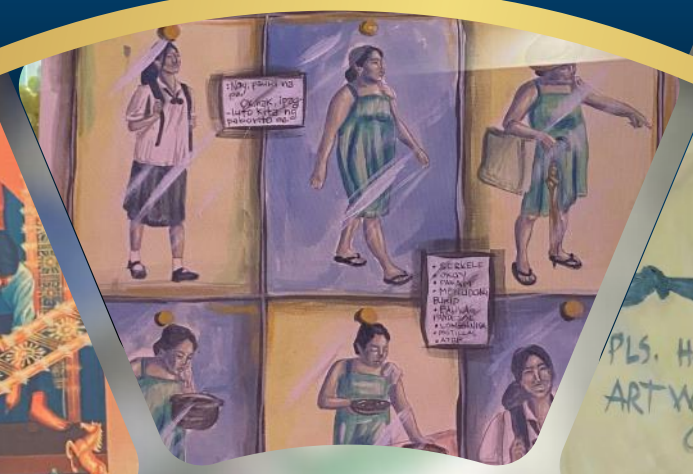
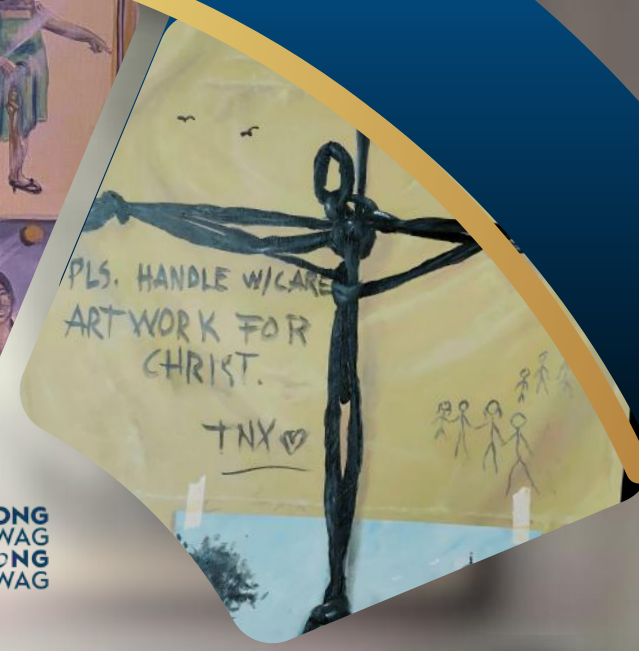




DUGONG BALIWAG PUSONG BALIWAG

ICO AND LETY CRUZ

ART COMPETITION

2022 - 2024

ICO AND LETY CRUZ ART COMPETITION AND ARTIST RESIDENCY

Presented by:
CITY GOVERNMENT OF BALIWAG and
CRUZ FAMILY
In cooperation with
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI)

Essay by Edgar Allan M. Sembrano
Editor and Additional Essays / Text by Jesusa Garcia Villanueva
Book Layout by Jocelle Dela Cruz Abratique
Cover Design by Jocelle Dela Cruz Abratique

©2025
BALIWAG CITY ARTS, CULTURE, AND TOURISM OFFICE
MUSEO NG BALIWAG
Dr. Gonzalez Street, Lumang Munisipyo, Poblacion, Baliwag City, Bulacan
Tel. No. (044) 766 1402
Facebook Page: Museo ng Baliwag
Website: https://museongbaliwag.wixsite.com/ialcac

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without prior permission of copyright holders.

ISBN:
E-ISBN:

Message

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

The Department of Trade and Industry Regional Office 3 congratulates the City Government of Baliwag and the Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition and Artist Residency on the successful publication of this invaluable book. This milestone is a significant achievement, not only as a documentation of the creative works of Bulakenyo artists but also as a celebration of the enduring passion, dedication, and craftsmanship that define the local creative industry.

This book serves as a platform to showcase the remarkable talents of the artists who participated in the Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition. Through its pages, we witness Baliwag's rich cultural heritage brought to life—a testament to how creativity shapes both history and identity. More than just a collection of artworks, this publication highlights the significance of initiatives that nurture artistic talents, provide mentorship, and create meaningful opportunities for local creatives to thrive.

We commend the City Government of Baliwag through the City Arts, Culture and Tourism Office for its dedication to fostering the arts and for its role in the successful implementation of DTI's Lunsod Lunsad Program. This initiative has truly inspired, nurtured, and empowered local artists, strengthening the cultural landscape of Baliwag. The impact of the program is evident in this compendium, which stands as a lasting record of the artists' creative journeys.

The Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition and Artist Residency is a shining example of how collaboration between public and private sectors can create meaningful opportunities for artists and the communities they represent. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the organizers, artists, and everyone involved in making this project a success. Your collective efforts have not only elevated the local art scene but have also enriched the creative ecosystem of Baliwag and beyond.

As we celebrate this milestone, DTI reaffirms its commitment to supporting the Philippine creative industries, recognizing their potential to drive both economic growth and cultural enrichment. May this book serve as an inspiration for artists to pursue their passion, encourage communities to invest in the arts, and open doors to even greater opportunities in the creative sector.

Congratulations to everyone behind this remarkable endeavor!
Mabuhay ang mga malikhaing Baliwagenyo!

HON. EDNA D. DIZON
Regional Director
Department of Trade and Industry Region III

Message

CITY GOVERNMENT OF BALIWAG

Baliwag City has been recognized as a home for artistic talents, a locality where creativity flourishes, and cultural heritage is celebrated.

Recognizing the importance of nurturing this artistic tradition, the City Government of Baliwag has worked closely with private individuals and cultural institutions to develop programs that support and empower local artists. Among these initiatives, the **Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition and Artist Residency** is a testament to our unwavering commitment to fostering artistic excellence and providing a platform for creative expression.

Now in its fourth year, this program has not only presented the talents of Baliwag and Bulacan artists, but has also strengthened our collective appreciation for the arts. To celebrate its success and growing impact on the community, we present this book for everyone in printed and e-book formats. The book is not just a documentation of the program, but also a tribute to the artistic heritage of our city. Within the book's pages, readers will find a historical essay on the evolution of visual arts in Baliwag, along with insightful reflections on the city's culture and traditions. Most importantly, this publication features a catalog of the remarkable works created by the artists who participated in the competition.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our family friend, the Cruz Family, who have been our partners since the program's commencement. They have been proactive and consistent in their advocacy to promote arts in Baliwag, providing an avenue for more artists to showcase their talents and passion.

We would like to thank the Department of Trade and Industry for the grant in the May 2024 edition and the artist residency component. Lastly, we acknowledge all our partners who provided venues for the exhibitions, the judges, mentors and facilitators, the artists, and everyone who has contributed to making this project a reality.

May this book ignite a deeper appreciation for the arts and inspire new visions for a thriving, sustainable artistic community.

HON. FERDINAND V. ESTRELLA
City Mayor

Message

CRUZ FAMILY

Congratulations to the City Government of Baliwag through the Baliwag City Arts, Culture, and Tourism Office (CACTO) on the significant achievement of publishing this book which celebrates the milestones of the Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition.

This initiative began in 2022 to enhance awareness and appreciation for the artistic talents of Baliwagenyos in particular and Bulakenyos in general. It started with an on-the-spot painting contest, which later expanded to include both on-the-spot and finished artworks by artists across Baliwag and other towns in Bulacan. The project was initially a private initiative by the heirs of Renato "Ico" Mateo Cruz and Leticia "Lety" Mercado Cruz, a couple involved in civic and religious activities during their lifetime.

We extend our gratitude to Baliwag's leadership, including Mayor Ferdinand V. Estrella and Administrator Enrique V. Tagle, whose support helped bring this project to fruition as part of the Town Fiesta's preparatory activities in 2022. At that time, the community of Baliwag was beginning to heal from the physical and emotional toll of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Since then, the project has gained recognition from several national agencies, such as the National Commission of Culture and the Arts and the National Library, and has become an official city government initiative. This reflects the city administration’s commitment to promoting arts and culture among its citizens and neighbors.

Special thanks go to the CACTO and Museo ng Baliwag, led by Ms. Jesusa Garcia Villanueva, for their unwavering support of this project.

Our family's heartfelt "Thank You" and "Congratulations" also go to the talented artists who continue to breathe life and spirit into this initiative.

Kudos to all of you and may you continue to thrive.

Sincerely,

JOSE NICOLAS M. CRUZ, MD, FPCC, FPSCCI
Sponsor and Co-organizer, Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition

IGO AND LETY CRUZ ART COMPETITION
IGO AND LETY CRUZ ART COMPETITION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1
ABOUT ICO AND LETY CRUZ ART COMPETITION

Pages 2 - 21
THE ARTISTIC HERITAGE OF BALIWAG, BULACAN

Pages 22 - 47
ICO AND LETY CRUZ ART COMPETITION 2022
Structure of Faith and Tradition

Pages 48 - 66
ICO AND LETY CRUZ ART COMPETITION 2023
Painting Category: The Heritage of Baliwag Bridging Bulacan's History

Pages 67 - 76
On-the-Spot Category: Buntal Hat: Baliwag's Heritage

Pages 77 - 96
ICO AND LETY CRUZ ART COMPETITION 2024
Painting Category: Reflections on Bulacan's Artistry

Pages 97 - 106
On-the-Spot Category: Tracing and Tasting Baliwag's Culinary Heritage

Pages 107 -123
ICO AND LETY CRUZ ART COMPETITION 2024 SPECIAL EDITION
On-the-Spot Category: Art and Faith

Pages 124 - 134
WINNERS AND PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Pages 135 - 159
ICO AND LETY CRUZ ARTIST RESIDENCY
The Artists | Mentoring Sessions | The Facilitators

Pages 160 - 172
THE EXHIBITIONS

Pages 173 - 185
PROGRAMS OF MUSEO NG BALIWAG FOR VISUAL ARTS
PintaKaSi | Laro at Likha | Katha Baliwag | Community Playgrounds | Selected Art Exhibitions

Pages 186 - 187
LIST OF PHOTOS

Page 188
THE PUBLICATION TEAM

Page 189
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ABOUT ICO AND LETY CRUZ ART COMPETITION

The Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition is one of the endeavors of the City Government of Baliwag through the Museo ng Baliwag, Baliwag City Library, and Baliwag Tourism Office (now officially called the City Arts, Culture, and Tourism Office) and in partnership with the family and descendants of Mr. and Mrs. Renato and Leticia Cruz. The program was inaugurated in 2022 and is targeted to be an annual art competition. The program was also awarded in 2023 by the National Library of the Philippines and The Asia Foundation in the Gawad Pampublikong Aklatan as ***Best Social Inclusion for Local Cultural and Historical Preservation and Conservation Award.*** In 2024, the program received a grant from the Department of Trade and Industry under its ***Lunsod Lunsad*** program. This art competition aims to support the artistic practice through incentives such as prizes, grants, and recently, a residency program. The program also provides a platform and space for artists to showcase their works. Lastly, it hopes to create awareness and engagement in the community for the holistic development of the arts and the preservation of the local culture.

The Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition is named as such in honor of the late couple ***Renato "Ico" Mateo Cruz*** and ***Leticia "Lety" Mercado-Cruz*** from Baliwag, Bulacan. Ico was born on April 16, 1930. He is the son of Engr. Vicente Cruz and Cristina Mateo. He was a former Municipal Councilor and was Baliwag Town Fiesta Hermano Mayor in the 1970s in which he organized an on-the-spot painting contest. Their family was the owner and administrator of the former Baliuag Ice Plant and BELAPCO, in which he served as manager and Vice President, respectively, during their operations until 1986. Ico died on March 8, 2007. Lety, on the other hand, as she was fondly called, was born on September 15, 1933. Her parents are Gaudencio and Inocencia Mercado. She served as a public school teacher. She was a Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Papal awardee for her distinguished service to the Catholic Church, particularly in caring for elderly and sick priests of the Diocese of Malolos. She died on October 19, 2020. To continue the legacy of Ico and Lety, their children co-organized the competition in partnership with the City Government. (JGV)

The Artistic Heritage of Baliwag, Bulacan

MR. EDGAR ALLAN M. SEMBRANO

Apart from its rich history, particularly its role in Filipino nationhood, the province of Bulacan is an artistic powerhouse. Many of the National Artists are Bulakenyo, either by birth or by blood. These include Guillermo Tolentino of Malolos (Visual Arts, 1973), Francisca Reyes Aquino of Bocaue (Dance, 1973), Virgilio Almario of San Miguel (Literature, 2003), and Jose Joya also of San Miguel (Visual Arts, 2003).

Baliwag has its share of these as two National Artists hailed from this city. These are Antonino Buenaventura (Music, 1988) and Levi Celerio (Music, 1997). Buenaventura was the conductor of the Philippine Constabulary Band (later Philippine Army Band) and was music director of the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music and the University of the East School of Music and Arts in the 1960s. Although born in Tondo, Manila, Celerio's father, Cornelio, hailed from Baliwag. Celerio was a known lyricist and poet apart from being a musician. He was the lyricist of the famed "Pandanggo sa Ilaw" composed by Buenaventura as well as "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan" by Lucio San Pedro, his co-National Artist, and part Bulakenyo.

TRADITIONAL ART

In the 19th century, Baliwag had many artisans producing textiles and ropes that were much appreciated. These textiles had solid, excellent colors, which were well-known in Manila. The quality was superb and the threads were fine. Its residents were also known to produce cotton threads, hats of nito and rattan for men and women which were of fine quality.

Bulacan's proximity to Manila, coupled with the ample supply of labor, resulted in the opening of cigar and cigarette factories in the province, including Baliwag. Another reason was that although it was near Manila, it was far enough for agents of the internal revenue, who conducted regular raids to check if taxes were paid. This industry thrived from the 19th century to the American colonial period. More on this later.

Baliwag's textile industry, of silk, was a sought-after product during the 19th century. It was so famous that British and American commercial agents imitated the Baliwag silk skirts and their sellable designs in the middle of the said century. These were then manufactured in Glasgow, Scotland or Manchester, England through machines and sold at a cheaper price in the Philippines. The saturation of the local textile market of cheap imitation led to the eventual collapse of the local industry. However, textile production still continued, albeit on a smaller scale, in many parts of the country, including Baliwag, in the late 19th century.

During this period, particularly in 1828, a royal decree was issued to protect the Philippines' industries, agriculture, and trade. This decree raised import taxes, and among the products that paid the highest tax were imitations of the Baliwag skirt.

Baliwag in the 19th century was also known to produce quality silk tapis (overskirts) and handkerchiefs, which were the preferred ones by rich women who used these Baliwag products during special occasions. A competitor of the Baliwag tapis is the same products produced in China for the Philippine market. The latter were also most likely sold at cheaper prices, affecting local production. This industry, which also produced shawls of geometric designs, was still extant during the first half of the 19th century. It is no longer extant. This textile industry called habing Baliwag was largely produced in Sabang. Other products include paño (handkerchief), apron, camisa de chino (shirt), and panuelo (scarf).

With the introduction of the buntal hat in Baliwag between 1907 to 1909 by Quezon-native Mariano Deveza, the balibuntal (Baliwag buntal) industry was born. Deveza was the uncle of Juan Racelis of Lucban who became the mayor of Baliwag from 1913 to 1918. The balibuntal industry was started in 1909 by Baliwag native Dolores Maniquis. In terms of texture and weaving method, it is a bit different from the buntal hats produced in Quezon province, although both use the same material, the buntal fiber from the midrib of the leaf of the buri palm.

Balibuntal, also known as balihat (Baliwag hat) and Panama hat was a big dollar-earning export product during the 1920s. Just like the Baliwag tapis, which was affected by imports from China, the production of balibuntal declined during the late 1920s due to imitation hats from China, which also sourced the buntal fibers in Quezon. The buntal hat industry saw its resurgence after the Second World War through the Balibuntal Straw Hat company by Maniquis's granddaughter Ester and her husband Joaquin Villones of Quezon. The production of these hats was done in the couple's property in Barangay San Jose, across the late 1920s to early 1930s Mariano Eugenio House. Eugenio was the son of Dolores and Ester's father who was also into the production of buntal apart from his ventures on agriculture.

The buntal hats produced by the Villones couple were exported abroad, to countries like Australia, Italy, Mexico, and the United States. With its dependence on buntal fiber sourced in Quezon and due to the Chinese imitations, the balibuntal industry declined in the 1980s. It is now a dying industry with Rosario Bautista as its only producer. Bautista learned this craft from the Villones couple who were her second parents.

Unknown to many, Baliwag also produced products made of clay such as bricks and jars. The bricks used in the construction of its church in the 19th century were manufactured at the kilns of Sabang. This industry was still thriving during the American period until the second half of the 20th century. Apart from bricks, also produced in the area of Sabang called Tejero or Hulo, were tapayan or wide-mouth earthen jars, palayok (clay pots), kalan (traditional stoves), and masetera or paso (clay pots). Today, shops for earthenware products are still extant in Sabang, although these are now produced in neighboring San Rafael and also mostly sourced from Santo Tomas, Pampanga. Curiously, the latter's old name is Baliwag.

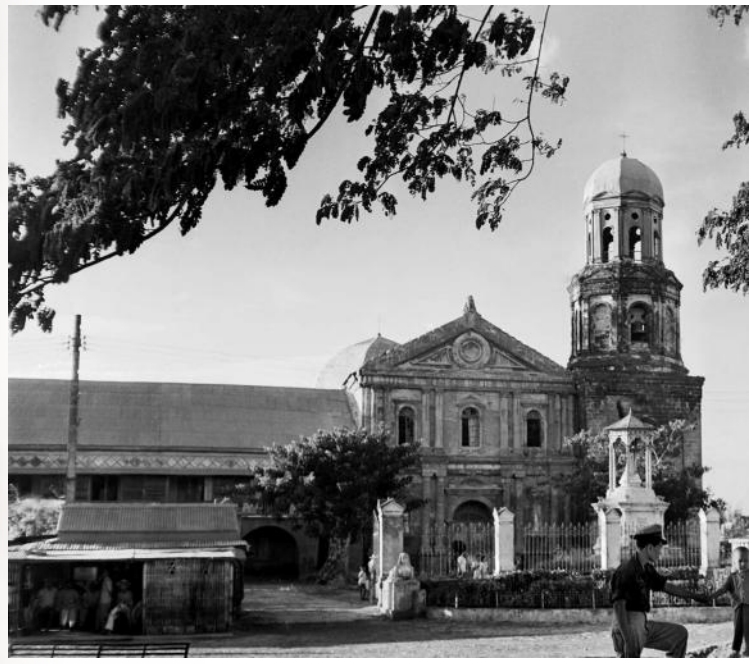
Bulacan's Baliwag is most known for its furniture accented with imbute or bone inlay made from pieces of cut carabao bone. The Baliwag inlaid furniture is defined by the use of imbute and carving for the feet and backs of the chair as well as bed frames. Hardwoods are used, such as ipil, kamagong, mulawin, narra, and tindalo. The furniture pieces are pegged by bamboo dowels. Apart from chairs and bed frames, other furniture produced in Baliwag include, but are not limited to, comoda (chests), cabinets, and altar tables. The inlay designs are floral and geometric.

This furniture industry, identified as the Baliwag style, was also being done in the nearby provinces of Pampanga and Nueva Ecija. As evidenced by furniture pieces made from that period, this was practiced as early as the 19th century. Today, Baliwag-style furniture pieces are sought-after auction items commanding higher prices. However, it is a dying art, with only a few furniture manufacturers in Baliwag adopting this intangible cultural heritage for their designs. One of its few remaining culture bearers, Gerado "Gerry" Cruz, passed away in 2024.

The traditional art of Baliwag is rich and diverse that the topic requires another essay or chapter. Other forms include *carroza* making, sculptures of religious images, and embroidery.

ECCLESIASTICAL ART IN BALIWAG

The Augustinians founded the town of Baliwag in 1733, separating it from its mother town, Quingua (today's Plaridel). In terms of art, the oldest example of it in Baliwag is found at the convent of the San Agustin Church. A big portion of its northern wall features a frieze in stucco, which dates back to the 18th century. This must have been done when the convent was being built by Fr. Esteban Diez in 1789. The frieze might have been applied to the walls during the first 10 years of the convent's construction. The convent was completed in 1839. At the time of its completion, it was described as the best in the country, comparable to the artistry of the bahay na bato abodes in Manila. It was also noted for its solid walls, neatness of parts, size, and harmonious design. The frieze features floral designs as well as a heart, alluding to the Augustinian symbol.

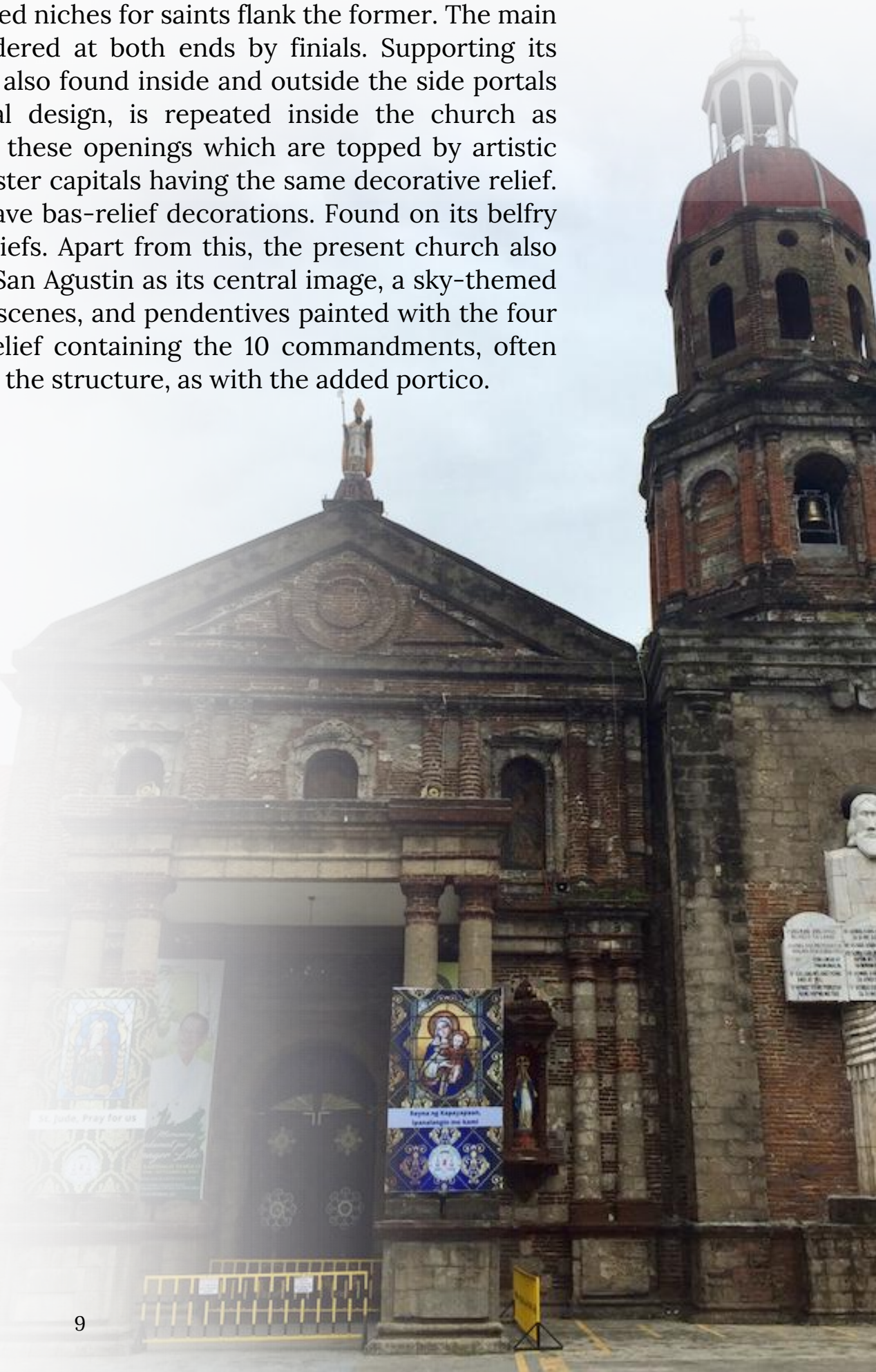


The Baliwag convent frieze is a rarity in Philippine church art and heritage. So far, only it and the elaborate bas-relief on pulpit stone pillars and frieze inside the baptistry of the church of Dupax del Sur in Nueva Vizcaya are known to exist. Due to the latter's significance with the church's authenticity and integrity still largely intact, the church of Dupax was declared a National Cultural Treasure (NCT) by the National Museum (NM) in 2001. A petition to similarly declare the Baliwag convent as NCT was filed around 10 years ago but it still yet to be acted upon now by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the agency where NM's regulatory power was transferred following the latest National Museum law which was passed in 2018 and the passage of Republic Act 11961 which amended the 2009 heritage law.

Baliwag's artistic and massive belfry, completed in 1830, was damaged by the church during the 1880 earthquake. These were subsequently repaired and reconstructed. The convent was not noted to have been affected by the said tremor, making it the oldest structure in the church complex. The late 19th-century church interior featured painted walls and ceilings, including the dome area.

At the turn of the 19th century, the church had a main and side retablos as well as a pulpit located on the epistle side. It also had polychromed bas-relief stations of the cross. The retablos were later replaced, the main one with a baldachin in 1951. During the term of Msgr. Andres Valera as parish priest, a new retablo was built. Copied from the old one, it was consecrated in 2016 during Baliwag's patronal fiesta.

Today's church façade features Doric columns on its lower level and Corinthian columns on its second level. Two quite ornate crown-topped niches for saints flank the former. The main portal is decorated with scrolls on top bordered at both ends by finials. Supporting its pilaster capitals are decorative relief which is also found inside and outside the side portals and windows. The scroll, now with a floral design, is repeated inside the church as decorations on top of the openings. Outside these openings which are topped by artistic grillwork, are simple stone relief with the pilaster capitals having the same decorative relief. The oculi puncturing the church walls also have bas-relief decorations. Found on its belfry are dentils and Corinthian-like decorative reliefs. Apart from this, the present church also has stained glass windows on its façade with San Agustin as its central image, a sky-themed ceiling painting, a dome painted with biblical scenes, and pendentives painted with the four evangelists. On its belfry is a 1983 marble relief containing the 10 commandments, often described by critics as something dissonant to the structure, as with the added portico.



Other works of art of note inside the Baliwag church complex include a richly decorated confessional box, the ornately carved wooden framing in one of the offices at the ground level of the convent, and an 1883 marble sacrarium at the convent's second level which features a festoon and the Augustinian seal. The sacrarium is a sink used for the disposal of sacred substances. Also in the convent are a cast iron design at one of its doors, a decorative metal door lock, a candelabra with a dragon-claw design on its stand, and pieces of the church's wrought iron communion rail reused for aesthetic purposes. As with many other churches, the communion rail was removed following the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s which instituted changes in the Catholic Church.

Elsewhere in Baliwag, of note in terms of artistic heritage, which is religious in nature, is the bisita or chapel of Sabang. Built sometime in the first half of the 20th century, this chapel features old paintings of the four evangelists, old paintings of the Stations of the Cross, communion rail, and a simple wooden retablo housing the barangay's patron, Santa Elena.

SPANISH TO AMERICAN PERIODS

Aside from its church, Baliwag is also replete with art found in ordinary objects, public spaces, and private abodes. As previously mentioned, cigar and cigarette factories once existed in Baliwag. The Baliwag brands included La Sociedad at Plaza San Agustin; La Baliwageña Bulacan located at Barrio Sta. Leocadia, Dulong Calzada (possibly today's Damaso Street, Brgy. Virgen de las Flores); ¡Mabilis!, owned by Francisco Valera Ang Y.; La Proteccion y La Caridad by Benedicto Rustia on Calle Sta. Leocadia (later Sta. Leocadia Bajo, now Gil Carlos Street), La Castidad by Vicente Sauco on Calle Sta. Monica Alto (now Felipe G. Calderon Street); and Marca Tres Corazones by Maria Venancio on what was listed as Calle Alfonso. The products of which were packed inside petacas or cases made of paper. Printed on these cases are the brand names, addresses of their manufacturers, and, at times, the names of their respective owners. These cases were also artistically done with monochrome or polychromed images of bucolic scenes, well-dressed people, and other objects.

