**Project name:** Soil, Green, Home - Papa  

**Category:** Installation  

**Artist:** Angaea Cuna  

**Abstract**  

When you wear someone’s clothing, you smell their scent, but you don’t smell their memories. What if you can learn a thing or two of someone’s culture and their life through an olfactory experience? Like taste, a sense of smell is an important human instinct that helps you identity the world around you and familiarize with sentimental objects and loved ones. Memories are materialized as photographs or souvenirs, but instead I want to use scent as another form of a memory and a means to share my culture. By distilling organic materials from the Philippines and America into essential oils, I’m creating memories from scents that reveal my experiences as a Filipino immigrant.  

**Detailed Description**  

For this installation, I will focus on the scent profile of my mom and it will indicate my memory of us migrating from the Philippines to California. While these scents trigger memories of my mother from my childhood, I invite guests to smell these scents and learn about a culture through scent. Through our olfactory senses, I’ll be able to connect with people and learn about their memories triggered by the scents. I created my scents by hydro-distilling organic materials with my distillation kit. The equipment uses steam to extract the material’s essence and an essential oil is produced. My scent will be accompanied by a small book of my distillation notes and journal entries.  

From 2018, installation took up 5"x4" of wall space, and was placed about 5ft more or less from the ground. The 3 bottles on the right were the most accurate scents with distillation notes/journal entries below them. The bottles on the right were failed experiments. Guests could smell them too. Below, guests were able to write their responses to the scents.
Left: Guests discussing with one another after smelling the scent “Mom.” Right: Guest is smelling the scent “Jackfruit.”

Left: Guest reading notes about distilling the “Mom” scent. Right: Guests reading the journal entries about the “Calamansi” scent.
Angaea Cuna is a Filipino immigrant who grew up in California, USA. She graduated with a Bachelors degree in Design | Media Arts from UCLA. She experiments with interactive installations that draw questions and awareness about identity and immigration, often using natural materials that are reminiscent of her cross-culture (Philippines and California). She has been studying the olfactory system and its correlation to memory and emotion. This has inspired her to use scent as a medium to portray the stories of her Filipino culture and decriminalize undocumented families. Many of her artworks are inspired by human interaction, identity, and sensibility. Experimenting with different media allows her to convey her thoughts on social issues in her community. In her work, she emphasizes empathy and strive for emotional anchors to bring out the humanity among social and cultural issues.