

## Lawrence Sumulong Photographic Series

---

### Trapo

This series began as a collection of political posters and scenes that Sumulong found in the Philippines. Taking an iconoclastic approach and engaging in the practice of *damnatio memoriae*, he presents images of deterioration as a means of revealing an entrenched feeling of distrust towards a historically corrupt political system. The title aptly takes its name from the Tagalog word for a torn cleaning rag or a crooked politician.

Pursuant to this, Sumulong shot the images digitally, processed and printed them with expired Polaroid 600 and SX-70 film, and lifted the emulsions onto recycled, unbleached paper stock made in the Philippines.

The quotations provided are excerpts from *Towards the New Society* written by Ferdinand Marcos and *TAO: Humanism at work in Filipino Society* by Imelda Marcos, which are two foundational pieces of propaganda published by the Marcos regime. The rhetoric in these works sounds progressive and perhaps resonant of contemporary Filipino political platforms, but has been considered as a reminder of the hypocrisy of that time.