The pack of La Sociedad features two men dressed in Americana, holding the La Sociedad banner, texts framed with flowers, a wreath, and a scene of a number of bahay kubo amidst the shrubs and trees, a wooden bridge, mountains, and a church. La Baliwageña had a lady in traditional Tagalog attire as the main image and the initials of its manufacturer – MS or SM – at the back. Both brands had red as their trademark colors.

Predominantly in green and red, the packs of ¡Mabilis! had a Tagala holding the caduceus of Mercury sitting on a winged wheel, indicating speed. On the other side was the image of Plaza de Baliwag featuring the neighborhood of several bahay kubo foregrounded by a boat on the Baliwag (also Angat) River.

La Caridad, printed by Litografia Germania in Manila had sunrays serving as background for the brand's name on a banner and a book. The main side also had an anchor and a postal stamp with an image of a lady. At the back is the coat of arms of Benedicto Rustia. The pack is predominantly green. In yellow and black, La Castidad's pack, also printed by Litografia Germania had a framed image of a European lady holding a bouquet of flowers with its other side featuring a bouquet of flowers with a bird holding a note containing the words "Baliwag. Bulakan. Luzon." The lady symbolized chastity, the brand's name. Tres Corazones featured three European ladies on its pack with the other side having the image of a guitar amidst a cacophony of flowers rendered in red.

Baliwag's cigarette industry flourished during the 19th century through the American colonial period. This, together with its other industries such as agriculture, silk textile, furniture, and hats from nito, rattan, bamboo, and later buntal, made Baliwag an economic center in the northern part of Bulacan, although the then town was already flourishing at the time of its foundation in the 18th century. Baliwag boomed economically starting in the 19th century. During this time, the houses built in Baliwag, including today's Bustos, were elaborately decorated with stone carvings. Although the most famous examples are now located in Bustos such as the Mercado and Cunanan houses in Bonga Menor and Bonga Mayor, present-day Baliwag still has quite a few of these heritage houses, all bahay na bato.

On these houses, placed on the top of the main portals, are reliefs of crosses for spiritual protection. These can be found in a number of houses in Bustos, such as the Mercado House and the Gonzalez House (Lumang Munisipyo) in Baliwag. Many of these 19-th century houses are also decorated with scrolls running horizontally on the lower portion of the façade, made of stone. In Baliwag, these are found on the Gonzalez and Carlos (now Cruz) houses, located in barangays Poblacion and Tibag respectively. The pilasters flanking the main portals are topped by festoons which in Baliwag are also found in the aforementioned houses.

Relief of flowers also decorate the main portals of the Rustia, Carlos, and Ponce houses. The latter, located in Barangay Concepcion, was demolished to give way to a commercial building and space in 2019. At the Carlos House, pillars are also topped by volutes, the same design also found on the Cunanan house in Bustos. The former also has clamshell-like relief on its façade.

During the American period, the houses built in this era were fashioned with the designs popular at the time, notably Art Deco. Houses during this period were embellished with Art Deco elements which are easily seen through the wrought iron grillwork. Extant Art Deco abodes in Baliwag include one on Gil Carlos Street and the Ponce house on Dr. Gonzalez Street. One with Art Deco elements was the Eugenio Mariano House on Gil Carlos Street, demolished in 2024. This house also features a painted section of its stairwell wall, depicting rural scenes. Aside from these, Baliwag still has quite a few American-era houses, including the Lajom tsalet in Barangay Tibag and the Martin House in Barangay Concepcion.

20TH-CENTURY ARTISTS

While the artists, artisans, and decorators of these aforementioned structures and works of art are largely unknown, one Baliwagenyo visual artist became known for his important works, which people still see today in Baliwag.

He was Roman Carreon, Baliwag's famed sculptor who studied at the University of the Philippines, where the likes of Guillermo Tolentino and Fernando Amorsolo were his classmate-friends. Carreon, who passed away at age 48 in 1944, did the present Rizal Monument located in front of the Baliwag Church. This monument, which features Jose Rizal with Inang Bayan, two soldiers in front, and flanked by a pair of sphinxes, was inaugurated on December 30, 1925, by no less than future Commonwealth President Manuel Quezon. This monument is one of the most beautiful Rizal monuments in the country, alongside those found in Lucban, Quezon, and of course, Luneta. One of Carreon's major works is one of the four sculptural pieces installed at Jones Bridge in Manila during the American period. The Manila City government restored and beautified the bridge with the sculptures in recent years. It is not clear, though, what exactly is Carreon's work there.

In 1927, he participated in the Manila Carnival art exhibit, winning the top prize for his booth featuring a tapis-wearing young lady carrying a banga. During his student years at UP, Carreon always placed first in the school's yearly art competition.

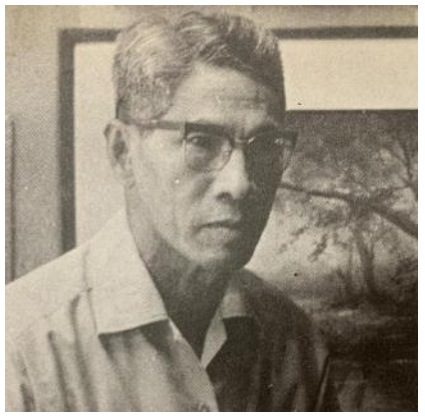
His other works in Baliwag are monuments found on school grounds, the horse-riding Bonifacio Monument adjacent to the Rizal Monument, the guard dogs at the Rustia houses in barangays Poblacion and Piel, and funerary sculptural pieces inside the Catholic cemetery in Barangay Santo Cristo. In the same barangay, another work can be attributed to him. It is a concrete fountain in front of the 1925 Palisoc house, which features a lady holding an oversized auger shell.

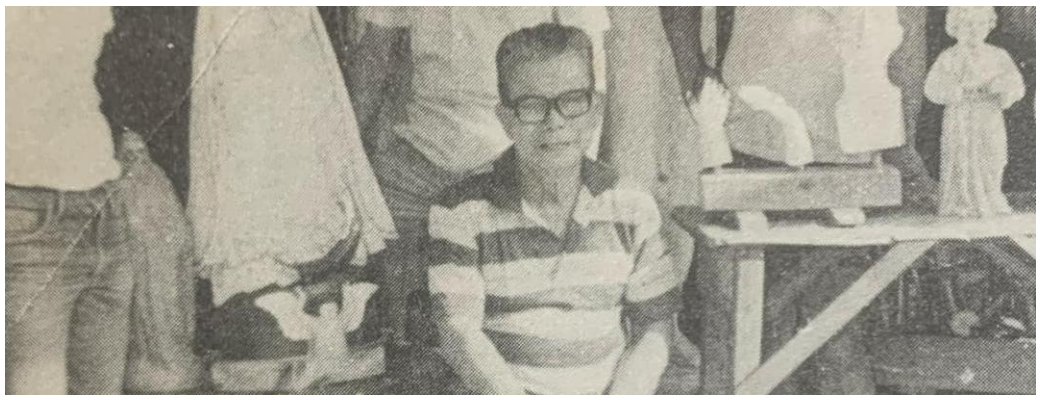
Speaking of the Catholic cemetery is also a treasure trove of art. Carreon might have done the sculptural pieces in many plots, such as those owned by the De la Merced - Rustia, Villacorte (and its adjacent lot), Rivera, and Enrile families. Setting aside Carreon, this cemetery also has niches with Art Deco motifs and reliefs of cherubs, flowers, and scrolls. It also has Art Deco graves and mausoleums like those owned by the Dela Merced - Sto. Tomas, Rivera, Reyes, and Valero families. The grave of Mariano Ponce, his wife, and family members is also Art Deco which was encased in a neo-Art Deco mausoleum in the early 2000s.

One of the most artistic tombs inside the cemetery is the family plot of the Gumabon family. The niches are encased in a structure flanked by two grieving, praying angels. The structure itself is topped by another angel looking at the heavens. Below this is the name of the family framed inside a wreath. At the center of the grave is a bas-relief depicting the Ascension. This bas-relief is flanked by two pairs of pilasters topped by angel heads, their sad emotion evident. The most notable mausoleum in the nearby Municipal Cemetery is the one owned by the Velasquez family and is done in Art Deco.

Going back to Carreon, he married Cebu-native Pacita Reyes, with whom he had four sons and five daughters. Three of his sons became painters, with the youngest, Pedro eventually succeeding in his craft. Apart from being a painter, Pedro was a sculptor, landscape artist, and art director for Sampaguita Pictures.

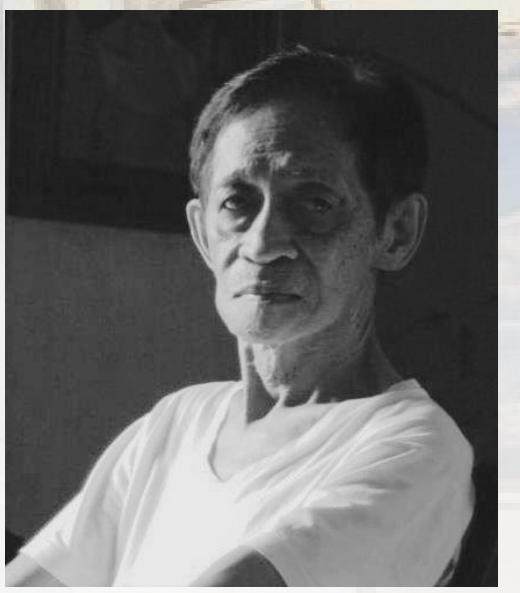
He was the man behind the sculptures of animals and objects at Luneta's Children's Playground, now demolished to give way to the development of the National Museum complex. Among his works in Baliwag are the Stations of the Cross paintings at the convent and used during the Estacion General, the sculpted image of San Agustin atop the pediment of the church, and the Mariano Ponce Monument now located in front of the Baliwag City Hall. Pedro Carreon's other son, Francisco was also a visual artist known to paint cinema billboards of the past.





Another Baliwagenyo visual artist was Jose D. Castro, a portraitist and painter of religious subjects who settled in Sto. Cristo, Baliwag from Nueva Ecija in the 1920s. Due to his talent, Castro was later known among Manila's art patrons as "the artist from Baliwag." His works are part of the University of the Philippines Vargas Museum collection and Museo ng Baliwag collection.

Baliwag also had a sculptor named Joaquin Santos of Concepcion. A sculptor of religious images, he learned the craft of wood carving from his previous job of repairing damaged *santos*.



Another visual artist who put Baliwag into the national art scene was Reynato "Tats" Villanueva, who was part of the Mabini Artists Group. Villanueva was a realist painter known, among others, to have painted the portraits of the Four Evangelists on the dome of Baliwag's San Agustin Church more than two decades ago. Villanueva's son, Mark, is also a painter who does many notable projects, such as being part of a group of artists who painted the ceiling of the Santiago Apostol Church in Plaridel, Bulacan, and the Project Saysay's portraits of heroes. Another proud Baliwagenyo visual artist is Cris Velasco, who specializes in mixed media of various structures, notably churches and heritage houses.

BALIWAG ART TODAY

Today, young Baliwagenyo painters such as Marvin Quizon and Adeodatus Sta. Juana, who were both past winners or finalists of the Metrobank Art and Design Excellence (MADE) Competition, are carving their own names in the field of visual art. One of the thrusts of the local government is the promotion and propagation of art in Baliwag. Due to this, the Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition was founded by the Local Government and the Cruz family in 2022.

Also in 2022, the Pintahan Sa Kalye Para Sa Sining (PintaKaSi) Mural Project was undertaken by the local government with members of Guhit Pinas in Baliwag. In this project, artists painted the posts of the Baliwag flyover straddling barangay Bagong Nayon and Tangos with images of heroes from Baliwag which include Dr. Joaquin Gonzalez, Mariano Ponce, Apo Ipe Salvador, and Lt. Cecilio Abraham.

During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, a mural was painted on the wall of the Baliwag Climate Change Center in Barangay Tangos. This work of art pays homage to the frontliners who are heroes of the said global health problem. In the same year, sections of the walls on both sides of the tubing (irrigation canal) in Barangay Bagong Nayon were also painted with murals with hope as the main message. Another impressive one was done on a wall of an inn in Barangay Sta. Barbara. This work of art, dominated by a masked face, presumably of a medical practitioner with the image of a Crucified Christ and other masked individuals, exudes the feeling of hope and tenacity amidst the uncertainties brought by the pandemic.

Sources:

Brigino, Aurea. 2008. *Hiyas: Mga Sinaunang Sining ng Bulacan*. Pasay: Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Buzeta, Manuel y Bravo, O.S.A. 1850. *Diccionario Geográfico, Estadístico, Histórico, de las Islas Filipinas*. Madrid: Imprenta de D. José C. de la Peña.

Coo, Stephanie. 2019. *Clothing the Colony: Nineteenth-Century Philippine Sartorial Culture, 1820-1896*. Quezon City: University of the Philippines Press.

De Viana, Lorelei (Personal communication, 2024)

Hofileña Jr., Saul. 2014. *Vestments of the Golden Leaf: Cigarette labels during the Spanish and American colonial periods in the Philippines*. Manila: Saul Hofileña Jr.

Joaquin, Rhodora (ed). 2021. *Dakilang Bulakenyo: The Art and Artists of Bulacan*. Pasay: Foreign Service Institute.

Marin, Valentin. 1901. *Ensayo de una síntesis de los trabajos realizados por las corporaciones religiosas españolas de Filipinas*. Manila: University of Santo Tomas Press.

Sembrano, Edgar Allan S. 2018. *Paletada: The 18th century artistic heritage of the San Agustin Church Convent in Baliuag, Bulacan [Paper presentation]*. Pambansang Kumperensiya a Bulacan. San Rafael, Bulacan: Samahang Pangkasaysayan ng Bulacan.

Tiongson, Nicanor (ed). 2018. CCP *Encyclopedia of Philippine Art Vol. 3: Peoples of the Philippines (Mansaka to Yakan)*. Pasay: Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Villacorte, Rolando. 1970. *Baliwag: Then and Now*. Caloocan: Rolando Villacorte

ICO AND LETY CRUZ ART COMPETITION 2022

Structure of Faith and Tradition

En plein air is a French phrase that translates to “out of doors” and generally refers to creating a drawing or painting outside in contrast to working inside one’s studio. This practice was popularized by John Constable and later by the artists of the Impressionist movement. It has elevated landscape painting as a genre as well, when historical paintings were preferred in that period.

In 2022, the competition coincides with the celebration of the Pistang Bayan; hence, the St. Augustine Parish Church is the focal point for the theme “Structure of Faith and Tradition.” Artists are invited to interpret how the Church has become the symbol of the town’s piety and devotion while creating a myriad of traditions rooted in this cultural structure. As this is inspired by the method of *en plein air*, artists must still incorporate the natural setting of the Church or its small details in their artwork.

The St. Augustine Parish Church is one of the oldest churches in the country. It is administered under the Diocese of Malolos and located at the Plaza Naning, the heart of Baliwag. It is a Roman Catholic church structure made mostly of limestone, gravel and sand, steel, and bricks. This massive structure is reminiscent of the Baroque style. Its original design resembled that of the St. Augustine Church in Intramuros. The church made of stone was first built from 1769 to 1774 during the time of Father Gregorio Giner. The church structure was hailed by Father Joaquin de Zuñiga as the most beautiful church convent in the country when he visited it in 1802.

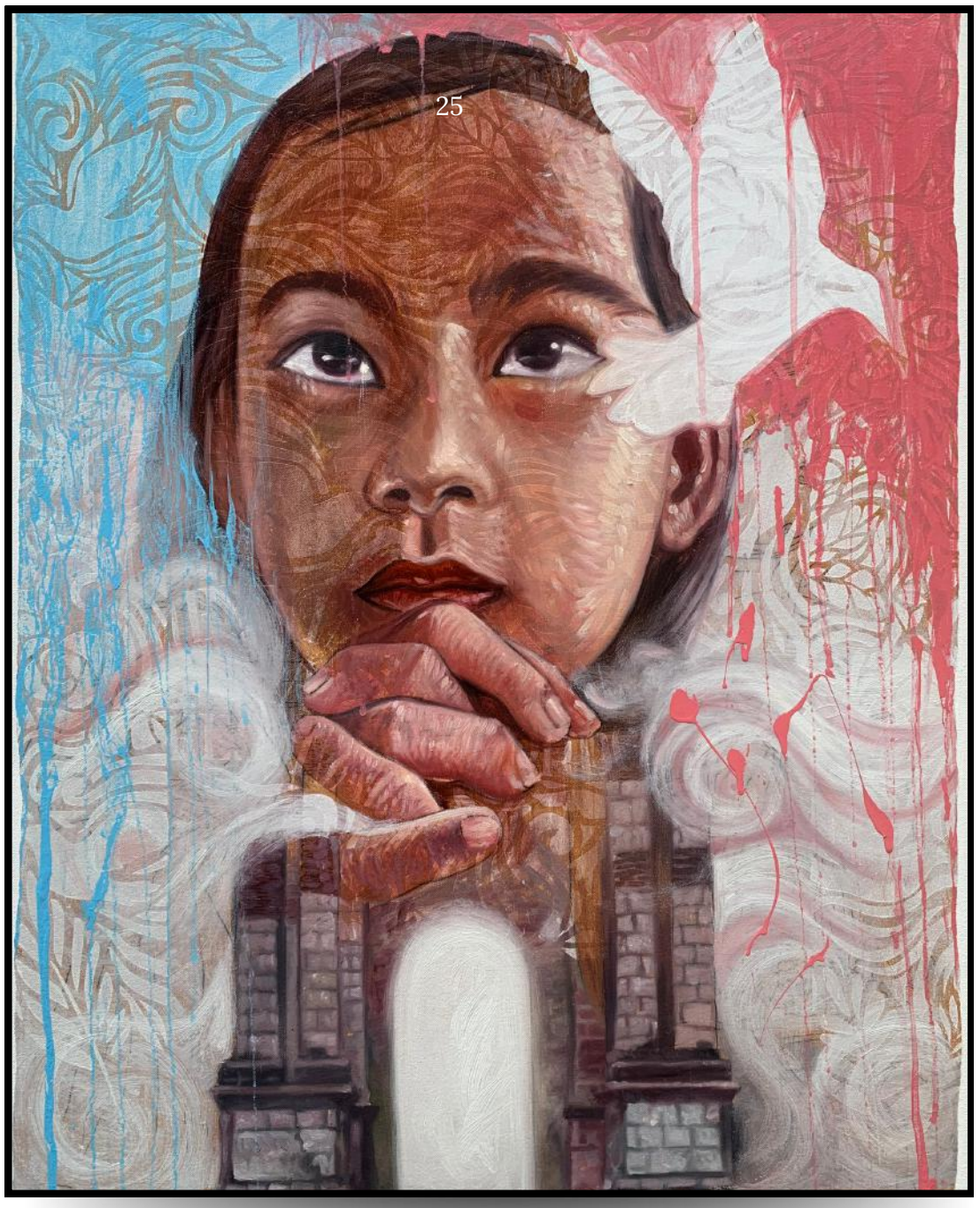
The church is significant as it serves as the main edifice that marked the foundation of Baliwag as an independent town. It also served as a fort and barracks for the American troops during the American Occupation and Philippine-American War circa 1899. However, due to several renovations and reconstructions by the preceding parish priests, most of the original architectural elements and details were destroyed and replaced with new ones, such as the Moses sculpture and the portico. Despite these alterations, the Church is still considered one of the significant cultural properties of the town.

Aside from being a built heritage, the Church produced other intangible heritage. The Baliwag, being one of the oldest parishes established in the country, is heavily influenced by the rites and rituals relating to the Roman Catholic faith; the Lenten Season is one of the religious activities that the townspeople faithfully observe. This has resulted in other various religious practices and cultural traditions. One of these is the Lenten Procession. Every Holy Wednesday and Good Friday, the parish of St. Augustine Church holds the Lenten Procession traversing the streets of nearby barangays in Baliwag. More than 100 carozzas with rebultos depicting the Passion of Christ and other important saints and holy images in the Bible participate in the procession; hence it is being hailed as the longest Lenten procession. Other by-products of these rituals are evident in the vestments for priests, elegant designs of santos' clothing, and the decoration and arrangement of the carozzas. (JGV)

IN GOD WE TRUST

BIBLE

1ST PLACE



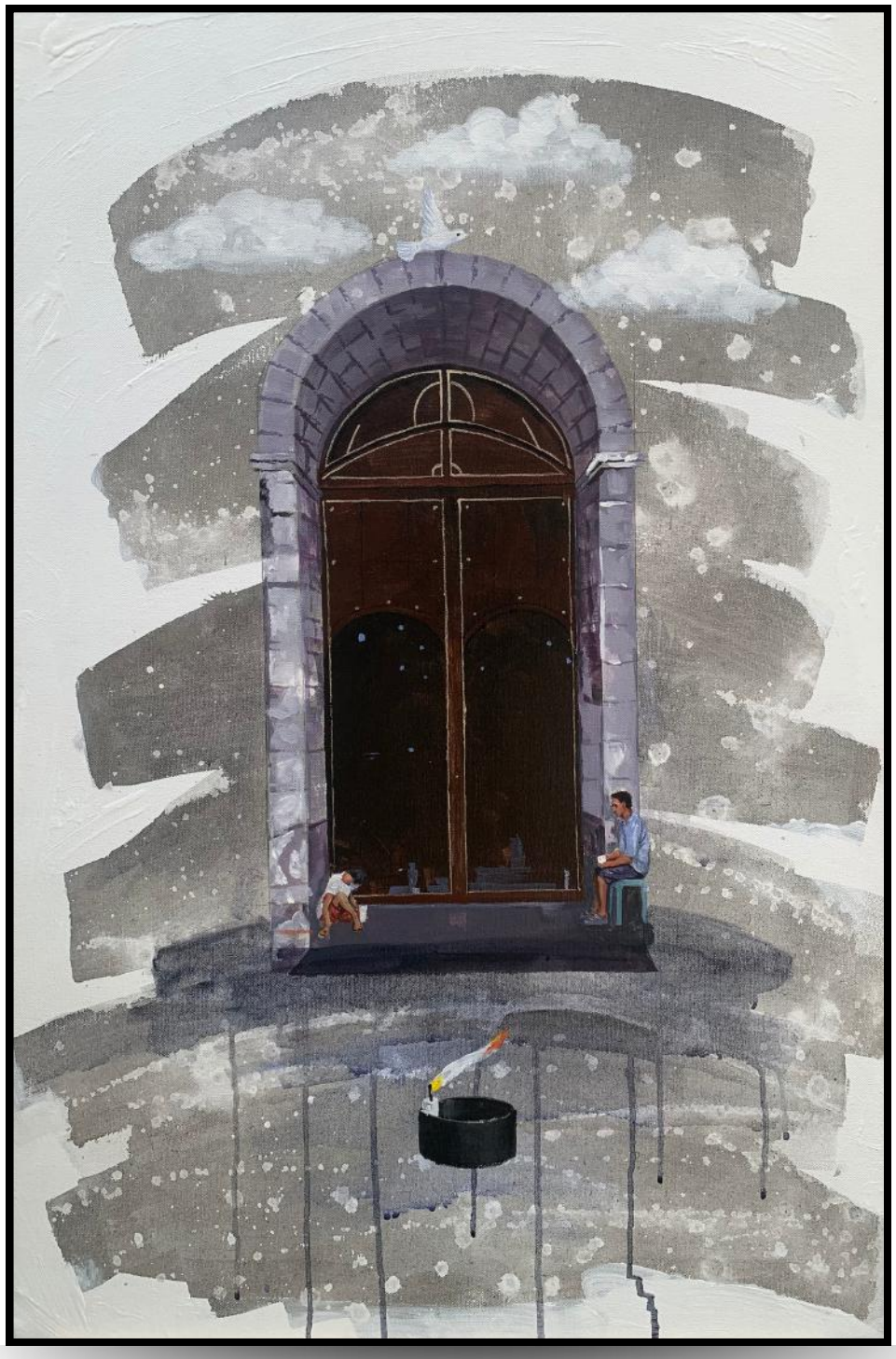
“FOR US”

2022
Mixed Media on Canvas
24"x30"

ARGEE T. DACUYAN

Calumpit, Bulacan

2ND PLACE



“COME AND REST”

2022
Mixed Media on Canvas
24"x36"

MARIA LOURDES P. INOSANTO
San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

3RD PLACE

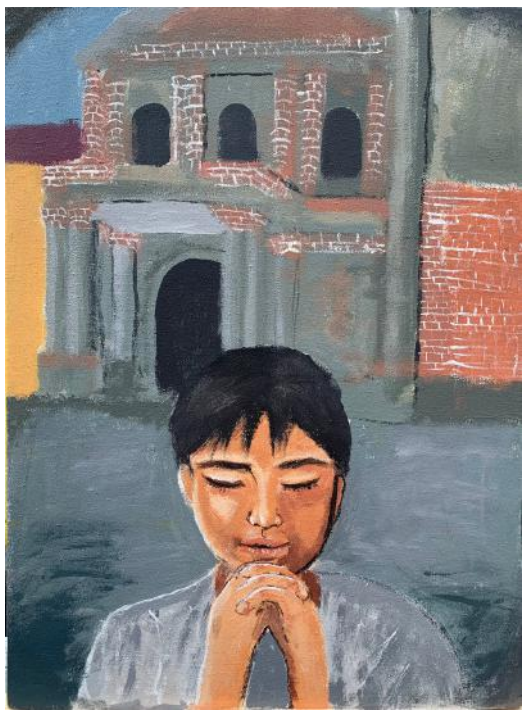
“BANAAG SA AKING KAMAY”

2022
Acrylic on Canvas
15"x20"

MARK CHRISTOPHER QUIZON
Baliwag, Bulacan

JEFFERD T. GUESDAN
“Holy Dream”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x24"

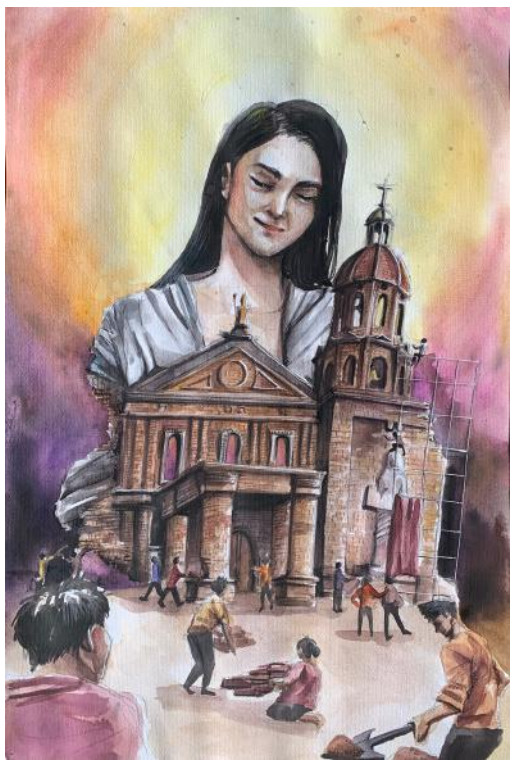
MARK BRYAN J. HIPOLITO
“Simboryo”
Acrylic on Canvas
10"x12"



