, if you go into photo number five, I started looking at the different manuscripts written, the one on the left, as I mentioned earlier, was written by a high school student in Cebu.

00:01:33:00 - 00:01:54:11

Francis

And it was his response to how he and his fellow students had been treated by the American teacher living in the Philippines. And he says something along the lines of, "Sir, if you will not, if you not strangle him—" And this is someone writing a school official about the teacher. "Sir, if you will not strangle him and in other place, surely—"

00:01:54:19 - 00:02:12:14

Francis

Sorry, I can't see. "And very sure we will kill him. He receives salary, work, clothes, shoes, etc. by the Filipino money. We know he comes in this place to save money because he has nothing to eat in his country." But basically the gist of it is he says that he treats us like savages when he himself is a savage.

00:02:12:21 - 00:02:28:08

Francis

So I wanted to hear that story coming from the students. And on the back, it's actually text from the Sullivan papers. It's about the soldier's accounts. So what I'm hoping to do is collect these stories and come up with new narratives, and kind of match them with different figures that I see in the collection as well.

00:02:28:19 - 00:02:45:08

Francis

Which direction it goes—I'm not sure if I'm going to end up making drawings. I'm not sure where I'm going to go. But at least, you know, I've been exposed to these letters, and these messages, and these narratives. So it's—I'm at a point where it seems exciting, and where it goes, who knows?