GEOF ROBIN RUBI DIEZMA
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

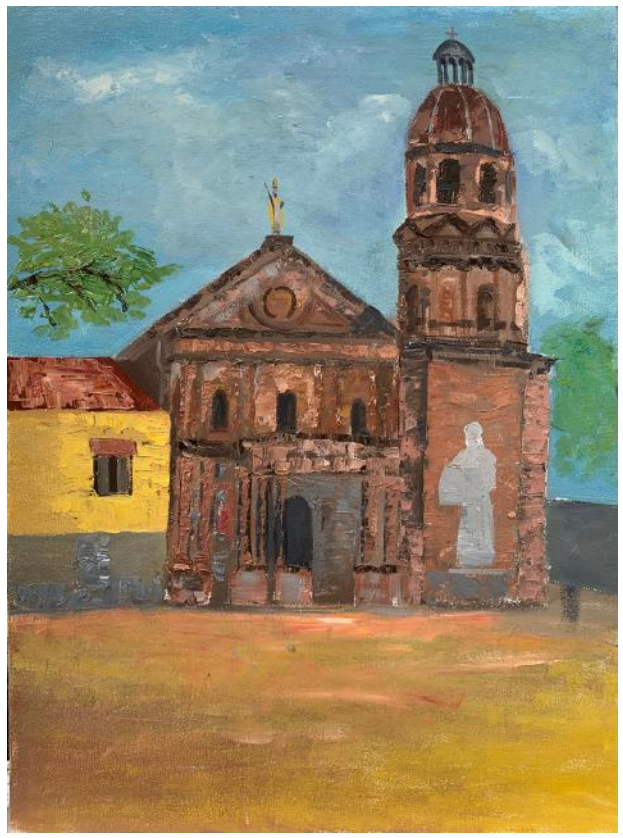
LEO C. ROBLES
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x18"

RYAN FRANCISCO CASLIB
“Liwanag ng Pananampalataya”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x24"



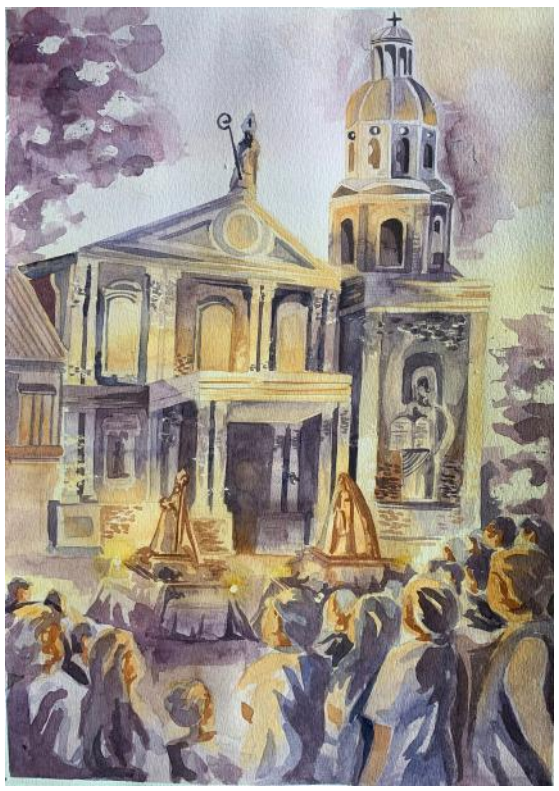
ALLIANA JOYCE G. QUIZON
“Untitled”
Mixed Media on Watercolor Paper
12"x18"

MARK JEROME MARTINEZ
“Mga Awit: 32:8"
Oil Paint on Canvas
24"x36"

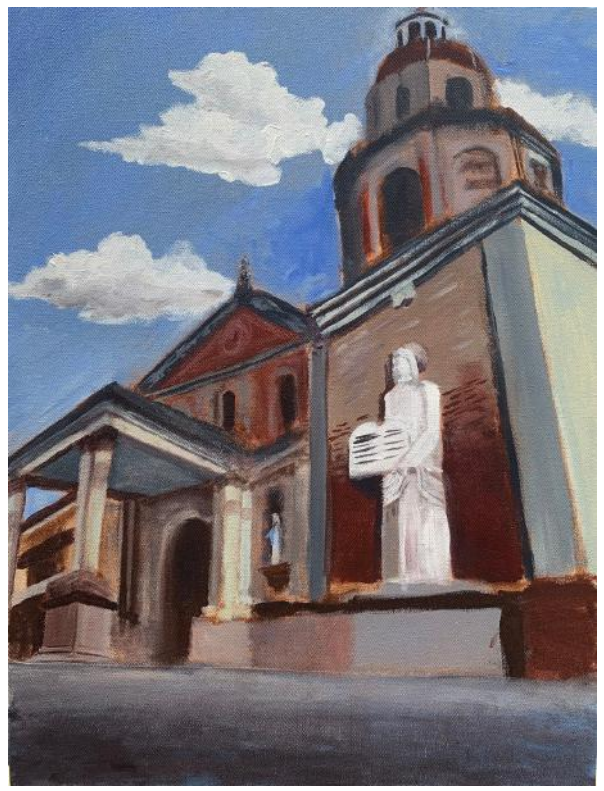


RENE D. SALAMAT
“Sagradong Lugar”
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

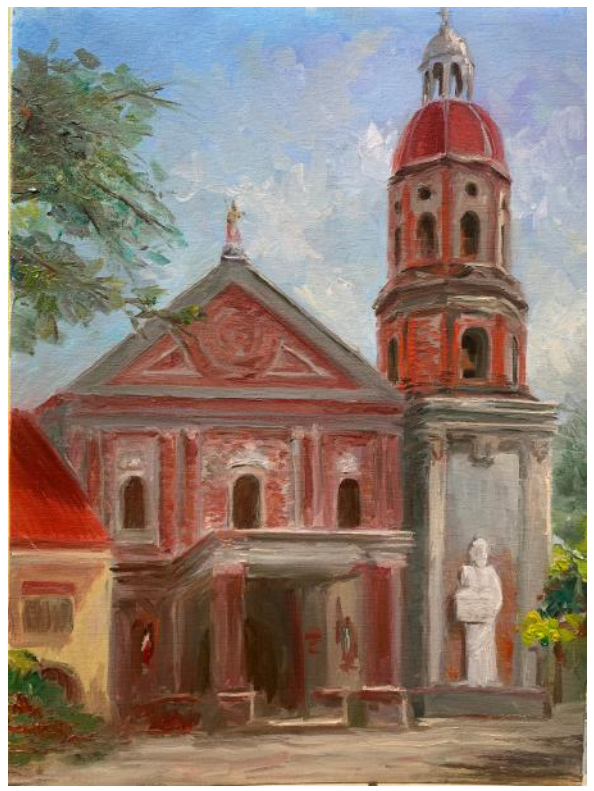
DAYRIL MANLAPAZ
“Untitled”
Oil Pastel on Illustration Board
18-"x24"



LEI ANGELLI ORTEGA
“Prusisyon Kay San Agustin”
Watercolor on Watercolor Canson Paper
22"x17"

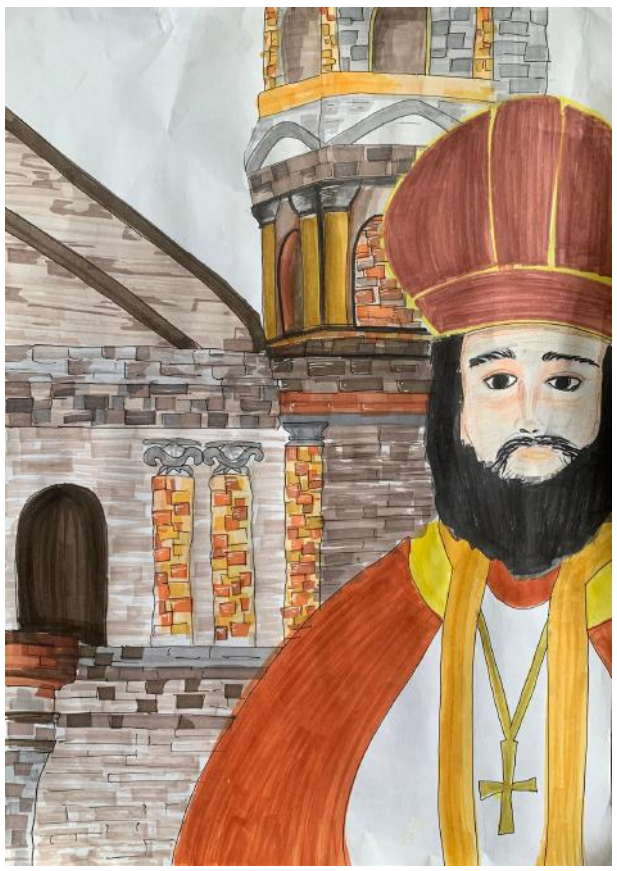


CHARMAINE N. GACULA
“San Agustin, Estruktura ng Pananampalataya ng mga Baliwagenyo”
Acrylic on canvas
24"x18"



FELIPE C. STA CRUZ JR.
“Tahanang Banal”
Oil Paint on Canvas
18"x24"

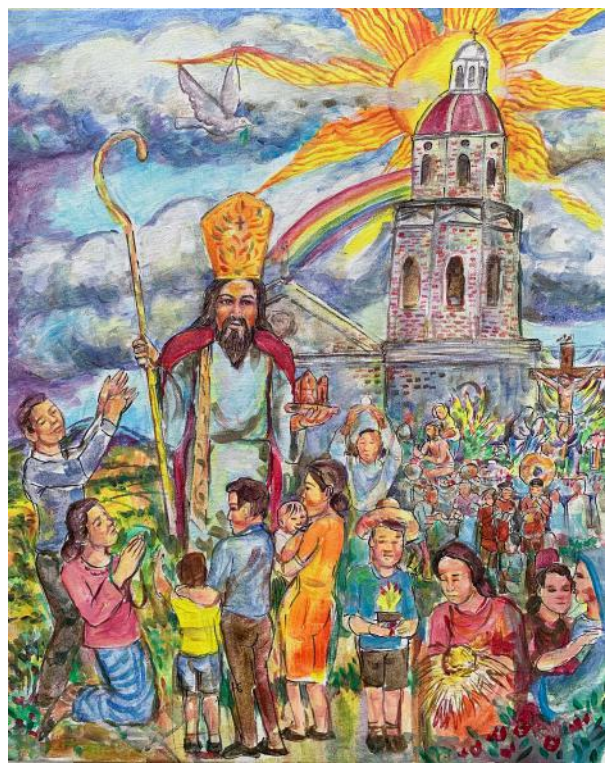
REINALYN DULALIA
“Untitled”
Mixed Media on Board
36"x48"



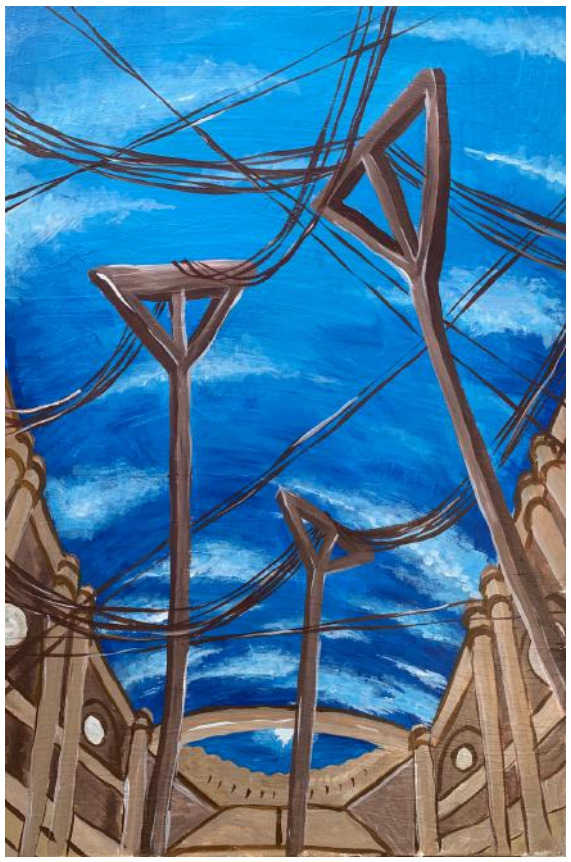
ABIGAIL S. BENEDICTOS
“Untitled”
Mixed Media on Board
11.69"x16.54"

JHOANNA MAE P. VIÑA
“Untitled”
Mixed Media on Canvas
18"x24"

FROILAN V. SILVA
“Barrio Fiesta”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"



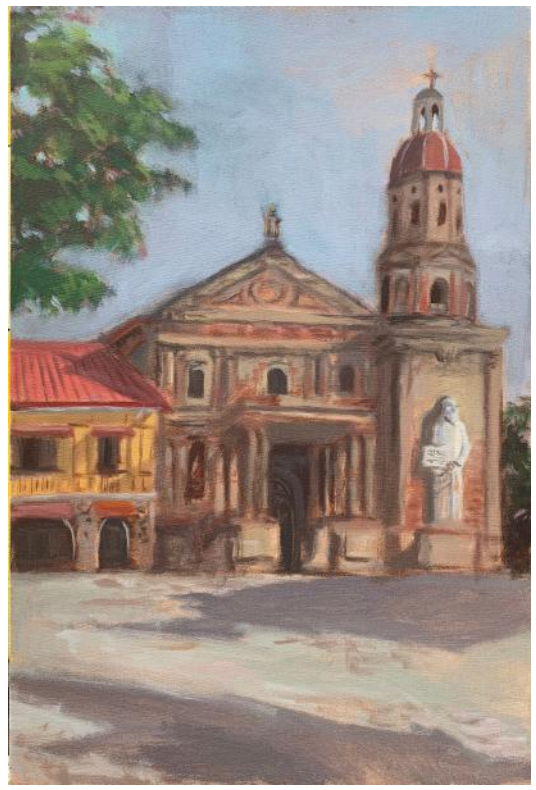
NARCISO C. SANTIAGO
“Pananalig at Kulturang Pamana”
Mixed Media on Canvas
24"x30"



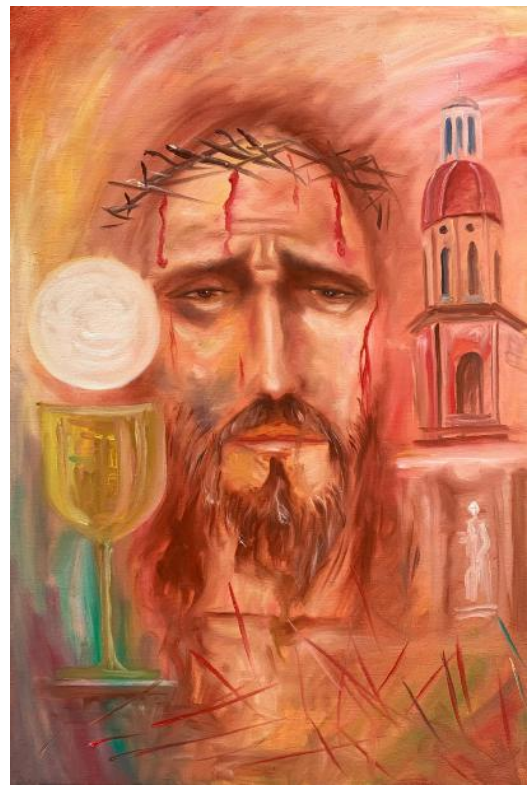
AIVERLAN VERANCES GONZAGA
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

KYLA KATE P. NOBLE
“Procession”
Acrylic on Canvas
36"x48"

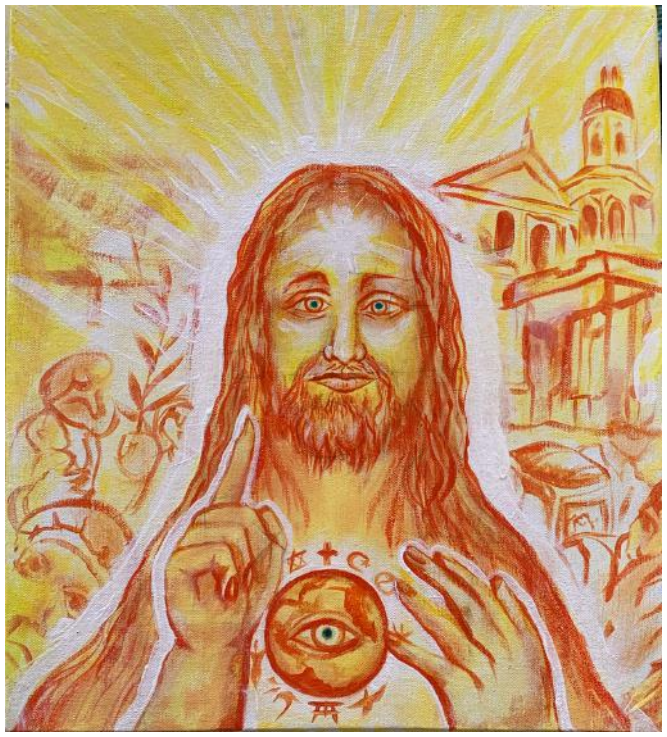
MARY GRACE A. SANTOS
“Harmony of Faith”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x24"



SHERWIN DELA CRUZ GACULA
“Umaga sa Simbahan ni San Agustin”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"



FREDERICO M. PALINES
“Chalice”
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"



JOHN PHILIP RIVAS FABRO
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

ANGELINA JANET B. SIMEON
“St. Augustine”
Acrylic on Canvas
12"x16"

SHAIREEZ JOY
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x24"

MARIA FATIMA SAAVEDRA
“Light in the Night”
Mixed Media on Canvas
18"x24"

REYNALDO G. SALAMAT
“Ang Batingaw”
Oil on Canvas
18"x24"

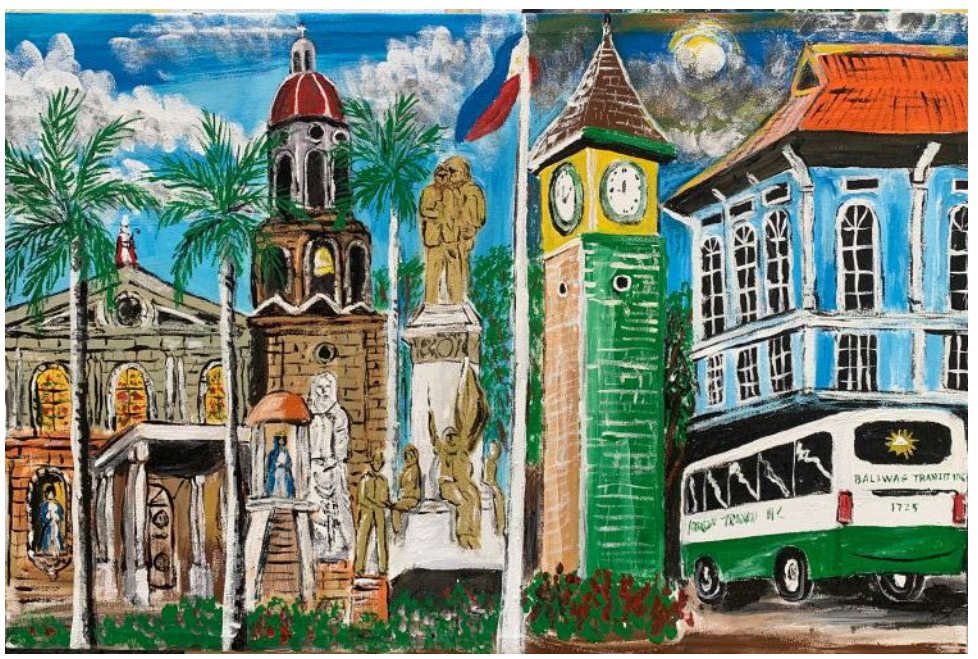
MIGUEL EMMANUEL D. BORBOR
“Sulyap sa Baliwag”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

RALZ JEROME D. TABERAO
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

JULIUS RODEL PARNASO
“Untitled”
Oil on Canvas
24"x36"

ANGELINE LIPANA SIGUA
“Mulat sa Traadisyon at Paniniwala”
Acrylic on Canvas
15"x20"

LESTER CRUZ
“Replenish”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

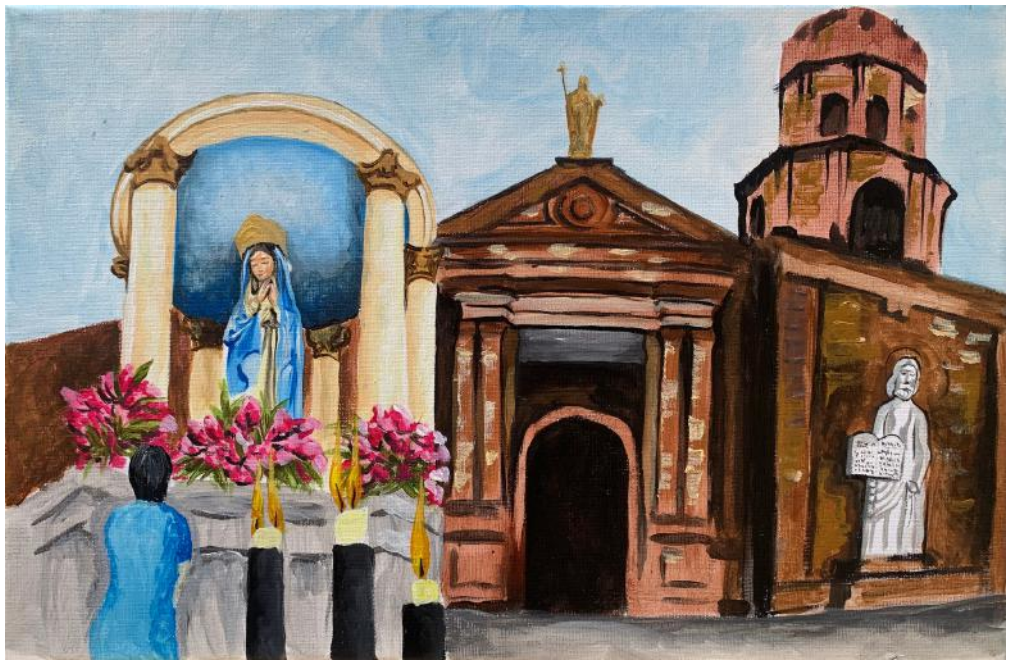


BUZON ROGELIO TOMAS
“Simbahan at Pamayanan”
Acrylic on Canvas
15"x20"

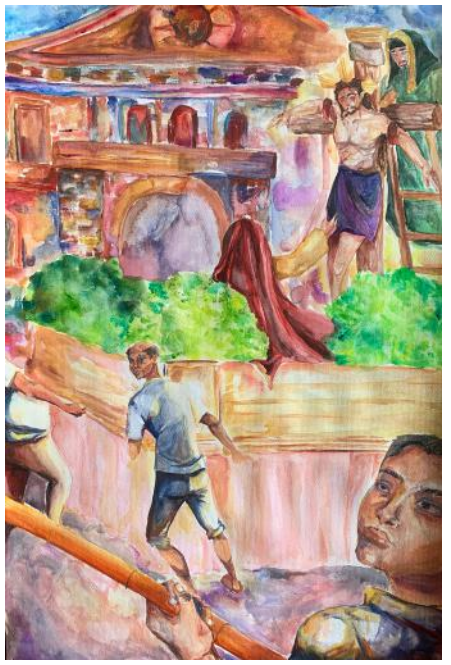
GEOFREY ALLAN RUBI DIEZMA
“Faith”
Oil Paint on Canvas
18"x24"

LAWRENCE JAY D. CERVANTES
“Devotion”
Oil Paint on Canvas
24"x24"

MANOLITO C. VINTA JR.
“Going to Church with Pepe and Ka Naning”
Oil Paint on Canvas
24"x36"



ANA NELIZA B. DEL MUNDO ANGELES
“Intercession for the Faithful”
Acrylic on Canvas
36"x24"



MYLES H. CRUZ
“Untitled”
Mixed Media on Watercolor Paper
12"x18"

GILBERT R. ENRIQUEZ
“The Blooming Faith”
Watercolor on Watercolor Paper
16"x24"

DAJO VILLFUERTE
“Kampanaryo ni San Agustin”
Mixed Media on Board
22"x16"

MARVIN C. CRUZ
“Makadiwa”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x22"

ERICKSON JIMENEZ
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Watercolor Paper
12"x12"

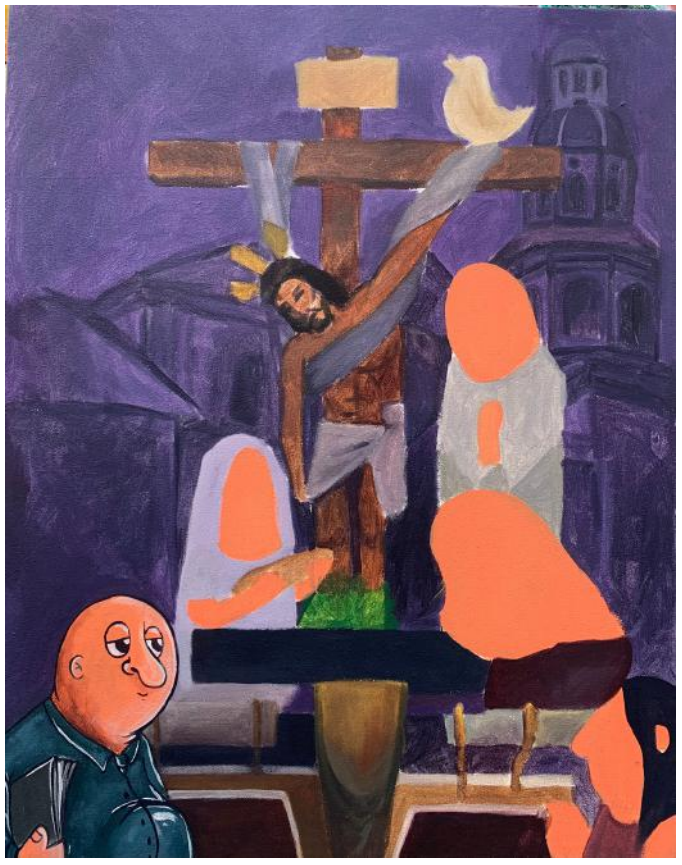
EMMANUEL V. ROBLES
“Sinipi at Hinabi ng Pananampalataya at Tradition”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

JUSTINNE NICOLE V. GONZALES
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
14"x10"

LAWRENCE PEREZ
“Panata”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x30"

ALEXANDER ROXAS
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

JOMARIE M. GULTIANO
“Untitled”
Mixed Media on Watercolor Paper
11"x17"

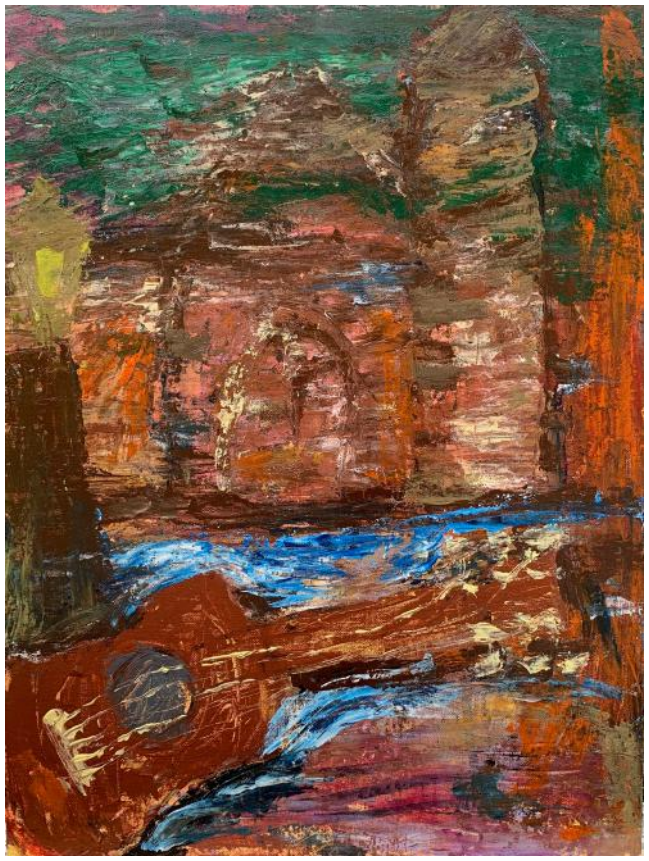


MARRIEL P. CORTEZ
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x30"

JULIE ANN SUZAINE S. SORIANO
“Embroidered Eternal Faith”
Combination on Watercolor Paper
9"x12"

ELMER PONCE PACIO
“Foundation of Belief”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

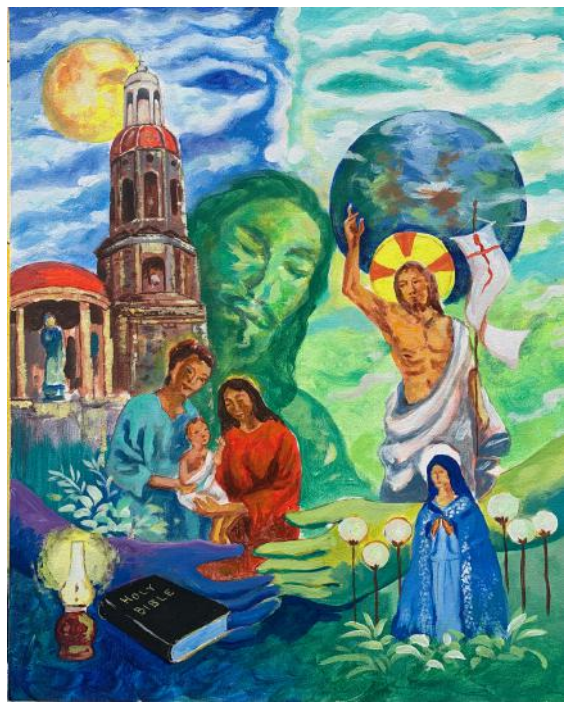
PAMELA LORENZO
“Untitled”
Watercolor on Watercolor Paper
28"x12"



MARK G. MIRABUENOS
“Psalmo”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

ABRAHAM F. RODRIGUEZ
“Untitled”
Mixed Media on Board
20"x15"

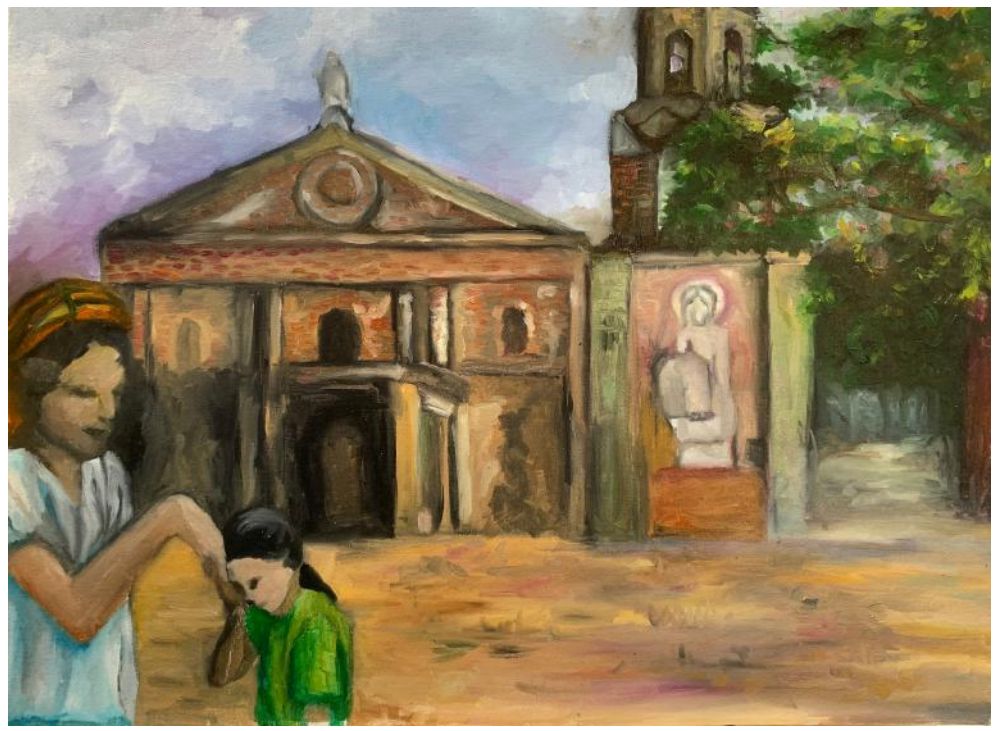
HAROLD DC. ROBLES
“Tahanan ng Sandigan Nagbibigay ng Pag-asa”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x18"



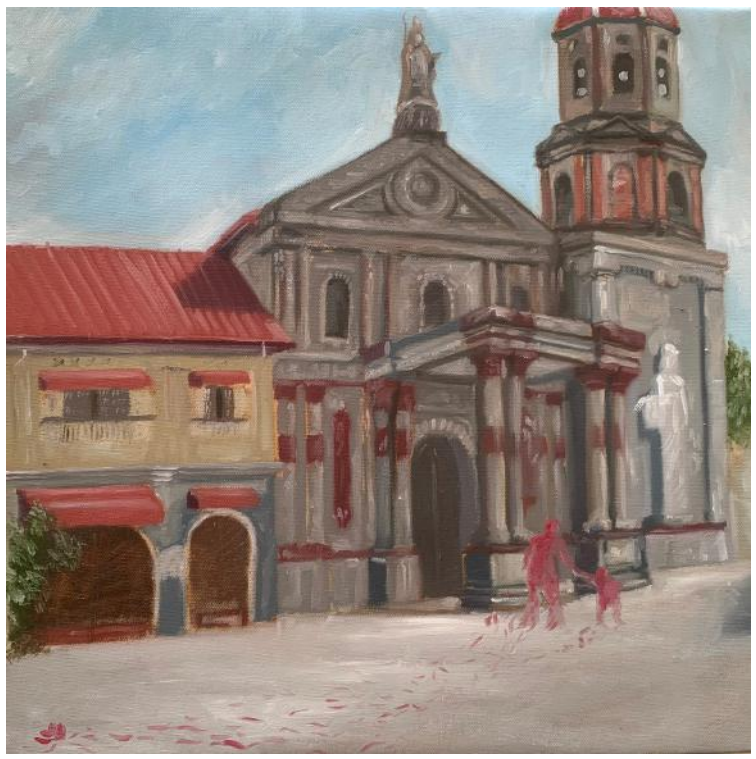
ENRIQUE RIXMAN MANDILAG
“Embrace your Faith”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x30"

ALVIN JOHN R. SALES
“Kampanaryo”
Mixed Media on Canvas
12"x18"

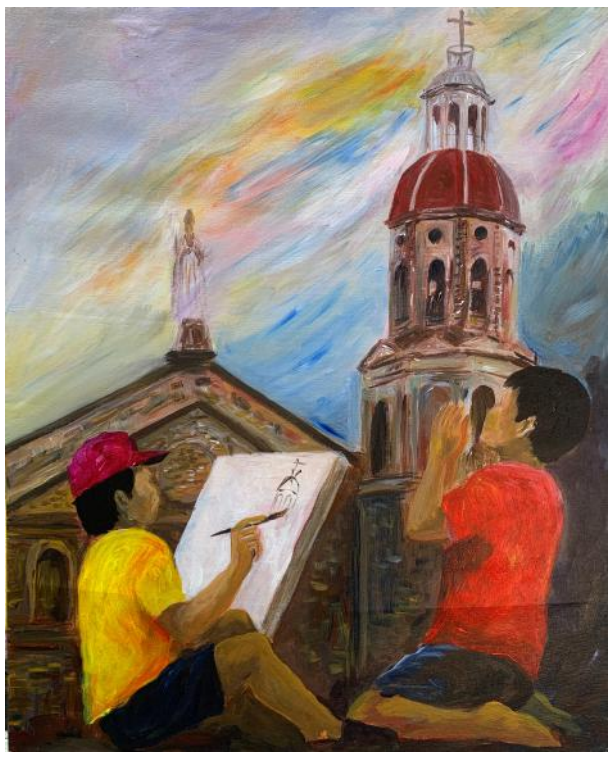
HENRY HAO ORDONIA
“Untitled”
Oil Paint on Canvas
24"x18"



JEIMEE CADID
“Untitled”
Oil Paint on Canvas
24"x18"

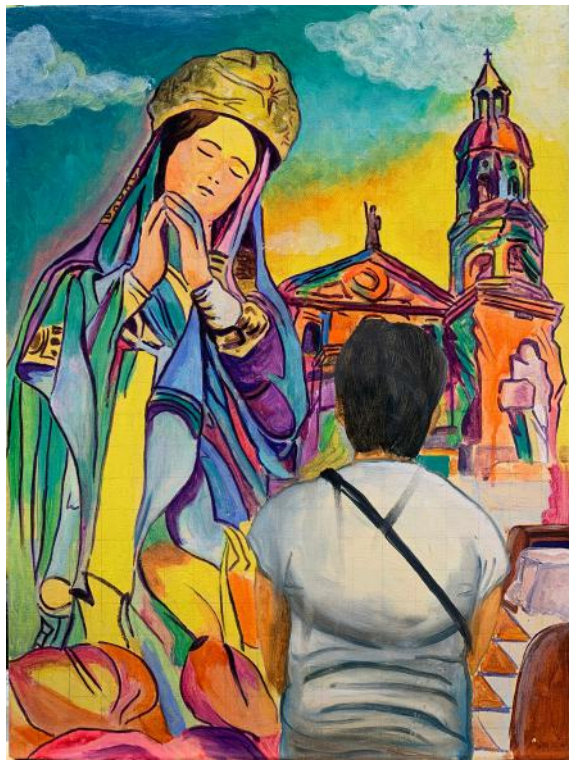


NEMESIS B. MANAHAN
“Untitled”
Oil Paint on Canvas
16"x16"



MARK JAMES S. BARBECHO
“Even if it’s Residue”
Oil Paint on Canvas
20.5"x25"

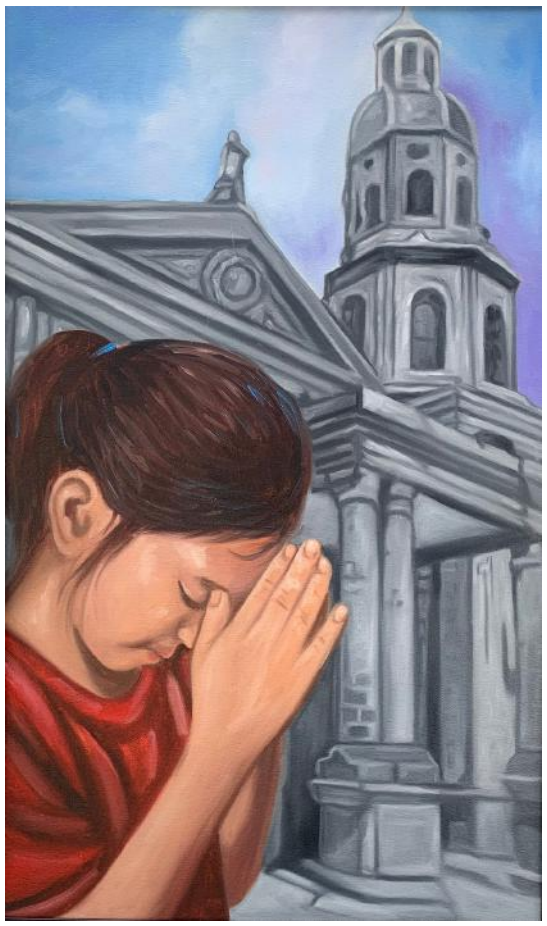
EDUARDO P. DIME
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"



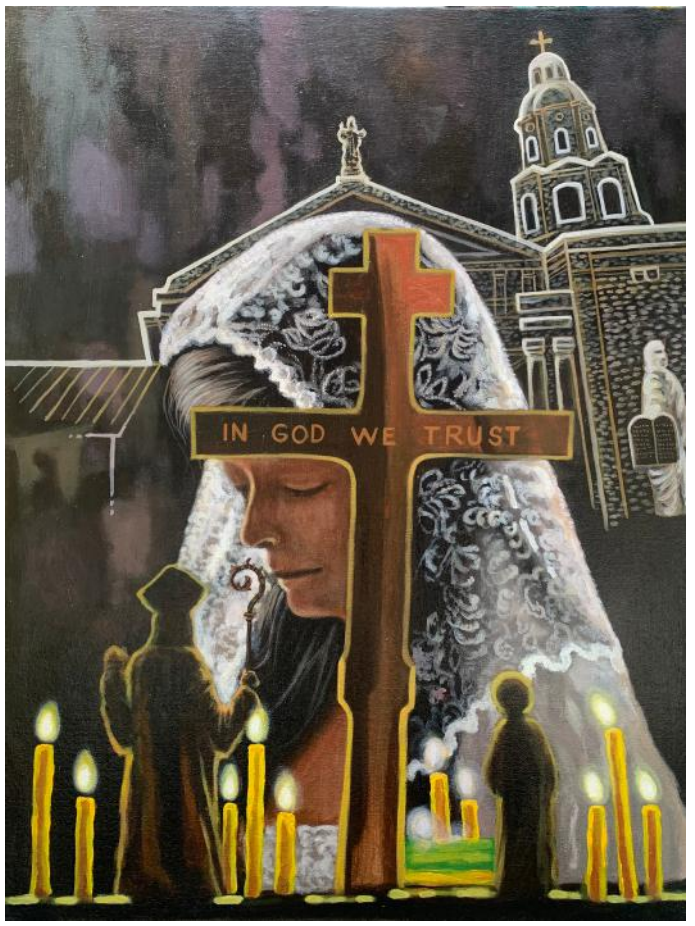
MARK JOSEPH G. TUANTE
“Panalangin”
Mixed Media on Canvas
18"x24"

JOHN VERLYN C. SANTOS
“Panalangin na Taimtim”
Oil on Canvas
18"x24"

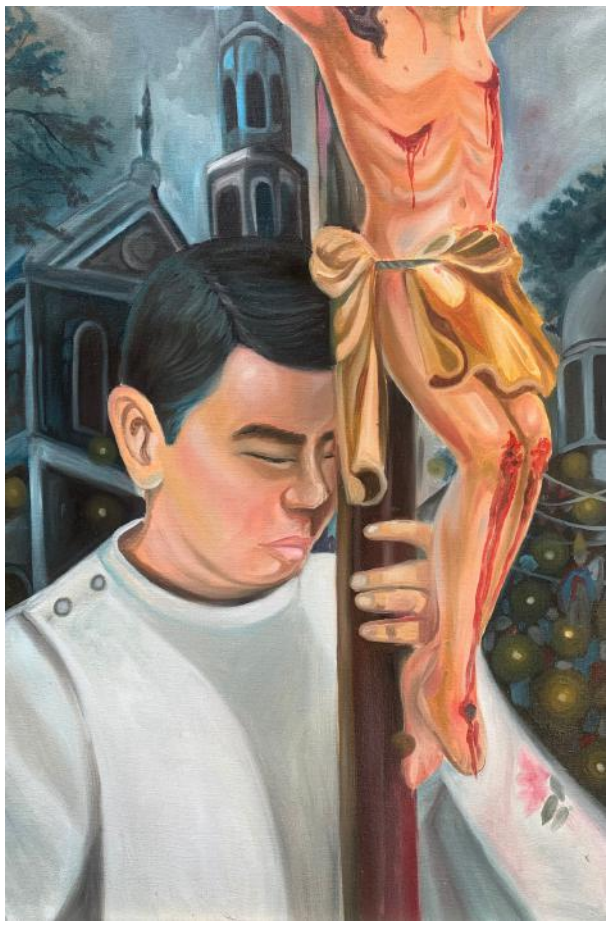
MELCHOR D. BERNALDO
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"



RYANN M. BRAULIO
“Pagsamo”
Mixed Media on Canvas
30"x18"

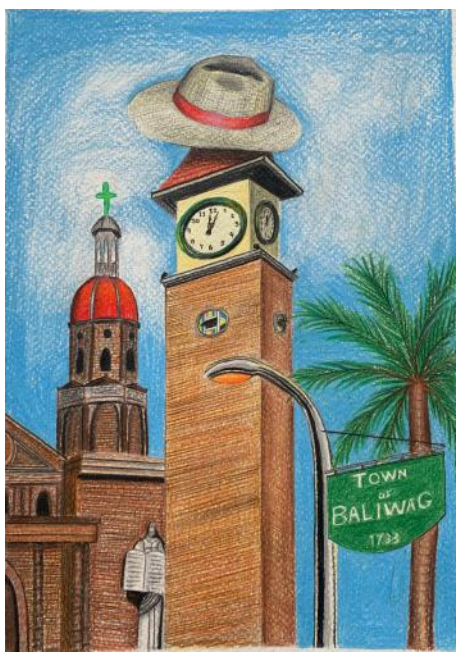


SAMUEL BULAGA
“Devotion”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"



JESSIE SAJOL
“Salvation”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

KYLE JERICHO BISCAYNO
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
15"x20"

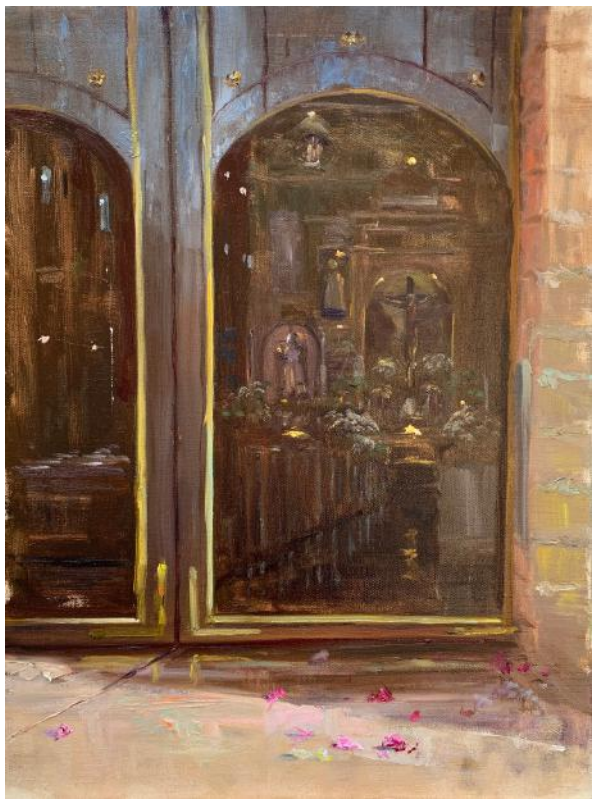


JEROME B. SALAZAR
“Poging Baliwag”
Colored Pencil on Paper
16"x12"

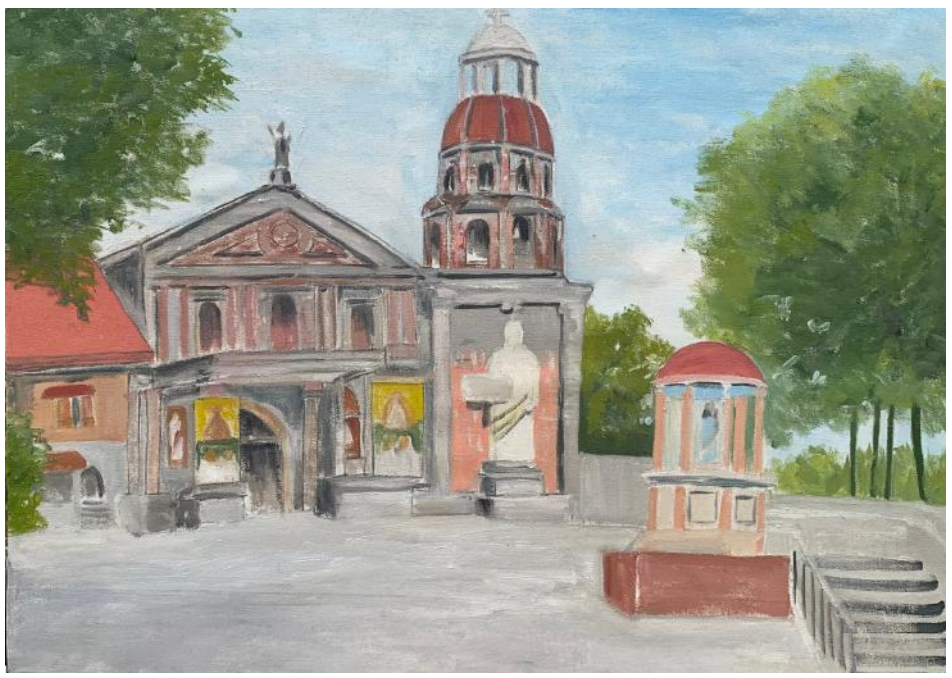
MARIA LUISA (MARISSA) GARCIA
“My Beloved Son”
Oil Paint on Canvas
30"x20"

JAY ASTO
“Handog”
Mixed Media on Canvas
24"x36"

ANGELA GRACE CARMEN
“Prusisyon”
Acrylic on Canvas
11.81"x11.81"



NILO BADAJOS
“Pintong Saksi”
Oil Paint on Canvas
18"x24"



LAURO SANTOS
“Untitled”
Oil Paint on Canvas
33"x24"

ANJANET CASTRO
“Asotea”
Watercolor on paper
12"x9"

JACK DE CASTRO
“Untitled”
Combination on Primed Watercolor Paper
15.5"x20"

FAITH C. MANALO
“Saksi ng Nakaraan at Hinaharap”
Acrylic on Canvas
10"x8"

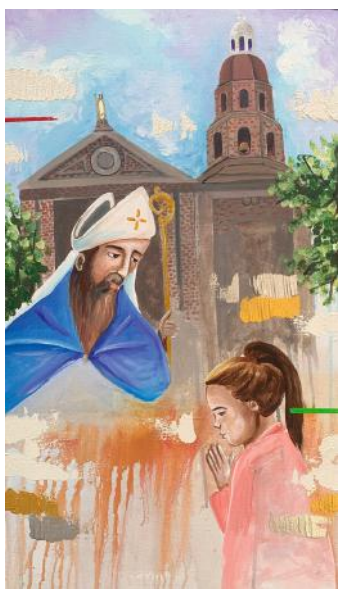
GAMALIEL RENER OCZON
“Iisang Lahi”
Mixed Media on Watercolor Paper
18"x24"

NATHANIEL S. LOPEZ
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x15"

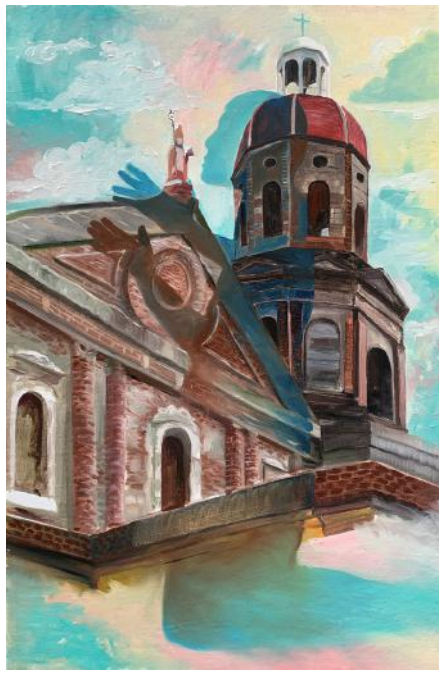
PAOLO ANGELO M. MODELO
“Prusisyon ng Simbahan”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x18"

ISRAEL VICTORIA
“Untitled”
Mixed Media on Canvas
36"x24"

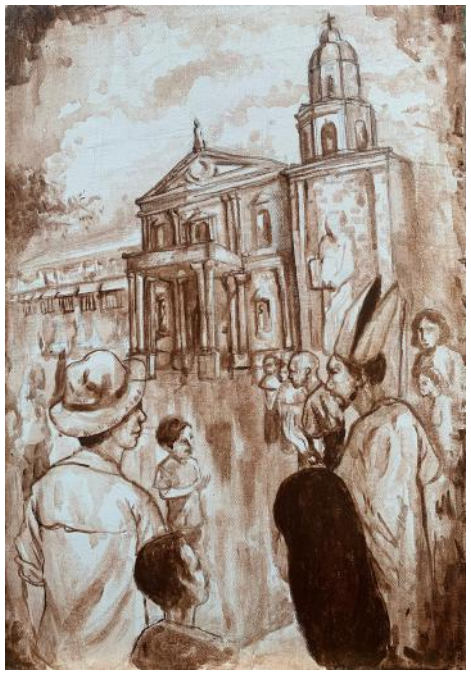
MARLOUN G. MAGO
“Untitled”
Oil Paint on Canvas
24"x30"



RENANTE ALEJO
“Pray for Us”
Mixed Media on Canvas
24"x36"

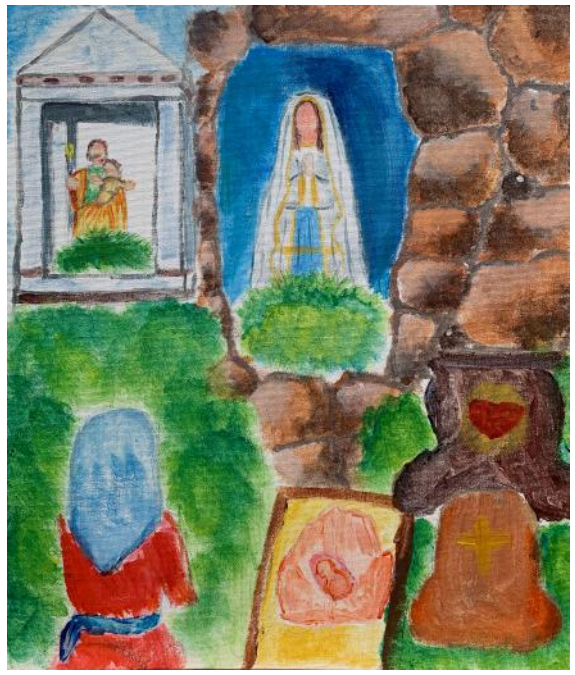


CARLO M. CAACBAY
“Untitled”
Oil Paint on Canvas
24"x36"



ARVIE L. TIONGSON
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
14"x20"

CHRISTOPHER A. SANTIAGO
“Likha ng Kasaysayan”
Acrylic on Canvas
14"x21"



LEYLA CLAUDEL F. MANACO
“Untitled”
Mixed Media on Canvas
12"x14"

Members of the Panel of Judges

RAQUEL "KAYE" O'YEK

Artist / Writer

Oyek paints, creates performance art pieces, and writes about art for publications and galleries. Her articles about local exhibitions have been published in magazines and broadsheets, with online content contributed to ArtPlus PH. As a product of the LIRA Poetry Clinic, she regularly participates in poetry readings. As a facilitator, she has planned, hosted, and participated in art events and exhibitions since 2006, such as PVAF 2018 in Santiago City, Isabela, and Panit Bukog 4 2019 in Cagayan de Oro City. She is part of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts National Committee on Visual Arts, previously served as Secretary in 2022-2023, and is currently the Vice Head. She was the Project Coordinator for Bagong Biswal 2021 and the Philippines ASEAN Digital Art Competition 2020 and 2021. She has also helped organize and design selected exhibitions in local galleries and online platforms.

MARK GREGOR P. DELA CRUZ

Board Member of the Cavite Historical Society, City of General Trias

Mark Gregor P. Dela Cruz is a graduate of Philippine Arts major in Arts Management at the University of the Philippines Manila and holds units for Master of Art in Art Studies major in Art History at the University of the Philippines Diliman. He has been with the culture and the arts sector since 2010 through his employment with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). He has been part of the Human Resource Management Section (HRMS) and Monitoring and Evaluation of grant-assisted programs and projects for the Northern Cultural Communities and for the Visual Artists and Organizations nationwide. Currently, he works as a Planning Officer under the Office of the Chairman. He is a teacher and consultant of arts at the Cavite Institute in Silang, Cavite. He is a Board Member of the Cavite Historical Society representing the City of General Trias.

EDGAR ALLAN SEMBRANO

Art Critic / Writer

Edgar Allan "EA" Sembrano is a journalist and regularly contributes to The Philippine Daily Inquirer and Daily Tribune. He is a Board member of the Philippine National Historical Society. He served as one of the judges in last year's GSIS National Art Competition. He co-authored Dakilang Bulakenyo: The Art and Artists of Bulacan published by the Foreign Service Institute, Department of Foreign Affairs in 2021. He researched the history of the St. Augustine Church. The result was presented at the SAMPAKA National Conference in 2018 with his paper titled "Paletada: The 18th-century artistic heritage of the San Agustin Church convent in Baliuag, Bulacan." He is also a Research Associate at the UST Graduate School Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics.

Members of the Panel of Judges

AR. GERARD REY LICO

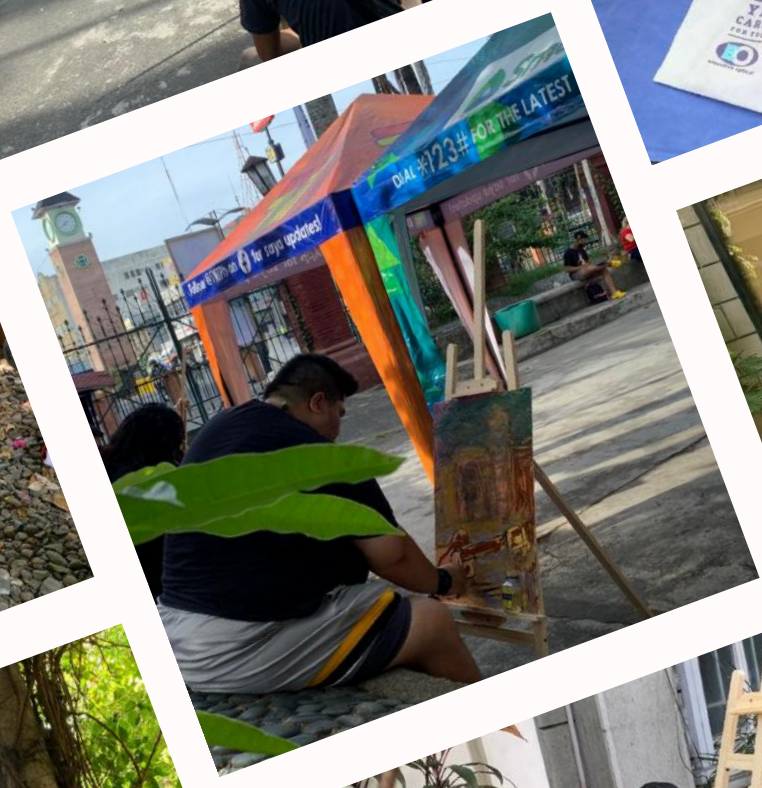
Heritage Advocate and Conservator

Ar. Lico is a Professor and the Director of the Research Office at the College of Architecture, University of the Philippines Diliman. He practices architecture as a heritage conservation professional and designer of institutional buildings. He is a prolific author of publications on Filipino architecture and cultural studies, curator of architectural exhibitions, and director of documentaries on Philippine architecture. He has been involved in the conservation of landmarks such as the Manila Metropolitan Theater, the Rizal Memorial Coliseum, and the core buildings of the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman. He also served as a consultant for conservation planning initiatives for other local and national heritage sites nationwide. Apart from presently serving as Consulting Architect for the City of Valenzuela, he heads a multi-disciplinary, research-oriented design consultancy architectural firm.

SANTIAGO CRUZ

Cultural Heritage Advocate
Grandson of Ico and Lety Cruz

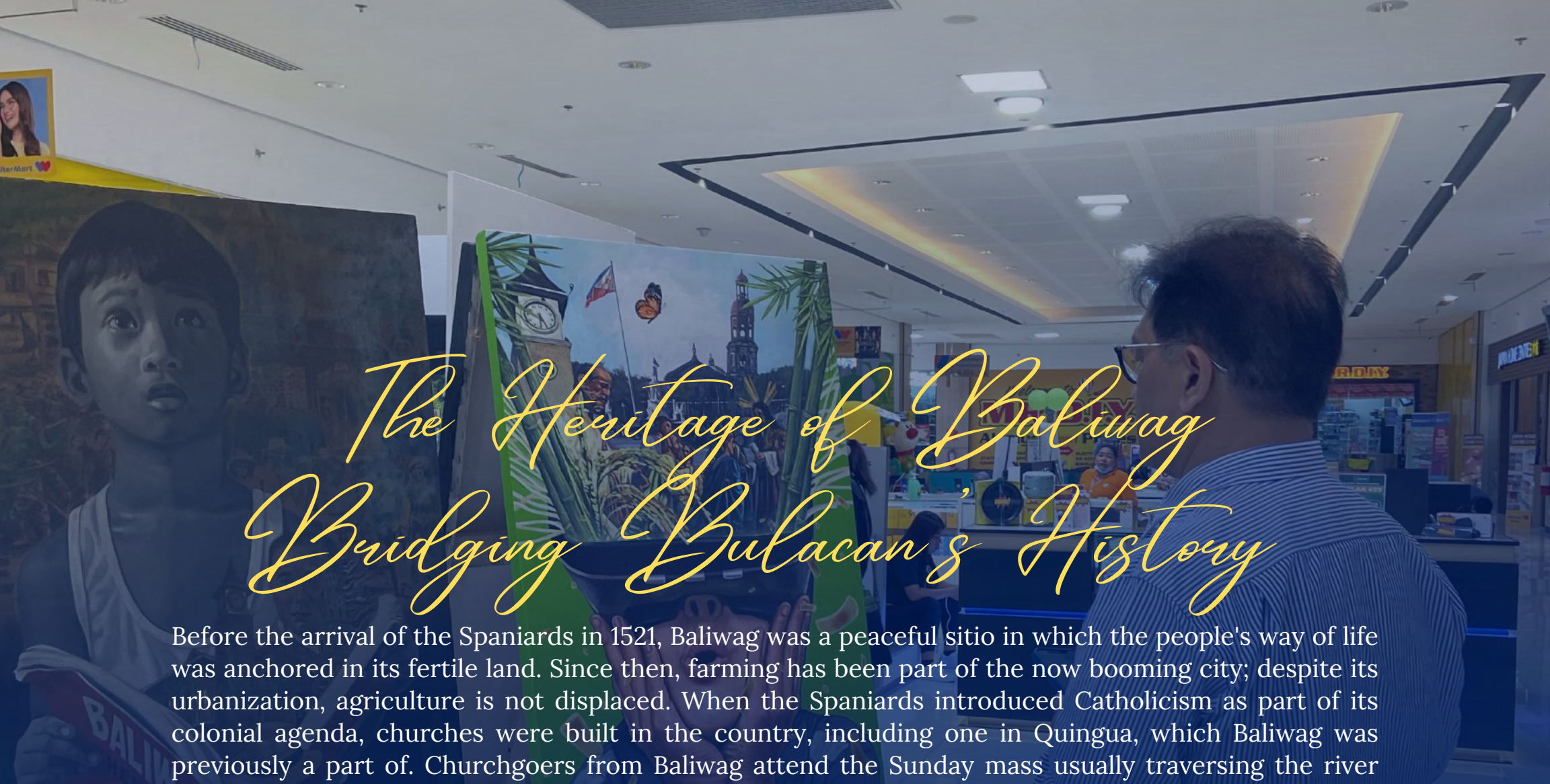
Santiago C. Cruz is the grandson of Renato "Ico" and Leticia "Lety" Cruz and the son of Dr. Nick and Lisa Cruz. He graduated from Ateneo de Manila University with a degree in Management. He is pursuing a second degree and minor in Art Management and cultural heritage at the same institution. He has a special passion for heritage structures and cultural preservation, and his other interests include visual arts, design, and architecture.



ICO AND LETY CRUZ ART COMPETITION 2023

PAINTING

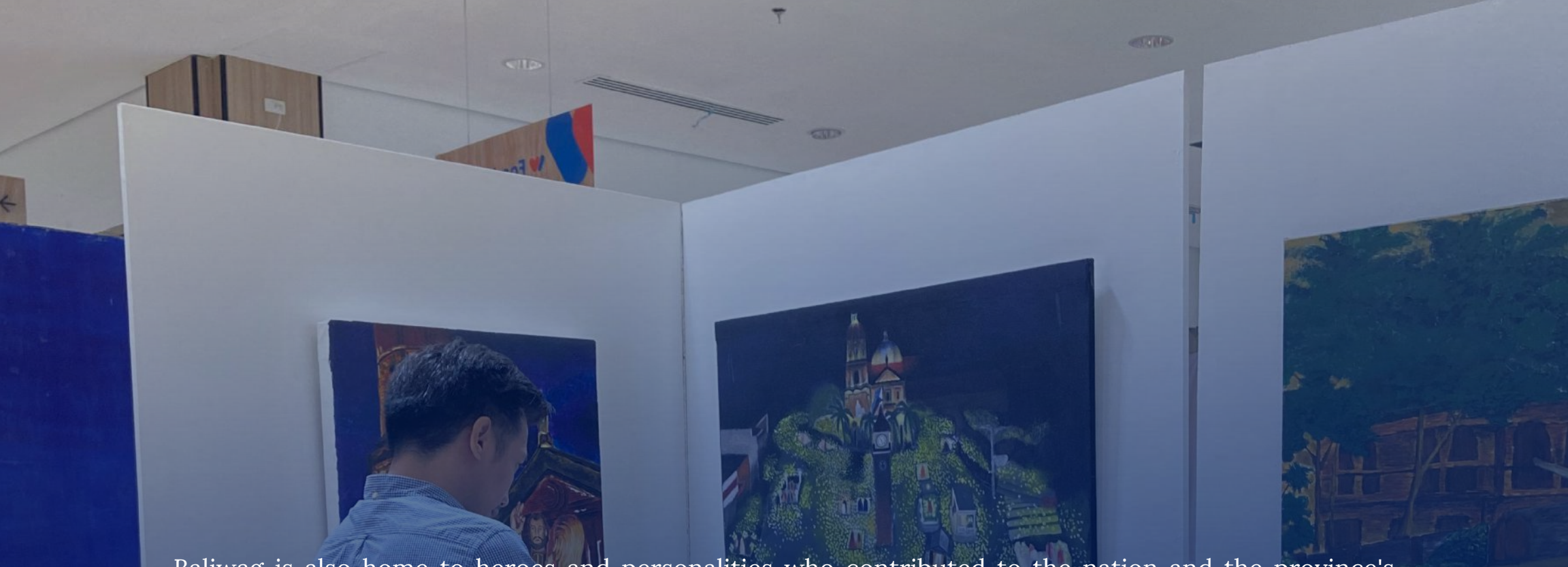
CATEGORY



The Heritage of Baliwag
Bridging Bulacan's History

Before the arrival of the Spaniards in 1521, Baliwag was a peaceful sitio in which the people's way of life was anchored in its fertile land. Since then, farming has been part of the now booming city; despite its urbanization, agriculture is not displaced. When the Spaniards introduced Catholicism as part of its colonial agenda, churches were built in the country, including one in Quingua, which Baliwag was previously a part of. Churchgoers from Baliwag attend the Sunday mass usually traversing the river using boats as the mode of transportation. Baliwag, as a town on its own, was founded by the Augustinians in 1733, becoming the 10th town in Bulacan province. During the American regime, significant changes took place in Baliwag as this was the site of the first democratic election in the Philippines, which would later become the predecessor in other municipalities.

The built heritage and structures of the town are testaments to how Baliwag played a crucial role in the history of the province and the nation. The St. Augustine Church is significant as it is one of the oldest churches in the country and the main edifice that marked the foundation of Baliwag as an independent town. It also served as a fort and barracks for the American troops during the American Occupation and Philippine-American War circa 1899. It is also notable that the church and the Catholic faith had produced religious rituals such as the Lenten procession. The Lumang Munisipyo, a declared Important Cultural Property by the national government, was the seat of power for Baliwag from 1907 to 1971. It was the former residence of one of the first doctors of the Philippines, Dr. Joaquin Gonzalez. The house was used as one of the headquarters of General Henry Ware Lawton and his soldiers circa 1899 during the American colonization and Philippine-American War. The Baliwag Clock Tower has become Baliwag's iconic landmark, and its image has been used widely to represent Baliwag. Other towns in the province were inspired by this structure and built their own clock tower.

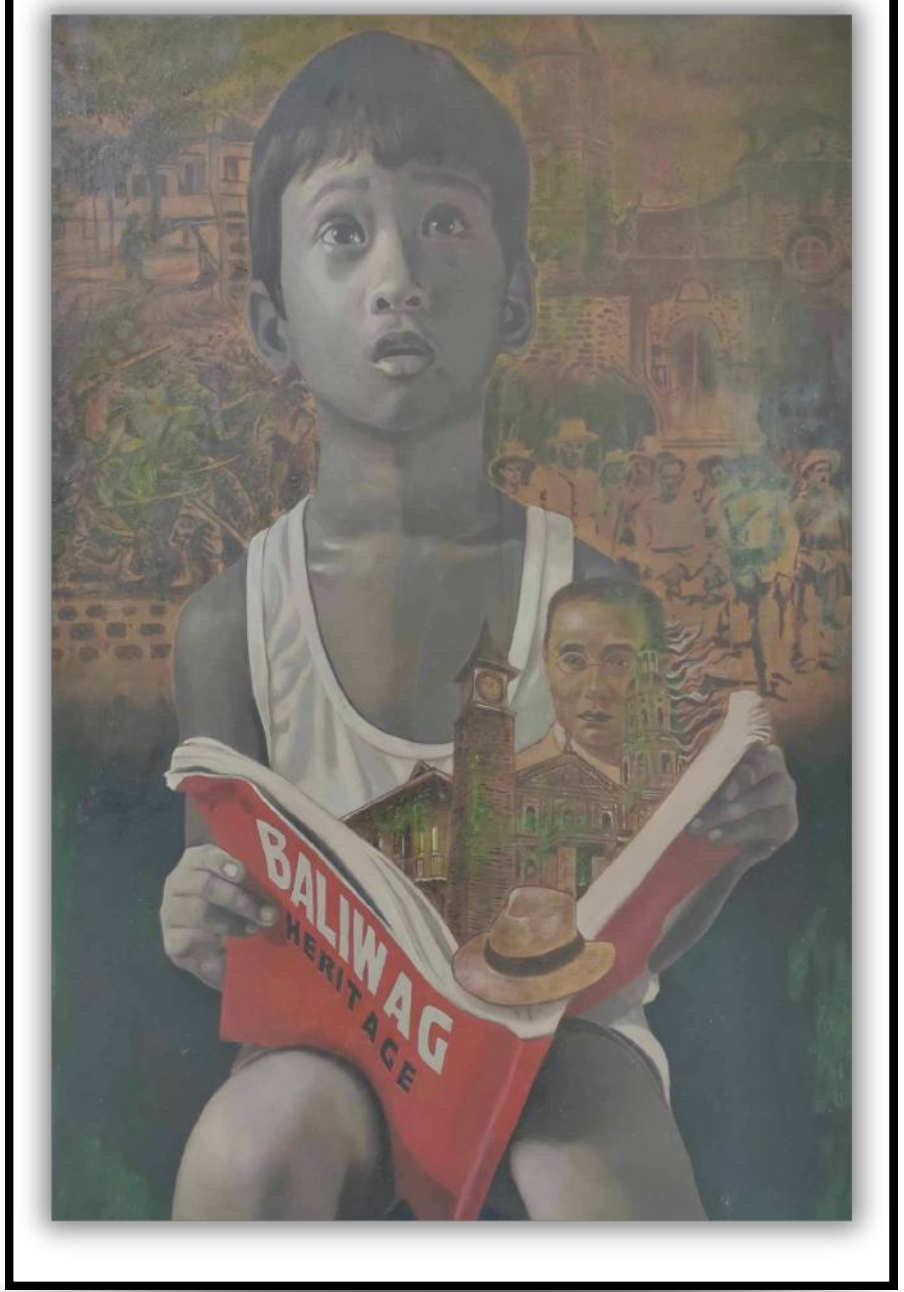


Baliwag is also home to heroes and personalities who contributed to the nation and the province's history. Among them are Mariano Ponce, Felipe Salvador, and Josefa Tiongson. Ponce was one of the founders of La Solidaridad. He is known as part of the triumvirate of reformers with his fellow Bulakenyo Marcelo H. Del Pilar and Jose Rizal. He also became the representative of Bulacan in the Asemblea Filipina until 1912. Salvador was also a revolutionary hero and was known in the Central Luzon region as Apo Ipe. He joined the Katipunan and led several attacks in the garrisons of Spanish forces. He also established Santa Iglesia, whose members supported his aim to overthrow the American colonizer. Jocelynang Baliwag gave Baliwag prominence in the field of music and performing arts. The lyrics of this song are believed to be inspired by Tiongson, popularly known as Pepita, a maiden from Baliwag who captured the heart of Isabelo delos Reyes, who wrote the lyrics dedicated to her.

Buntal hat weaving, an intangible cultural heritage of Baliwag, has made an impact not only in the town during the early 20th century but also in its neighboring towns. With the high demand for this traditional craft, many weavers from Baliwag, Pulilan, San Rafael, and nearby places were employed. The popularity of Baliwag's buntal hat weaving was evident in other art forms, such as photographs, paintings, and greeting cards by Bulacan artists.

Baliwag's heritage goes beyond the structures, cultural materials, and traditions; it is deeply ingrained in the collective memory and narratives of the Baliwagenyos and Bulakenyos. These heritages are passed down through generations and serve as a bridge - marrying the past with the present, connecting the cities and municipalities of the province, and creating ties with the people living in Bulacan. These are stories of bravery during the revolution and colonial struggles, tales of resilience in times of adversity, and the wisdom gained from the knowledge of their forefathers in making the cultural heritage of Bulacan as a whole. Baliwag stands as a bridge between Bulacan's history and its present-day community. (JGV)

1ST PLACE



“BATANG BALIWAG”

2023
Oil on Canvas
24"x36"

EMIL JAY B. GUIANG

San Rafael, Bulacan

2ND PLACE

“HALINA”

2023
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

JESSIE S. SAJOL

San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

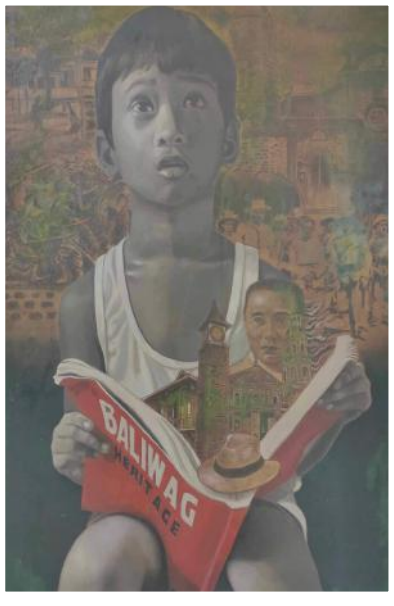
3RD PLACE

“WOW BALIWAG! BABALIK-BALIKAN”

2023
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

RYAN FRANCISCO CASLIB
San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

TOP 10 FINALISTS

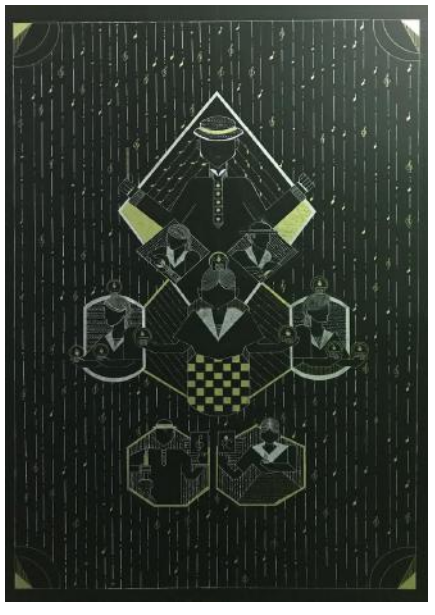


EMIL JAY B. GUIANG
“Batang Baliwag”
Oil Paint on Canvas
24"x36"

JESSIE S. SAJOL
“Halina”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

JOHN VERLYN C. SANTOS
“Untitled”
Mixed Media on Watercolor Paper
24"x36"

LANIE ROSE JOSON LUARTEZ
“LUNA: The Witness”
Mixed Media on Canvas
24"x36"



MARIA FATIMA SAAVEDRA
“Pandanggo”
Combination of Ink on Paper
24"x36"

MARIA LOURDES P. INOSANTO
“The Buntal Hat Maker”
Oil on Canvas
24"x36"

MARK CHRISTOPHER QUIZON
“Blues and Greens”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

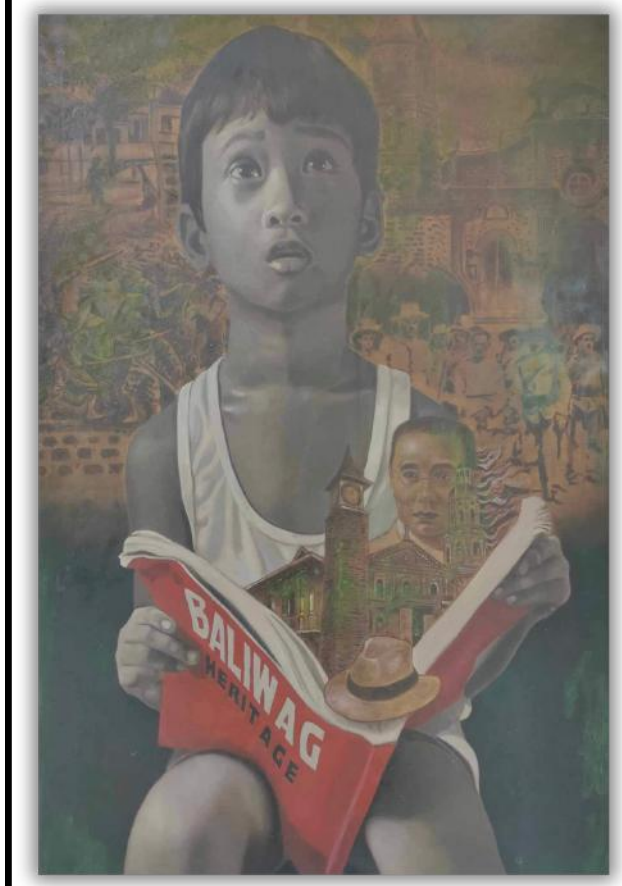
MARY GRACE A. SANTOS
“Harmony of Faith”
Mixed Media on Canvas
24"x36"

MICHAEL JOSHUA T. ESCALONA
“Hinabing Ngayon at Kahapon”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

RYAN FRANCISCO CASLIB
“Wow Baliwag! Babalik Balikan”
Acrylic and Oil on Canvas
24"x36"

SPECIAL AWARDS

WALTERMART CHOICE AWARD

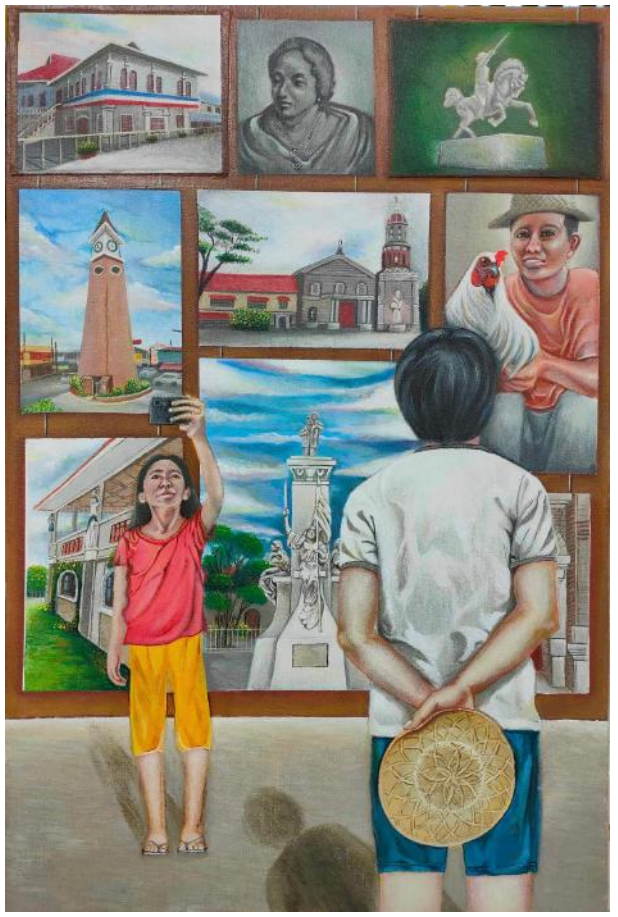


“BATANG BALIWAG”
2023
Oil on Canvas
24"x36"
EMIL JAY B. GUIANG
San Rafael, Bulacan

ORIX METRO AWARD

“HALINA”
2023
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"
JESSIE S. SAJOL
San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

MARK G. MIRABUENOS
"Musa"
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"



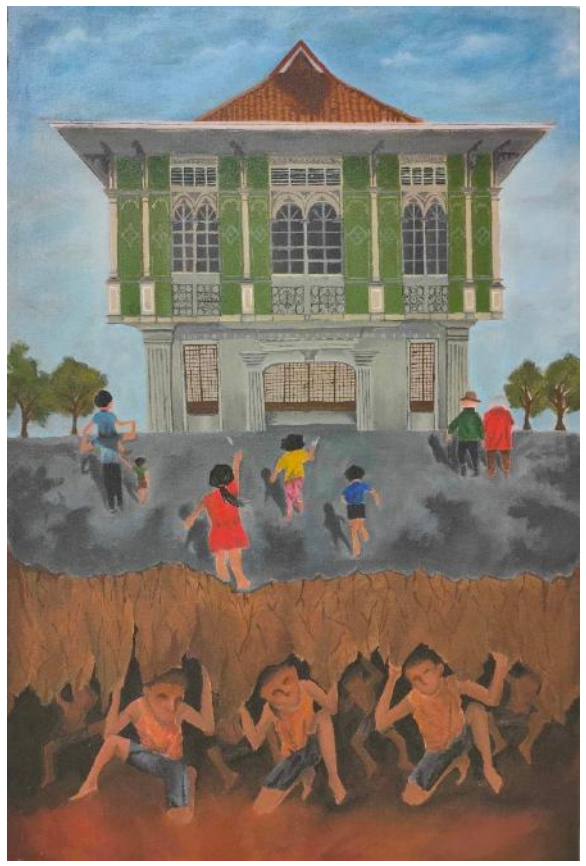
JERRY L. SAYCON
"Pangarap at Paghanga"
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

LEOPOLDO S. GARCIA JR.
"Untitled"
Coffee Stain on Board
24"x36"

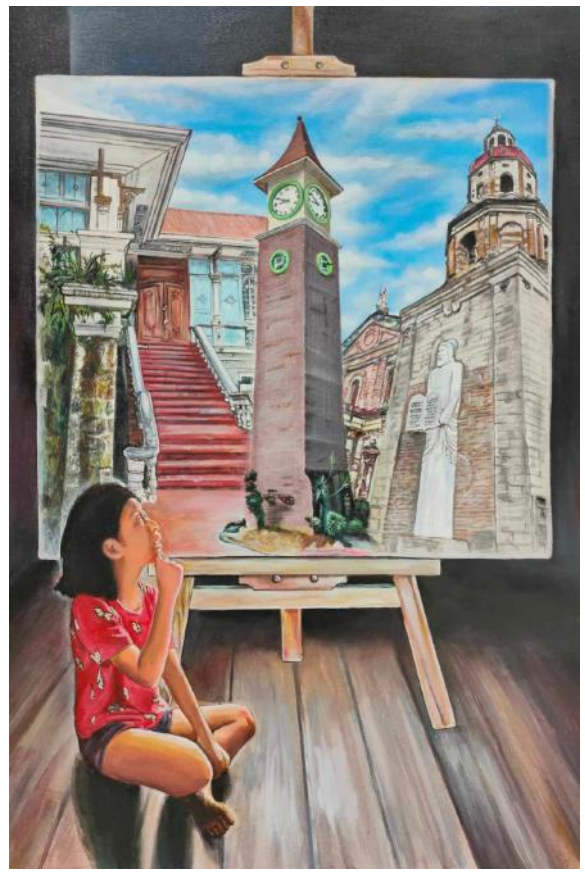
DAVE HARRIS T. TAGALAG
"Muling Sulyap sa Gintong Pamana"
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

EFREN D. ESPIRITU
"Pamana ni Lola"
Acrylic on Canvas
36"x24"

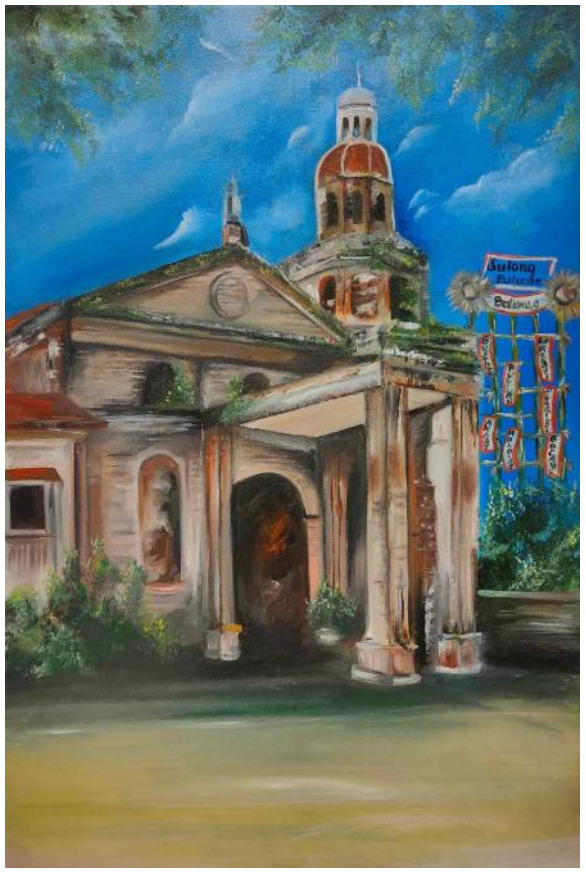
LLOYD FRANCIS BAUTISTA
“Untitled”
Combination of Ink on Board
24"x36"



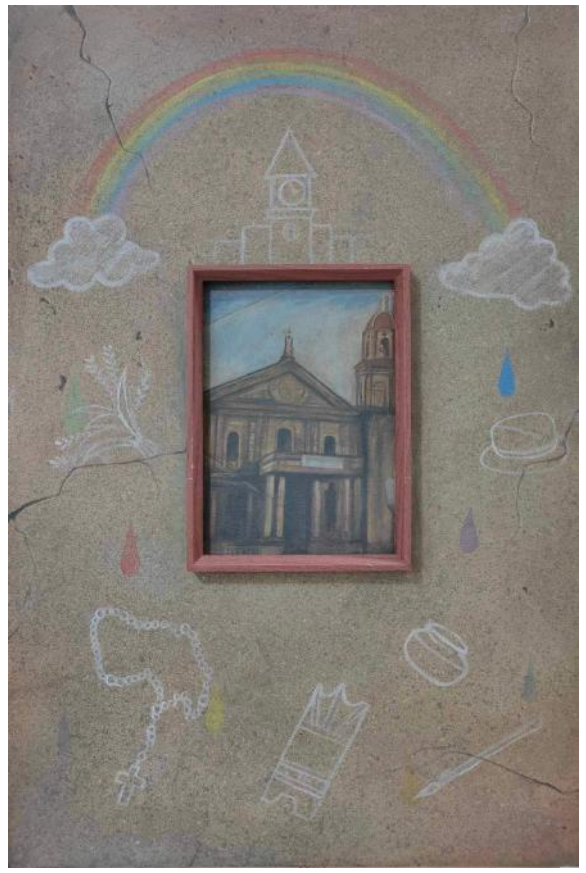
JOHN RENZ U. AGUSTIN
“Thin Line of History”
Watercolor on Watercolor Paper
24"x36"



FROILAN SILVA
“Sulyap sa Nakaraan”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"



LYNDSAY SAAVEDRA
“Untitled”
Oil on Canvas
24"x36"



LAWRENCE PEREZ
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

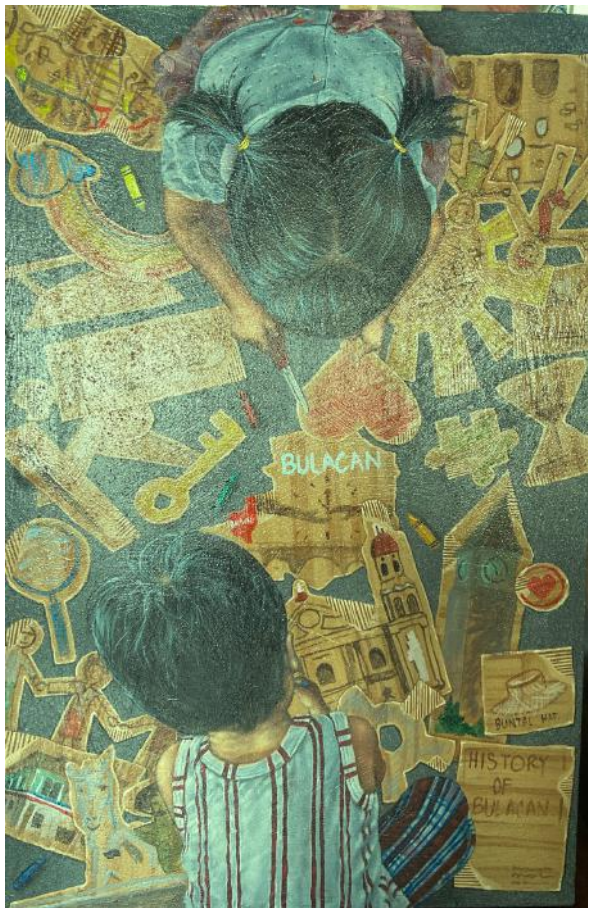
ARLENE JOY P. ARRIOLA
“Time’s Whirling Melodies”
Acrylic on Canvas
36"x24"

ANJELO S. FLORES
“Ikaw at Ako”
Acryic on Canvas
36"x24"

MA. VICTORIA R. FLORES
“Pista sa Nayon, Bida ang Lechon”
Acrylic on Canvas
36"x24"

KLARISSE COLIPAT
“Pag Pugay”
Acrylic on Canvas
36"x24"

RONWEL CRUZ
“Pagsibol”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

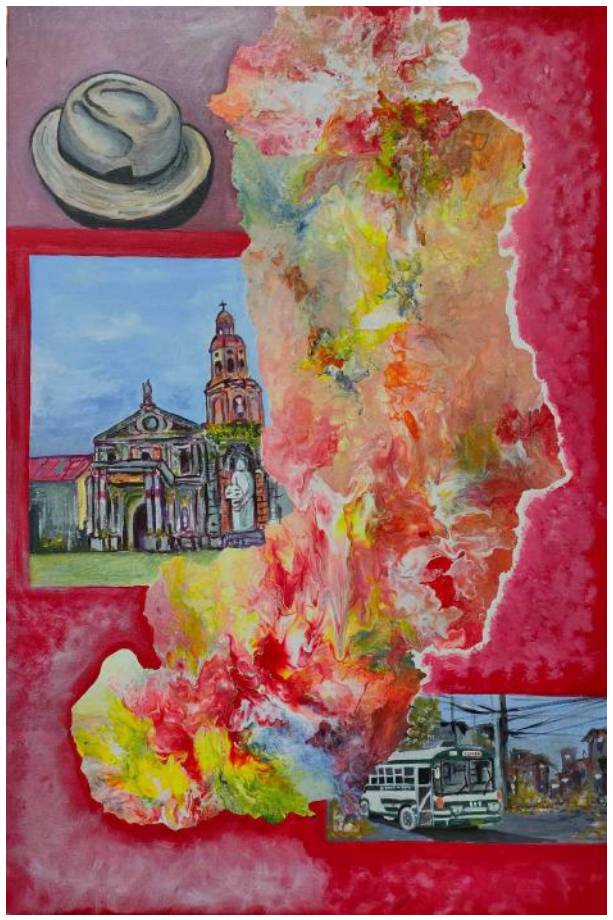


MIGUEL EMMANUEL D. BORBOR
“Baliwag Noon at Ngayon:
Haligi ng Kasaysayan ng Bulacan”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

FRANCHESKA VILLAMIL
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

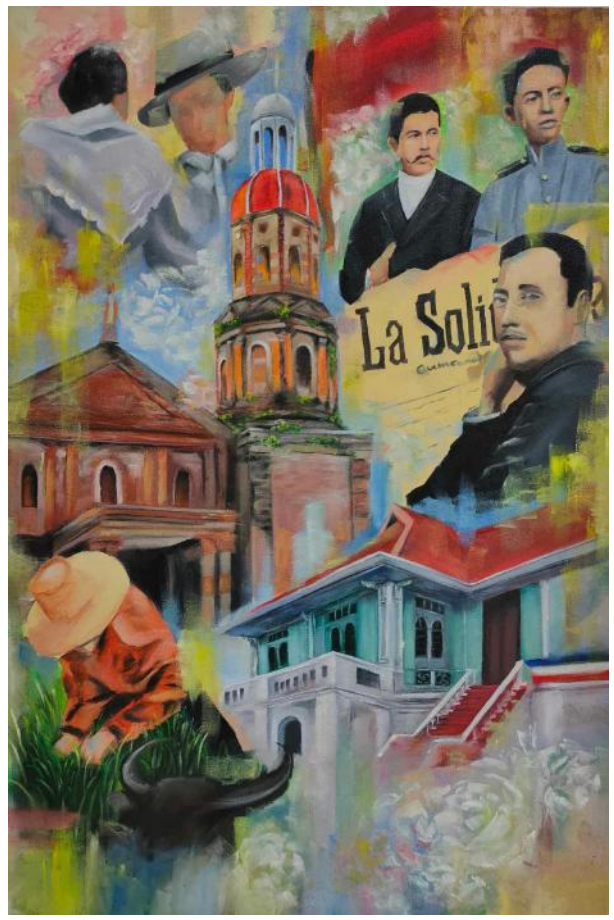
RALFTINN ESTRADA
“Protect Heritage and Unveil the Beauty”
Acrylic on Canvas
36"x24"

MARCELINO D. VILLAFUERTE JR.
“Pamana ng Lahing Baliwageños”
Mixed Media on Canvas
36"x24"



VIM KIESTER C. RIVERA
“Baliwag sa Makulay na Imahinasyon”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

MARK LAWRENCE G. JOSE
“History Beyond Steps”
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

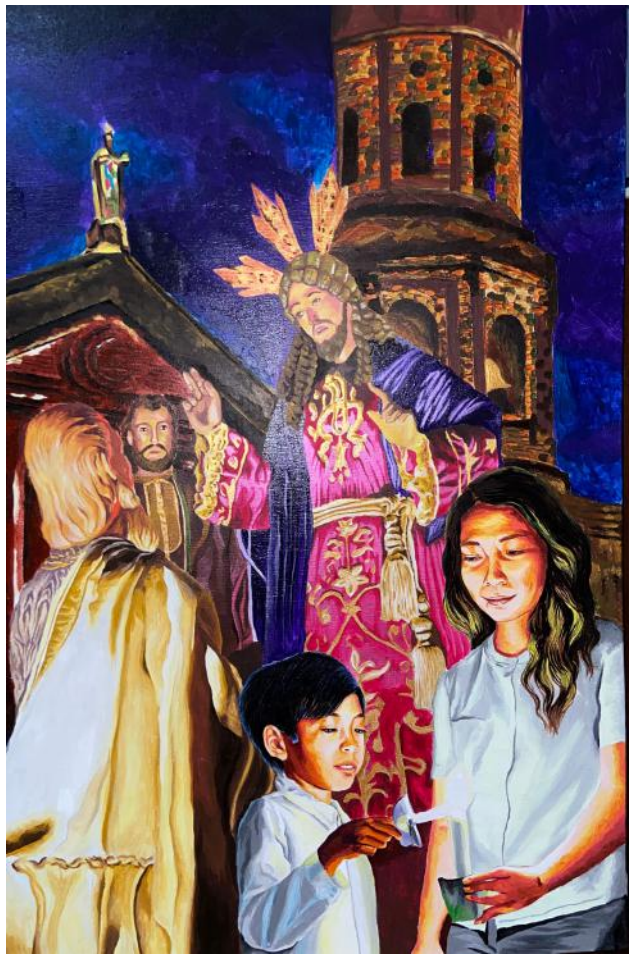


VERONICA JANE ALBA REYES
“Makulay na Kultura ng Baliwag, Bulacan”
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

RALZ JEROME D. TABERAO
“Ville Patrimoniale De Baliwag”
Watercolor and Acrylic on Watercolor Paper
36"x24"

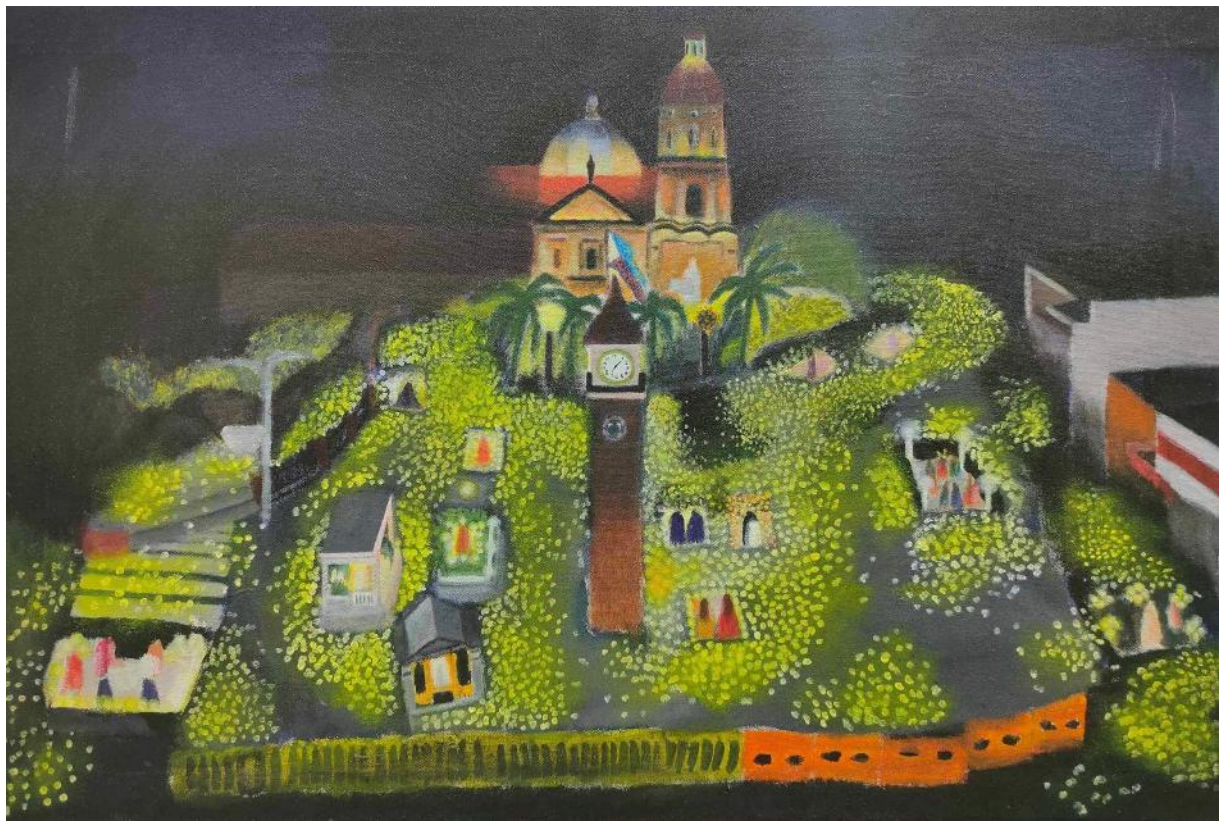
JOVIC DIEGO CUDIA
“Ciudad Kong Kay Halagang Laryo”
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
36"x24"

ARGEE T. DACUYAN
"The Foundation"
Oil Paint on Canvas
24"x36"



ANA NELIZA B. DEL MUNDO-ANGELES
"Passing on my Baliwag Heritage"
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

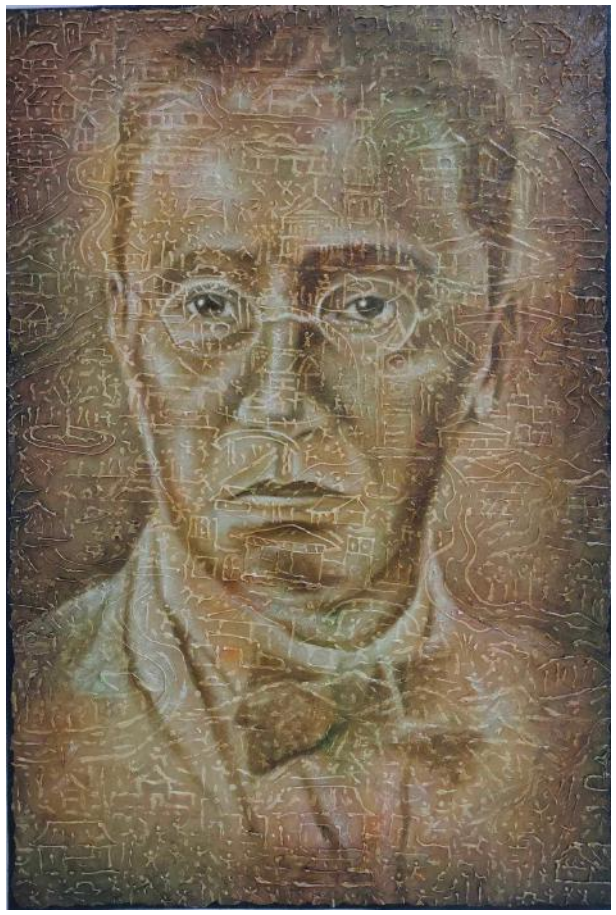
JAYSON P. MONTEMAYOR
"Buntal Roots: Center of a Beautiful Town"
Watercolor Pencil on Vellum Paper
24"x36"



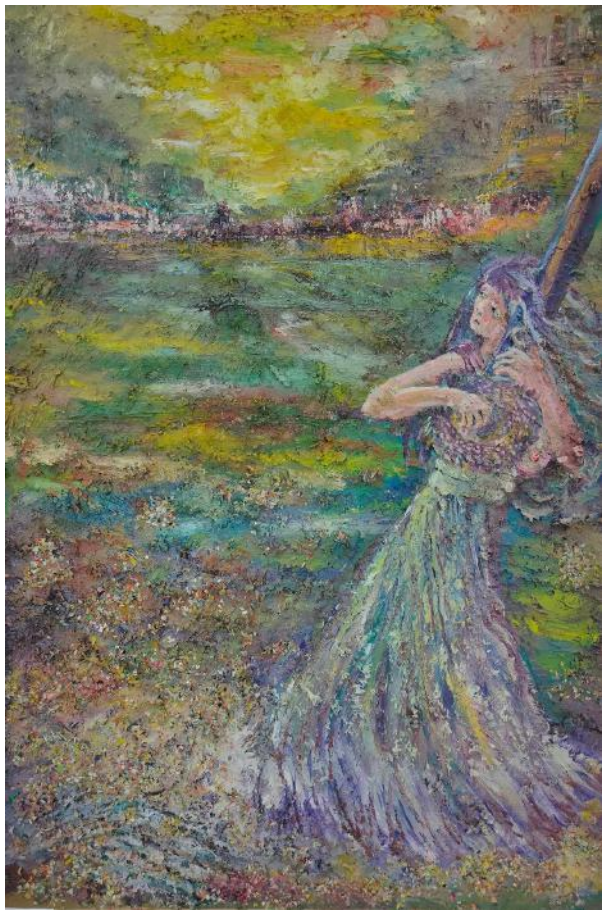
ANN LORRAINE MIRANDA
"Prusisyon"
Acrylic on Canvas
36"x24"

CHRISTOPHER A. SANTIAGO
"Time is Gold"
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

JOVELL C. DE GUZMAN
“Heritage of Baliwag”
Oil on Canvas
24"x36"



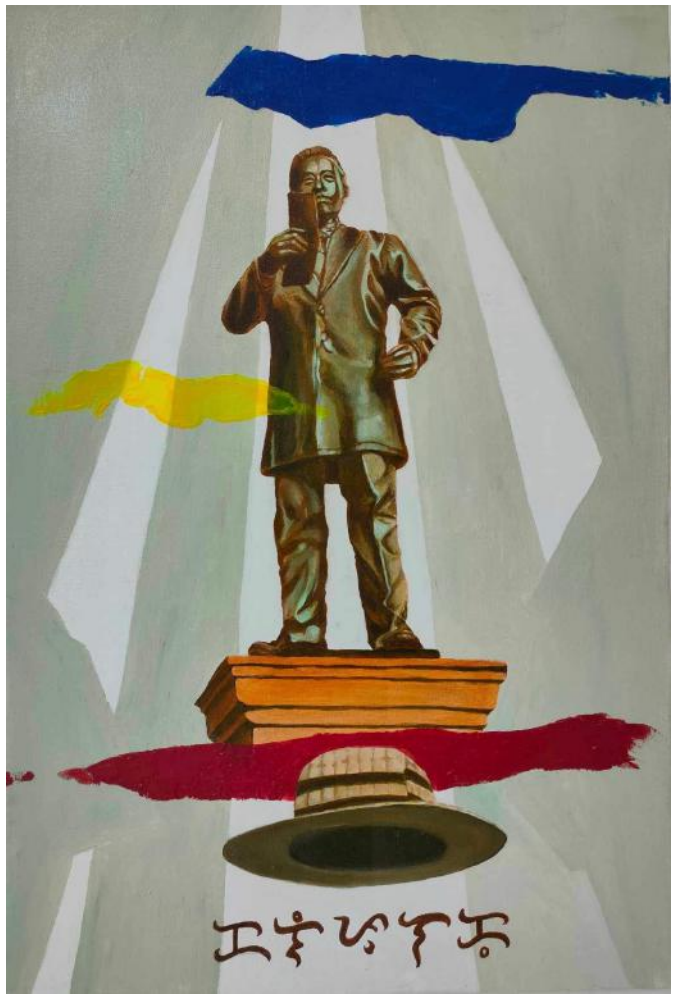
JOHN FRANCIS A. CABRERA
“Blue Print”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"



GILBERT CALDERON ANGELES
“Salome”
Oil on Crushed Sachets
24"x36"

MARK JAMES S. BARBECHO
“Priceless Repository”
Oil on Canvas
24"x36"

MARK BRYAN J. HIPOLITO
“Ang Simula”
Acrylic on Canvas
36"x24"



CRISPIN D. REBUTIACO JR.
“Kalipulako: Sulyap sa Kasaysayan Tungo sa Kinabukasan”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

RANDY BOY A. RONDA
“Buntal of Baliwag”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

Members of the Panel of Judges

PAINTING CATEGORY

RICKY FRANCISCO

Director, Fundacion Sanso

Ricky Francisco is the director of Fundacion Sanso, a non-profit institution that administers the museum, archive, art students grants program, and professional grants program in honor of the artist Juvenal Sanso. Since working with the Ayala Museum in 1999, he has been a curatorial consultant to several private museums in Manila, namely the Lopez Museum and Library, the Kalaw Ledesma Foundation, and the San Beda University Museum.

Maintaining freelance curatorial projects alongside museum work, he was curator for the Philippine section of 2016 Art Kaohsiung in Taiwan, the Saturday Group 50th Anniversary exhibition at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and over 200 other exhibitions in various galleries since 2012. He taught at the College of St. Benilde Arts Management Program for two semesters in 2016.

He is also the writer of the catalogue “Sanso: Setting the Stage” (2016), jointly published by Fundacion Sanso with Ayala Museum, and “Other: Zobel and Sanso” (2016) which Fundacion Sanso published with Ateneo Art Gallery. He is a contributing writer to “Brave New World” (2021), “After the Deluge Comes the Dawn” (2021), “Sanso Textile Designs” (2021), all by Southeast Asian Publishing; and “Andres Barrioquinto” (2021) published by Rizzoli New York.

Since 2021, he has also started joining as a painter in various group exhibitions.

Emmanuel “Manny” Garibay

Visual Artist and Founder, Artletics Inc.

Manny Garibay received his Fine Arts degree at the University of the Philippines. He received the Thirteen Artists Award from the Cultural Center of the Philippines in 2000 and the Diwa ng Sining Award from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts in 1994. His works have been exhibited in the Philippines, Connecticut, and New York of the United States of America, the Netherlands, and Sweden. He is known for his expressionist figurative style and the keen socio-political content of many of his works. He believes art can help awaken people’s consciousness so they can pull themselves out of their despondency and bring about empowered change. Aside from being a prolific internationally established painter, he’s also an active cultural organizer who has headed various art and cultural organizations since his student days. He is currently chairman of Artletics Inc., an artist-led organization that empowers communities through art education. Artletics runs the Linangan Art Residency Program in Alfonso, Cavite, which hones artistic and leadership skills in young talents through mentored studio practice, art classes, and immersion in community-building projects.

Members of the Panel of Judges

PAINTING CATEGORY

MANUEL KRISTOFFER GIRON

Assistant Professor, Department of Arts Studies, UP Diliman

Manuel Kristoffer Giron is an assistant professor at the Department of Art Studies at the University of the Philippines-Diliman, where he obtained his bachelor's degree in Art Studies (Interdisciplinary). He completed his master's degree in Art Studies (Art Theory and Criticism) in the same institution with the thesis “The Visual Representation of Folk Narratives in the Art of Roberto Feleo and Rodel Tapaya.” His area of research is in Philippine art, folk arts, tradition, and modernity.

ERICSON JOSE P. DUBLAS

Shrine Curator, NHCP Museo ni Mariano Ponce

Ericson Jose P. Dublas graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Major in History from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Sta. Mesa, Manila in 2015. He was a former intern and museum coordinator at Bahay Tsinoy Museum: Museum of Chinese in Philippines Life in Intramuros, Manila, from 2015 to 2017. He joined the National Historical Commission of the Philippines as Museum Guide of Museo at Aklatan ni Diosdado Macapagal in Lubao, Pampanga from 2015 to 2017 and then became Officer-In-Charge from 2017 to 2019 under Historic Sites and Education Division (HSED). From 2019 to the present, he serves as the Shrine Curator II of Museo ni Mariano Ponce under the supervision of HSED, NHCP. Currently, he oversees the museum’s curatorial development and improvement, as well as the conceptualization of didactic public programs in line with the promotion of the museum’s exhibitions, including maintenance and administration of the landmark operated as a history museum. He also actively participates in and promotes various local historical and cultural events such as national and local commemorations, the unveiling of historical markers, stakeholders’ heritage activities, and other related programs.

DR. JOSE NICHOLAS CRUZ

Sponsor and Co-organizer, Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition

Dr. Nick Cruz was born and raised in Baliwag, Bulacan. He is an interventional cardiologist at St. Luke’s Medical Center. He is one of the descendants of Mr. and Mrs. Renato and Leticia Cruz, after whom the competition is named. A visual arts enthusiast, he is one of the proponents of the Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition, as he wishes to support the artists of his hometown Baliwag and Bulacan as well.

ON-THE-SPOT

CATEGORY

Buntal Hat: Preserving Baliwag's Heritage

Buntal hat weaving is one of the traditional arts in Baliwag. The production of this handicraft was at its peak around the early 20th century as a cottage industry in Baliwag and continued to flourish even after the war. It differs from the buntal hats from other places (like Lucban and Sariaya, Quezon, where the buntal fiber was originally sourced) because of its fine texture brought about by the closely woven technique of weaving. Buntal fiber is softened using a heavy wooden roller called *iluhan*. These softened fibers are then weaved to make a sombrero/sumbalilo using the "close" or "sawali" weave. The finished product, commonly referred to as balibuntal, is then sold locally and abroad.

The buntal hat is almost synonymous with Baliwag, and its image is incorporated in various emblems of government institutions, schools, organizations, and businesses. Among these are the official logos of the City of Baliwag, the bus company Baliwag Transit Inc., and the local restaurant 3006 Craft Brewery. As the buntal hat serves as one of the symbols of the community, the local government of Baliwag ensures its preservation and development. The annual Buntal Festival is just one of the many programs dedicated to this endeavor.

In 2023, the Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition chose the buntal hat as the focal point. Artists were invited to create artwork on the spot that presented the buntal hat as Baliwag's valuable intangible cultural heritage. On-site were local weavers in a tableau demonstrating the process of weaving the buntal hat, which artists can interact with and integrate into their creative composition. These works of art aim to once again awaken the Baliwagenyos' memory of this heritage and instill the importance of preserving our identity. (JGV)

1ST PLACE

“KULAYAN NATIN”

2023
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

MARK CHRISTOPHER QUIZON
Baliwag, Bulacan

2ND PLACE

“UNTITLED”

2023
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

KYLE JERICHO BISCAYNO

Baliwag, Bulacan

3RD PLACE

“HABI”

2023
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

MARIA FATIMA BALUGAY SAAVEDRA

Baliwag, Bulacan

SPECIAL AWARDS

WALTERMART CHOICE AWARD

“SAMBALILO: PAMANA SA MGA BALIWAGENYO”

2023
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

FROILAN SILVA
Baliwag, Bulacan

ORIX METRO AWARD

“HABI”

2023
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

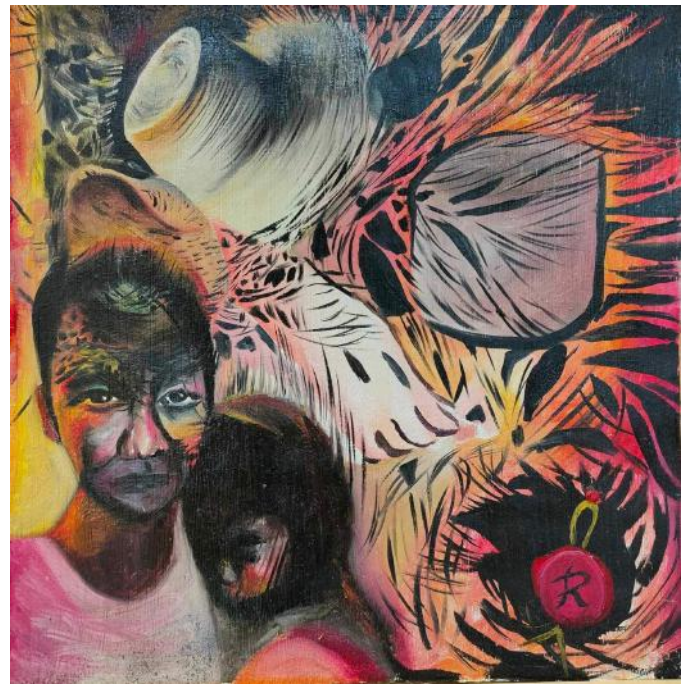
MARIA FATIMA BALUGAY SAAVEDRA
Baliwag, Bulacan

LANIE ROSE JOSON LUARTEZ
“Untitled”
Mixed Media on Canvas
20"x20"

RONWEL CRUZ
“Tahanan”
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

DAVE HARRIS T. TAGALAG
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

KURT DALE S.D. TRINIDAD
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"



RALZ JEROME D. TABERAO
“Untitled”
Oil on Canvas
20"x20"

VERONICA JANE ALBA REYES
“Untitled”
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

JOVIC D. CUDIA
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

MC CLEN AQUINO TALENTO
“Untitled”
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

NATHANIEL S. LOPEZ
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

HAROLD DC. ROBLES
“Pamanang Sumbrerong Buntal”
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

MARLON A. HATE
“Untitled”
Oil Pastel on Board
20"x20"

Members of the Panel of Judges

ON-THE-SPOT CATEGORY

†EDGAR TALUSAN FERNANDEZ

Visual Artist/ Former Member, NCCA National Committee on Visual Arts

Edgar Talusan Fernandez (b. 1955) majored in commercial art and interior design at the College of Fine Arts of the Philippine Women's University. Egai, to friends and the art community, is one of the founding members of the Concerned Artists of the Philippines and one of the leading advocates of socio-political art in the 70s. His artworks have been showcased in several solo and group exhibits here and abroad, particularly in Australia, China, France, Hong Kong, Iraq, and the USA. Some of his obras have graced greeting cards, book covers, and the pages of magazines, and have been printed on several Philippine stamps. His significant works may be found in the extensive collection of the National Museum of the Philippines, the growing modern and contemporary collections of the Bangko Central ng Pilipinas and the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, and the notable Southeast Asian contemporary collection of the Singapore Art Museum. A multi-awarded artist, Egai also extends technical assistance through mural workshops to various NGOs, exhibition production, and curatorial seminars to different universities and art organizations around the country. He was a member of the National Committee on Visual Arts of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts member. He died in 2024.

HON. JOSE NOEL PASCUAL

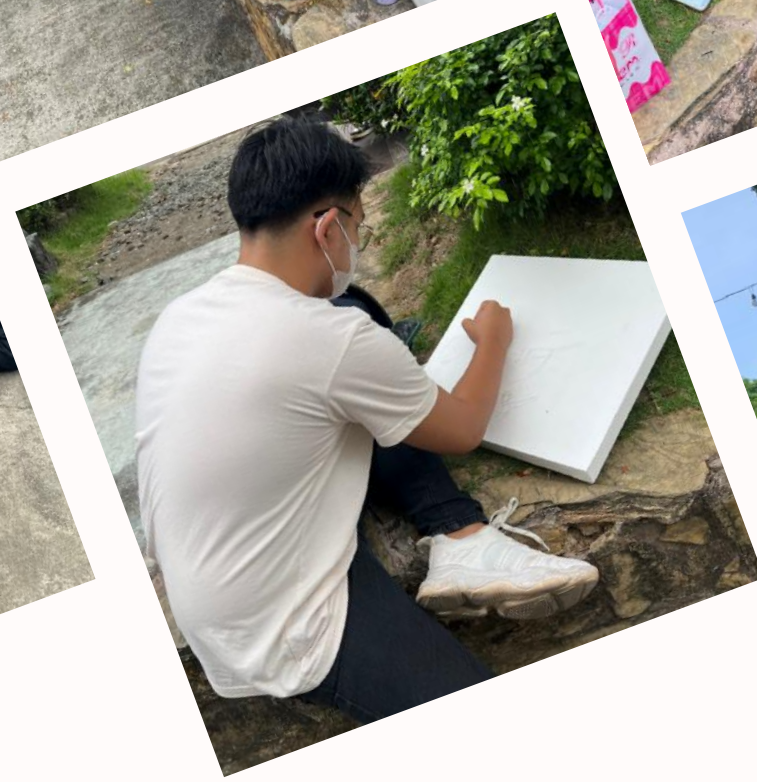
City Councilor, City Government of Baliwag

Pascual graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of the Philippines in Diliman. He was elected as one of the City Councilors of the Sangguniang Panglungsod ng Baliwag and a member of the Sangguniang Panglungsod Committee on Arts, Culture, and Tourism. He is also the Vice Chair of the Baliwag Arts and Culture Council.

DR. JOSE NICHOLAS CRUZ

Sponsor and Co-organizer, Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition

Dr. Nick Cruz was born and raised in Baliwag, Bulacan. He is an interventional cardiologist at St. Luke's Medical Center. He is one of the descendants of Mr. and Mrs. Renato and Leticia Cruz, after whom the competition is named. A visual arts enthusiast, he is one of the proponents of the Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition, as he wishes to support the artists of his hometown Baliwag and Bulacan as well.



ICO AND LETY CRUZ ART COMPETITION 2024

PAINTING

CATEGORY

Reflections on Bulacan's Artistry

Bulacan is home to many great artists of different generations, from pre-colonial traditional art to contemporary artistic expressions. The province boasts the greatest number of awarded National Artists of the Philippines for visual arts, music, cinema, dance, and literature next to Metro Manila. This year's Painting Category of the Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition invites Bulakenyo artists to reflect on the province's artistry. Perusing the works of the forty-seven artists who submitted their artworks, one can dissect three primary tropes — cultural heritage, the work of the hand, and the oeuvre itself.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Bulacan's artistic productions are deeply intertwined with its festivals, performing arts, and literary traditions, forming a vibrant cultural landscape. Many paintings reflect the province's iconic celebrations, such as the Kneeling Carabao Festival of Pulilan, where carabaos kneel as a gesture of homage to San Isidro Labrador, the patron saint of farmers. This festival highlights the province's agricultural roots and serves as a canvas for intricate re (presentations).

Bulacan's rich tradition in performing arts is another frequent inspiration. The province has long been a cradle of Filipino music, dance, and theater. Literature also plays a significant role in Bulacan's heritage. Poets like Francisco Baltazar, known as Balagtas, have left an indelible mark on Philippine literature with works like Florante at Laura. Artworks frequently depict Balagtas's literary genius, underscoring his influence on Filipino identity and national consciousness. Other stalwarts of music and literature are Levi Celerio, Antonino Buenaventura, and Jose Corazon de Jesus. Bulakenyo artists honor their artistry and assert their enduring relevance through these depictions.

THE WORK OF THE HAND

In many paintings, the emphasis shifts to the tactile and labor-intensive process of creating cultural treasures. The tradition of buntal hat weaving, for instance, is highlighted in intricate representations of the meticulous craftsmanship involved. These finely woven hats, crafted from buri palm fibers, are symbols of ingenuity and patience, often depicted in ways that celebrate the beauty of handmade artistry. *Singkaban*, the art of bamboo crafting, is another prominent subject. Artists explore the process of creating intricate bamboo arches that adorn festivals. These arches symbolize community spirit and creativity and are often portrayed as vibrant focal points in the paintings. The delicate art of creating *pabalat* or pastillas wrappers featuring elaborate cutwork designs is celebrated as a fusion of culinary and visual art. Artists capture the delicate interplay of hands, scissors, and paper, emphasizing the dedication and creativity behind each wrapper. Other depictions include *puni*, the art of weaving coconut leaves into decorative or functional forms. This traditional practice, often associated with rural life and festivities, is presented as a testament to resourcefulness and artistic expression. These and other cultural practices remind viewers of the province's deep respect for manual labor and the artistry inherent in everyday life.

THE OEUVRE ITSELF

Contemporary Bulacan artists skillfully blend cultural heritage, traditional craftsmanship, and modern creativity in their works, as seen in this year's Painting Category of the Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition. Many artworks reimagined festivals and intangible cultural heritage products. They combined vivid imagery to create meaningful compositions to bring these traditions into a modern context. Some pieces draw from artistic and historical themes and personalities, blending traditional symbols with contemporary elements to connect past and present. These are the oeuvre or masterpieces of the present times, celebrating the artist's creative vision. Bulakenyo artists honor their roots while offering fresh perspectives, ensuring Bulacan's cultural legacy remains relevant and inspiring for future generations. (JGV)

1ST PLACE

“A DAY IN A COTTON NEIGHBORHOOD”

2024
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

MARK CHRISTOPHER QUIZON
Baliwag, Bulacan

2ND PLACE

“UNVEILING THE COLOURS OF BULACAN ARTISTRY”

2024
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

RYAN FRANCISCO CASLIB
San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

3RD PLACE

“VISION”

2024
Oil on Canvas
24"x36"

ARGEE DACUYAN

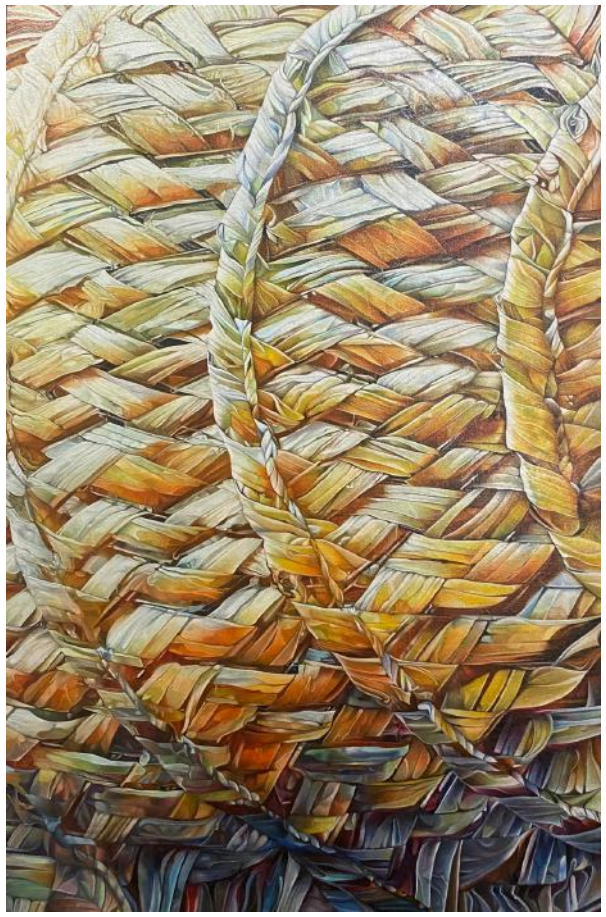
Calumpit, Bulacan

JCI LEEGENDARY AWARD

PAINTING CATEGORY

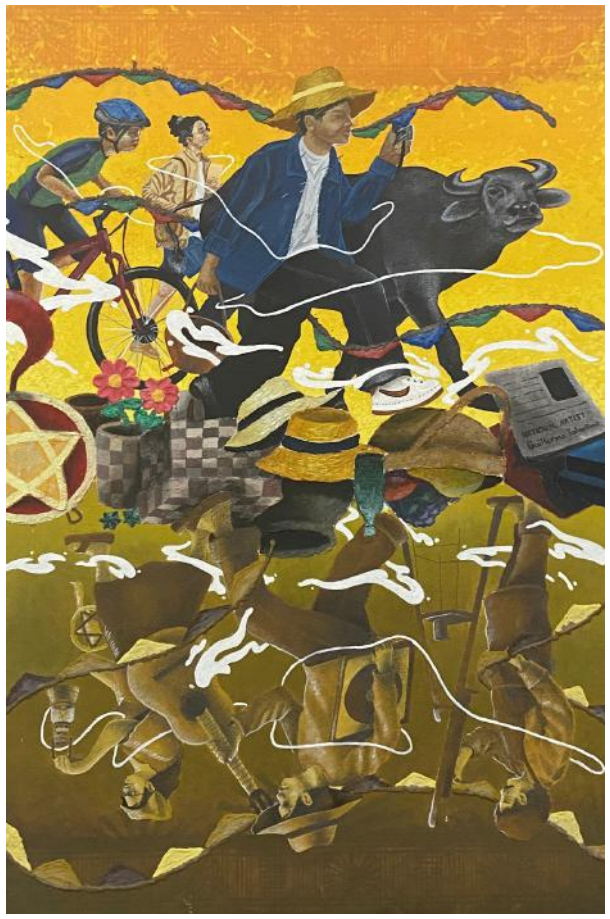
“NGITI SA SINING NG BULACAN”
2024
Oil on Canvas
24"x36"

EMIL JAY B. GUIANG
San Rafael, Bulacan



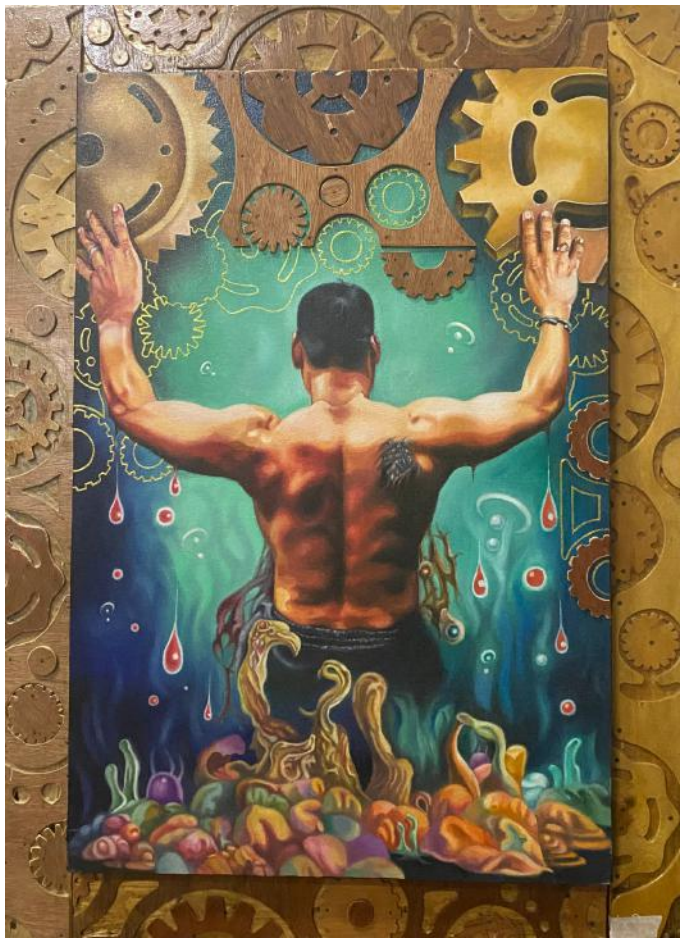
MANOLITO C. VINTA JR.
“Hinabi sa Dapit Hapon”
Oil on Canvas
24"x36"

RALZ JEROME D. TABERAO
“Munting Korona”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"



RONWEL CRUZ
“Sulong”
Mixed Media on Canvas
24"x36"

MARY GRACE SANTOS
“Salinlahi”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"



JAYSON MANALAC ROBLES
“Magical Illusions”
Mixed Media on Canvas
24"x36"

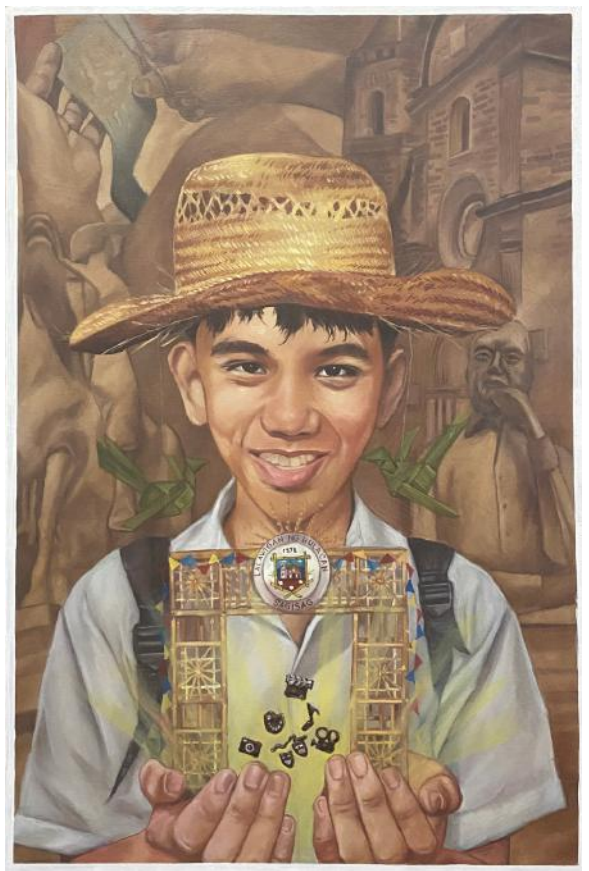
AERON JOSHUA M. DIZON
“Pagpatuloy at Paglago”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

MARK G. MIRABUENOS
"Imaheng Gunita"
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

WEBSTER MANALILI CORONEL
“Gintong Produkto ng Baliwag”
Acrylic on Canvas
36"x24"

JESSIE SAJOL
“Halina sa Bulacan”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

MARIA FATIMA BALUGAY SAAVEDRA
“Apoy”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"



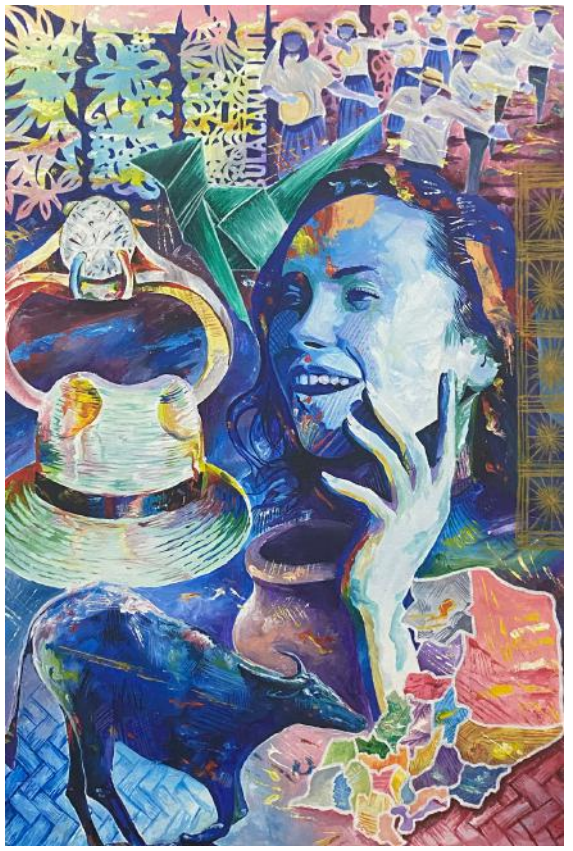
MARRIELLE CORTEZ
“Pagyakap sa Isang Pamana ng Sining at Kultura”
Oil on Canvas
24"x36"

JOHN PHILIP R. FABRO
“Alab ng Sining ng Bulacan”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

CARLO NOEL P. GARCIA
“Bulacan Art in 2024 - A Reflection”
Acrylic on Canvas
36"x24"

LANIE ROSE J. LUARTEZ
“Maselang Bahaghari”
Mixed Media on Canvas
36"x24"

DEONER G. CATAMORA
“Kambal”
Oil on Canvas
36"x24"



MARIO V. EMETERIO JR.
“Rekindling Artistry”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

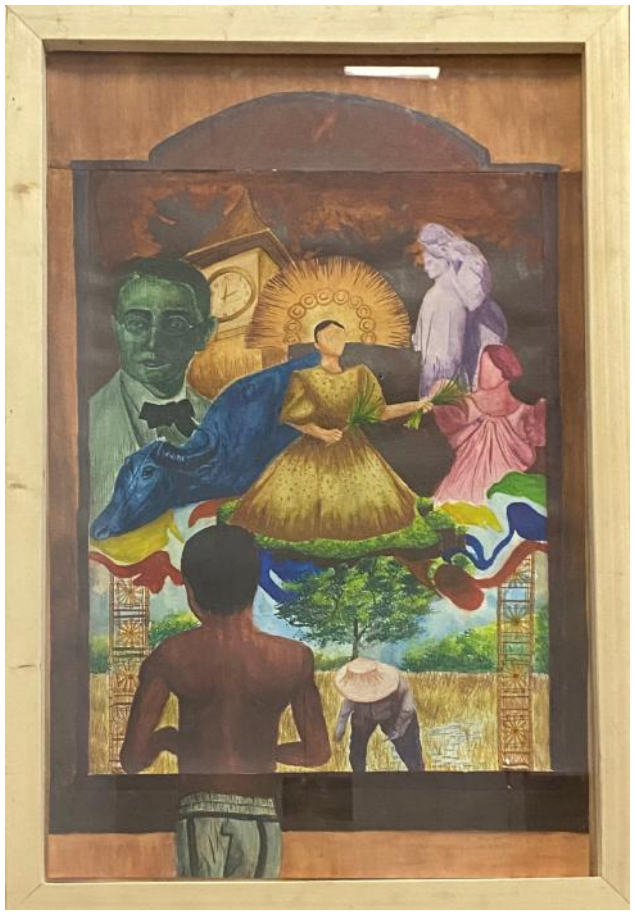
JEFF ANDREW C. ESTABILLO
“Pag-alala sa Nakaraan”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

DAN WILBERT DINOPOL
“Statwa-Sayaw-Sagana”
Acrylic on Canvas
36"x24"

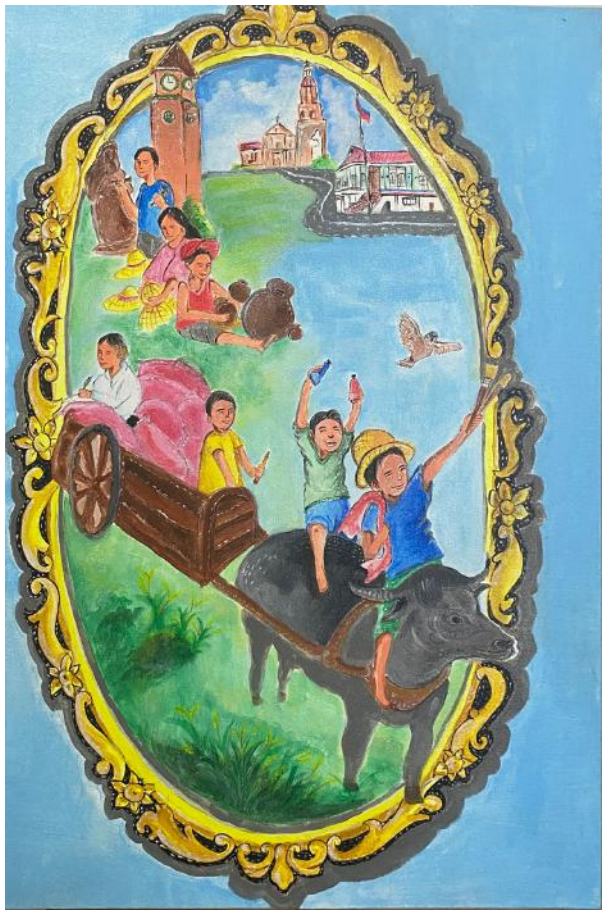
ANN LORRAINE MIRANDA
“Magtanim ay Di Biro”
Oil on Canvas
36"x24"

REYMART GUIDOTE HUNGAY
“Dapit Hapon”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

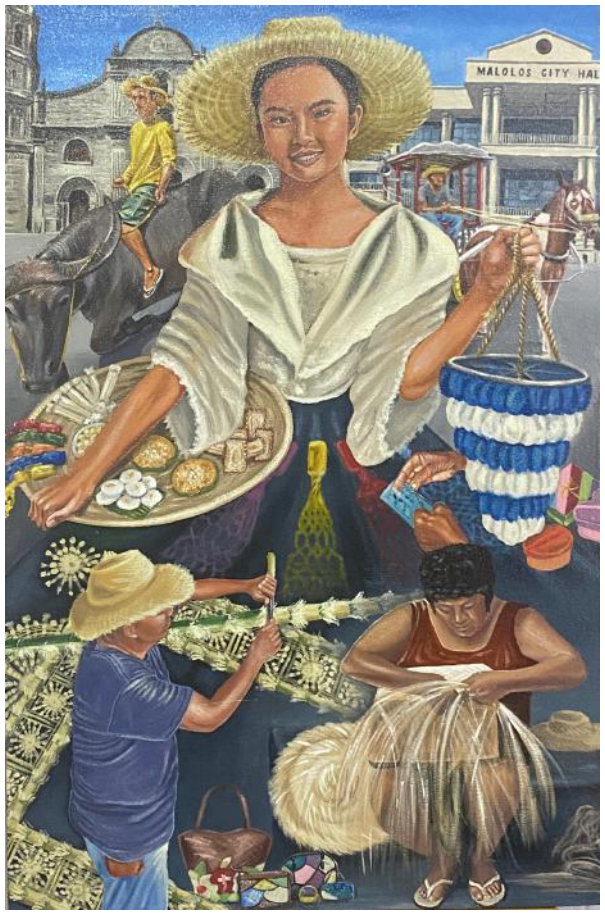
PETER BUENAVENTE
“Tatak Bulacan”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"



JOHN RENZ AGUSTIN
“Ang Lumang Durungawan”
Watercolor on Paper
24"x36"

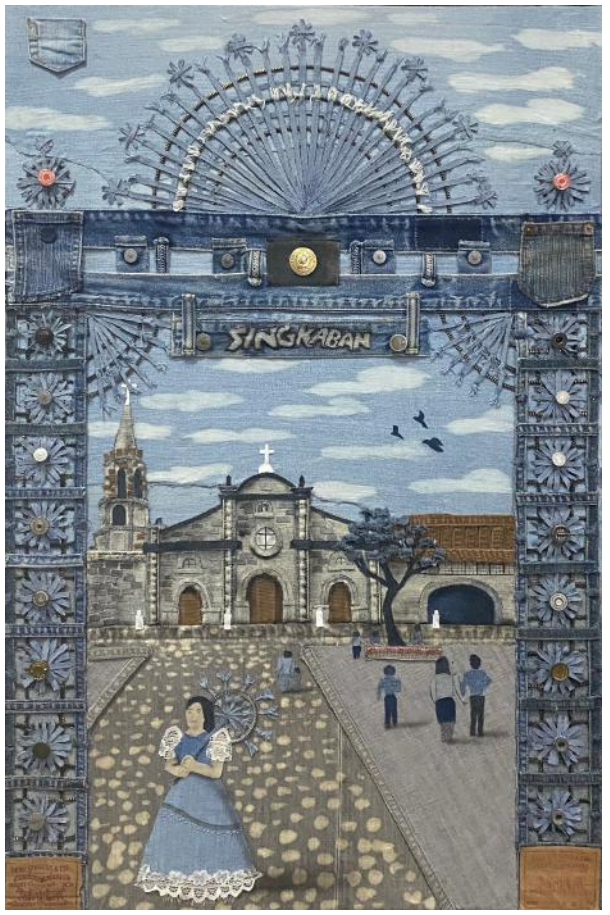


ARNEL SIMBULAN
“Salamin ng Sining”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"



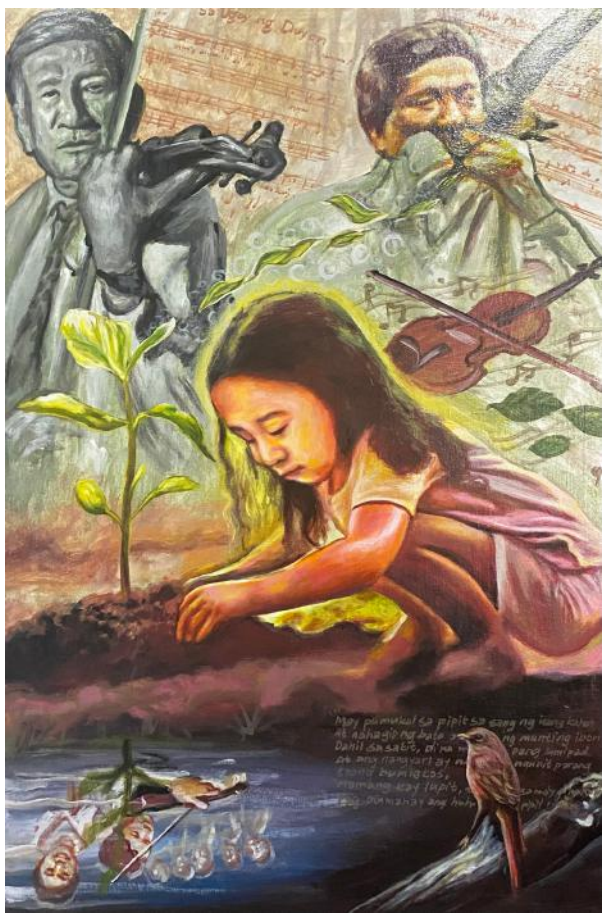
KYLE JERICHO BISCAYNO
“Marilag”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

EMMANUEL V. ROBLES
“Inukit ng Nakaraan, Pinayabong ng Pangarap”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"



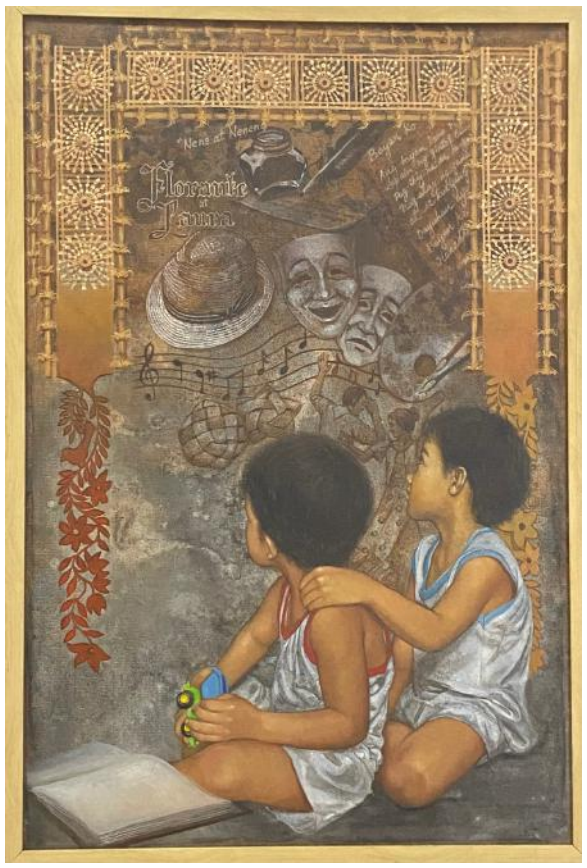
CHRISTOPHER A. SANTIAGO
“Singkaban”
Mixed Media on Canvas
24"x36"

ANGELO B. ALEJANDRO
“Bulacan, Bayang Malikhain”
Oil on Canvas
24"x36"

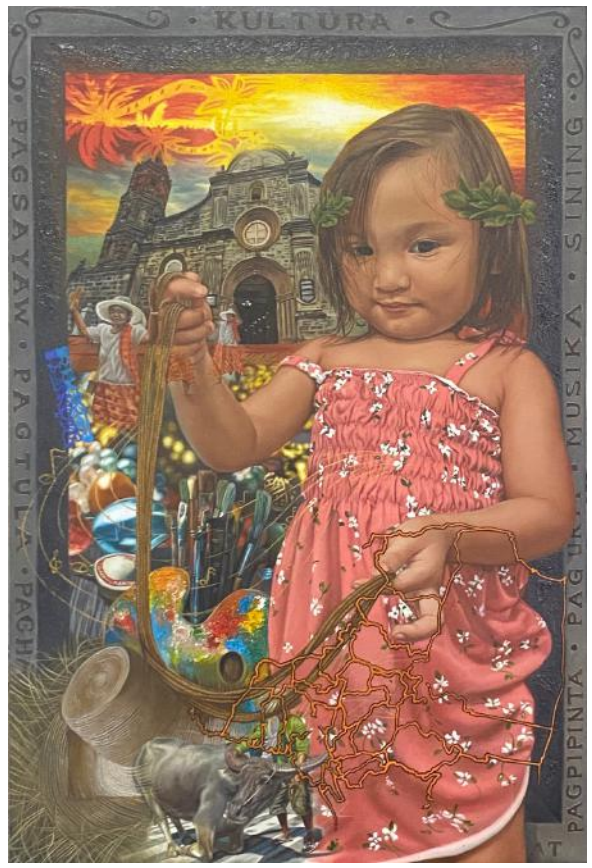


FROILAN SILVA
“Sibol ng Nakaraan”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

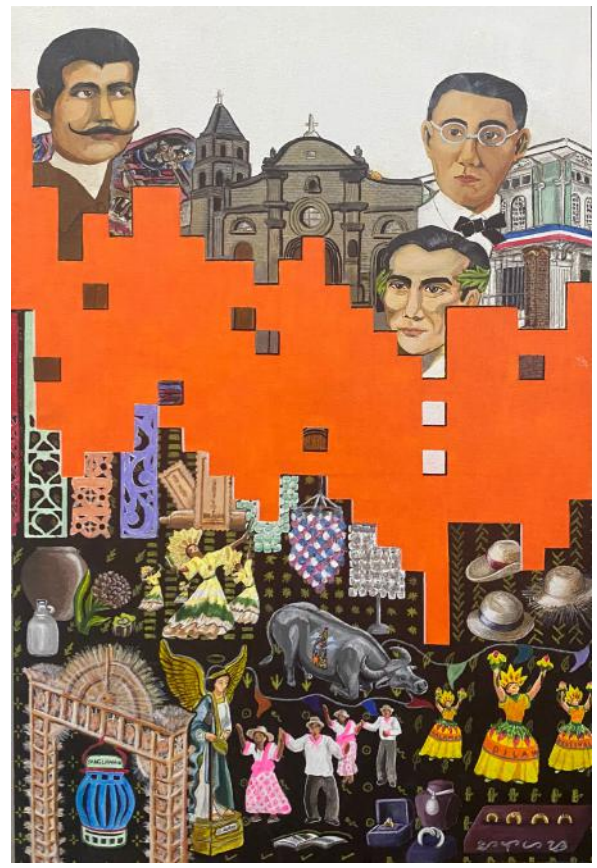
LEONARD FONTARON
“Malikhaing Baliwagenyo”
Acrylic on Canvas
36"x24"



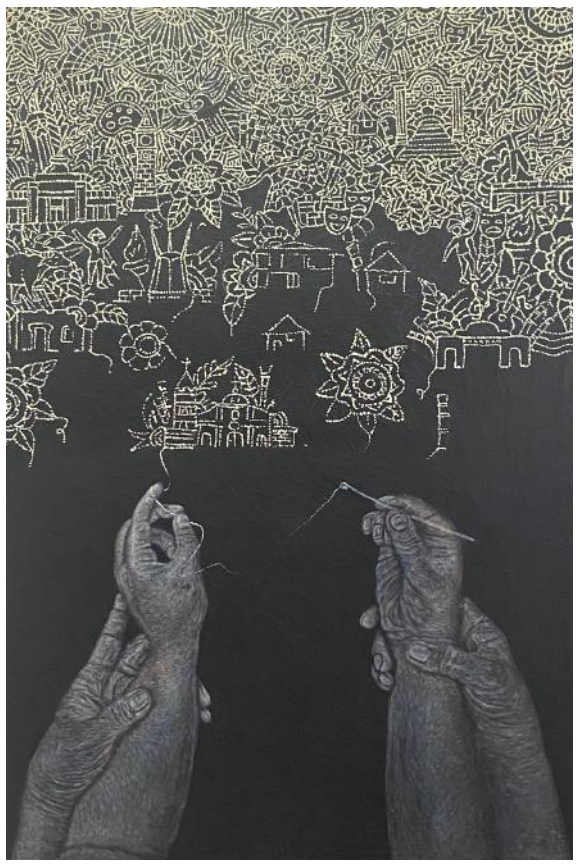
MARIA LOURDES INOSANTO
“Yaman ng Bulacan”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"



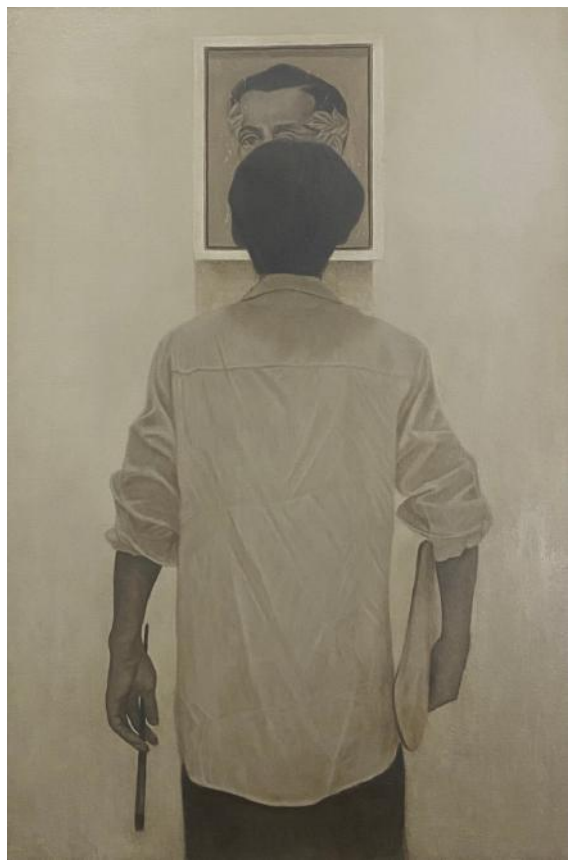
MARK JEFFERSON SARIO
“Minanang Kultura at Sining”
Mixed Media on Canvas
24"x36"



JONATHAN H. TORRES
“Square Inches of Love”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"



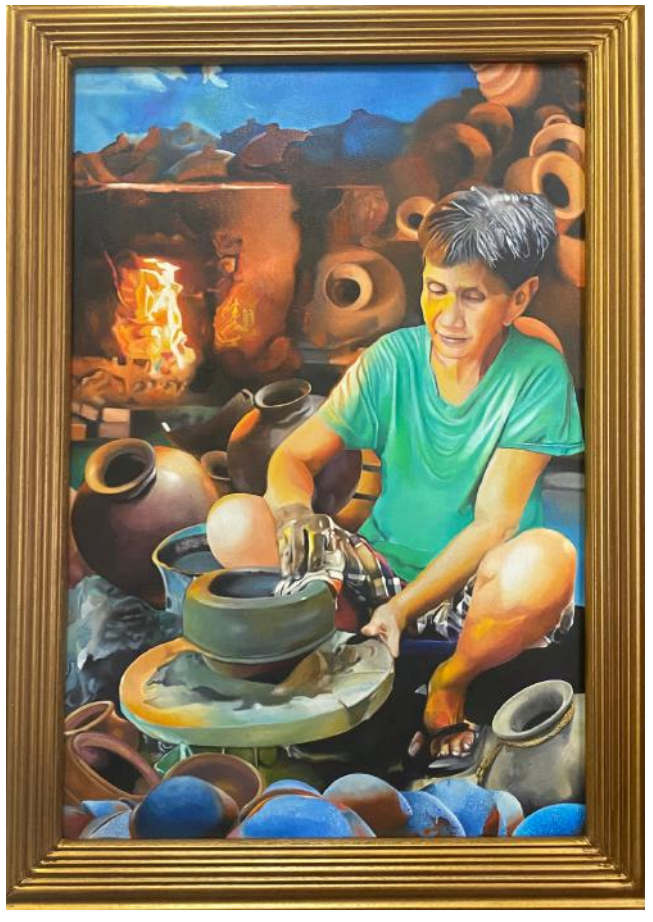
JOHN FRANCIS CABRERA
“Blueprint”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"



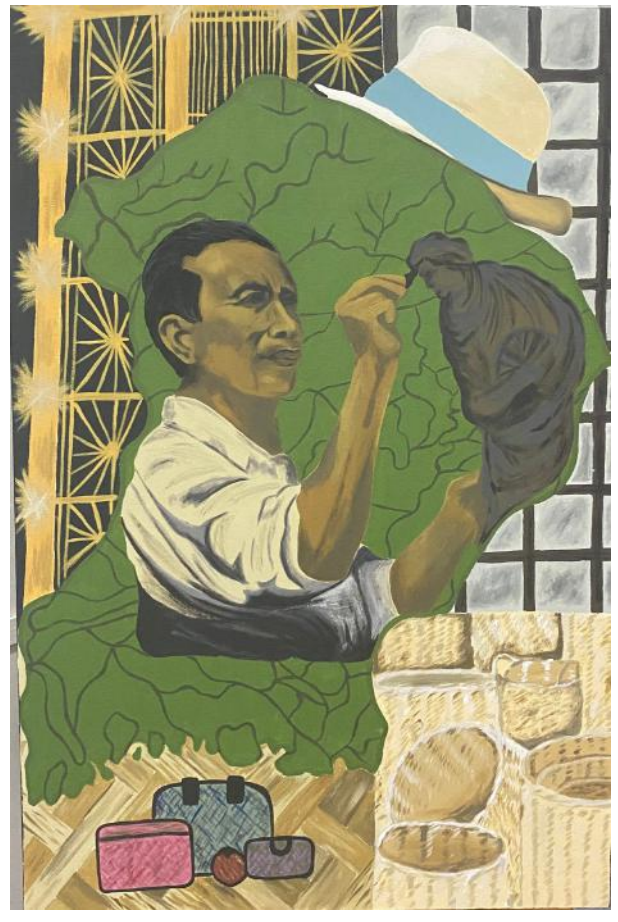
JACK E. DE CASTRO
“Balang Araw”
Oil on Canvas
24"x36"

MARK JEROME MARTINEZ
“Makabagong Pamana”
Oil on Canvas
24"x36"

ERWIN BASTON
"Dangal"
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"



JOVELL DE GUZMAN
"Calumpit Pottery"
Oil on Canvas
24"x36"

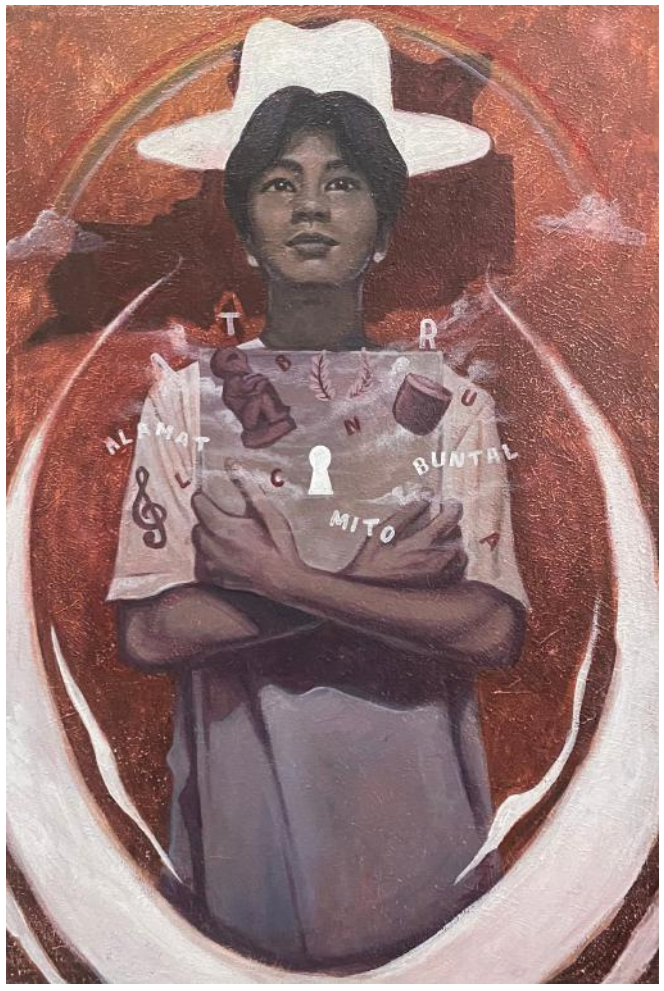


ARIEL V. MARBELLA
"Reflections on Bulacan Artistry"
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

ANNHELS CRUZ CUADERNO
"Pamana"
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

ALFREDO N. GARCIA III.
"Pagkakayas"
Oil Pastel
36"x24"

RICHARD VAL CANDELARIA
“Bulacan: A Kaleidoscope of Colors”
Acrylic on Watercolor Paper
24"x36"



LAWRENCE PEREZ
“Ang Ideya ng Sining”
Mixed Media on Canvas
24"x36"

MCCLEN A. TALENTO
“Paglipas, Pagsapit
Oil on Canvas
24"x36"

Members of the Panel of Judges

PAINTING CATEGORY

MARK SALVATUS

Visual Artist

Mark Salvatus is a contemporary artist living in Quezon City, Philippines. He studied Advertising at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, and has presented his works in different exhibitions and venues, including Vargas Museum and Filipiniana Research Center, Ateneo Art Gallery, CCP and MET Museum in Manila; Mori Art Museum, Tokyo; Kyoto Art Center; MMCA, Seoul; Asia Society and ISCP, New York. He has participated in several art festivals and biennales, including Asian Art Biennial, Taichung (2021); Lahore Biennale (2020); Sharjah Biennale (2019); PCAN Pavilion, Gwangju Biennale (2018); Thessaloniki Biennale (2017); Philippine Pavilion, Venice Architecture Biennale (2016); Singapore Biennale (2011), Guangzhou Triennale (2011), Jakarta Biennale (2011 & 2015) and Mark is also part of Notes for Tomorrow, a traveling exhibition from 2021-2025 organized by Independent Curators International. In 2012, he co-founded 98B COLLABoratory, a multi-disciplinary site for creative sharing, discussion, and collaboration. He also founded Load na Dito in 2016 with Mayumi Hirano, a curatorial and research project based in Manila. Mark is the official Philippine representative for the 60th Venice Art Biennale 2024.

FIL DELA CRUZ

Painter and Printmaker, Bahaysining

Fil Delacruz studied at the University of Santo Tomas, majoring in Advertising Arts. A consistent winner in national art competitions and a recipient of the Benavides Award for Outstanding Achievement, in 1973. He held his first solo show of mezzotint prints at the Hiraya Gallery in 1982. His art is rich in indigenous symbols and ethnic imagery. A consistent winner of the AAP Annual Art Competition. His work “Thanatopsis” won first prize at the Art Association of the Philippines Annual in 1981, and this was followed by his winning the grand prize for two consecutive years. “Transmogrification” in 1982 and “Goddess of the South” in 1983. For the past 50 years, Printmaker and Painter Fil Delacruz has made his mark in the Philippine art scene by morphing his muses into an ever-evolving entity showcasing a Filipina's beauty and mystery. He was the recipient of the Thirteen Artists Awardee of the Cultural Center of the Philippines in 1992, Outstanding Bulakenyo in the field of Art in 1982, Outstanding Citizen of Muntinlupa in the field of arts in 1999, and he was awarded the “Parangal Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan” from the City of Manila, in 2007. He has attended art workshops in Paris, France, and conducted a series of printmaking workshops throughout the Philippines. He has exhibited in various prominent cities. He has taught at the Philippine High School for the Arts in Los Baños, the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts, and the University of Santo Tomas College of Fine Arts and Design. He was the President of the Philippine Association of Printmakers, from 1990 to 2000. He was also the President of Lakansining ng Bulakan. The artist has held over 30 solo shows. He resides in his Art Studio/Gallery at Bahaysining, Muntinlupa City, Philippines.

Members of the Panel of Judges

PAINTING CATEGORY

RANDEL C. URBANO

Associate Director for Audience Development, Metropolitan Museum of Manila

Randel C. Urbano (b. 1983) is a museum and cultural relations professional based in Manila. For the past ten years, he had junior roles at several leading Philippine modern and contemporary art museums: Metropolitan Museum of Manila, the University of the Philippines Vargas Museum (Quezon City), and Fundacion Sansó (City of San Juan). He became the Arts Manager East Asia of the British Council and brought with him extensive experience in the cultural sector in the Philippines, South East Asia, and beyond, with a special focus on the museum and visual arts sectors. He worked in the local arts and culture scene as a project worker for exhibitions, print design, translation, and programming for various agencies such as the National Commission on Culture and the Arts Gallery, and the Cultural Center of the Philippines. In 2022, he returned to the Metropolitan Museum of Manila as Associate Director for Education and Public Programs and became the Associate Director for Audience Development the year after.

Randel participated in fellowships in curatorship and contemporary museum practices in Bangkok as resident artist in Henry and partner's Autopilot Project for the show 'The GreatArtist of Tomorrow Will Go Underground' — Marcel Duchamp at Bangkok Arts and Culture Centre, 2015; in Seoul as the MMCA International Research Fellow through the Cultural Partnership Initiative of the South Korean government, 2015; in St. Louis as the sole South East Asian multicultural delegate in the American Alliance of Museums-Getty Leadership and Career Management Program at the AAM Meeting and Museum Expo, 2017; and as travel grant recipient for the CIMAM Conferences held in Barcelona (through The Getty Foundation) in 2016 and in Buenos Aires (through Fernando Zobel de Ayala) in 2023.

MAY ARLENE DG. TORRES

OIC-Head, Provincial History, Arts, Culture, and Tourism Office

May Arlene DG. Torres graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts Major in History as cum laude from the University of the Philippines-Diliman in 2001. The Provincial Government of Bulacan granted her a scholarship for a short Project Planning, Development, and Management course at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) in 2005. She finished her Master's Degree in Management, majoring in Public Administration, at the Philippine Christian University in 2008 and is currently taking up her doctorate in Public Administration. Mrs. Torres facilitates leadership seminars, team building, assessment, and planning workshops. She is a member of Baliwag Arts and Culture Council, Vice President for Internal Affairs of Samahang Pangkasaysayan ng Bulacan (SAMPAKA), and an alumna of UP Lipunang Pangkasaysayan (UP LIKAS). She is a guest lecturer at Baliwag Polytechnic College and a Center for Bulacan Studies research fellow. She previously headed the History and Heritage Division of the Provincial History, Arts, Culture and Tourism Office (PHACTO) and is currently the Acting Head of PHACTO.

She was part of the book publications as writer of Isang Maikling Talambuhay ni Heneral Isidoro Torres (Commemorative Booklet, 2016), The Women of Malolos: Patriots and Feminists (2016), Mga Kuwento at Alaala ng First Quarter Storm (2018) and as assistant editor and production manager of Mariano Ponce Y Collantes: Dangal ng Lahing Pilipino (Commemorative Book, 2018), SINEliksik Bulacan Coffee Table Book Vol. I, II, & III (2018, 2019, 2021), Meycauayan: Pamana at Dangal "May Kawayan" (2021), SINEliksik Bulacan Modules: "Bayani ng Kanyang Panahon, Inspirasyon Natin Ngayon!" (2022)

Members of the Panel of Judges

PAINTING CATEGORY

SANTIAGO CRUZ

Cultural Heritage Advocate
Grandson of Ico and Lety Cruz

Santiago C. Cruz is the grandson of Renato "Ico" and Leticia "Lety" Cruz and the son of Dr. Nick and Lisa Cruz. He graduated from Ateneo de Manila University with a degree in Management. He is pursuing a second degree and minor in Art Management and cultural heritage at the same institution. He has a special passion for heritage structures and cultural preservation, and his other interests include visual arts, design, and architecture.

ON-THE-SPOT

CATEGORY

Tracing and Tasting Baliwag's Culinary Heritage

They say that “every place has a story to tell.” But more than the stories, every place has food to offer as well. One of humankind's survival necessities is nourishing the body through eating. Critical changes paved the way for civilization as people learned to prepare and cook the food that they ate. Baliwag’s cuisine traces its roots to agriculture in pre-colonial times, when Baliwag was blessed with vast plains and surrounded by rivers and streams. The fertile land became the source of food and livelihood. A few recipes were created out of these farm produce. Through the years, cooking in Baliwagenyo homes has intertwined with their daily lives, traditions, and culture. These culinary heritages have been passed down through generations and are still being cooked and served today. Some of the heritage food of Baliwag derived from agricultural resources are serkele, menudong bukid, tinumis, pakam, okoy, lagat na hito, tiim, postreng alimango, and Baliwag longanisa. There are foods that have become synonymous with decade-old establishments that make them, such as pastillas made from carabao’s milk, cornick, Baliwag pandesal, and Baliwag Lechon Manok. Over time, these culinary heritages may change, but the culture and traditions associated with them will remain.

This year’s theme for the on-the-spot painting of the art competition delves into Baliwag’s rich culinary heritage. Baliwagenyo artists portrayed the history of food, the process of preparing and cooking, its significance and impact, and its appeal to the present-day generation in their artworks. It was an exploration. In the end, they discovered a fragment of their Baliwagenyo identity. (JGV)

1ST PLACE

“IPAGLULUTO KITA NG PABORITO MO”

2024
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

NATHANIEL LOPEZ
Baliwag, Bulacan

2ND PLACE

“FLAVORS OF TIME”

2024
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

MARK CHRISTOPHER QUIZON
Baliwag, Bulacan

3RD PLACE

“BIBINGKAHAN SA BAYAN”

2024
Oil on Canvas
20"x20"

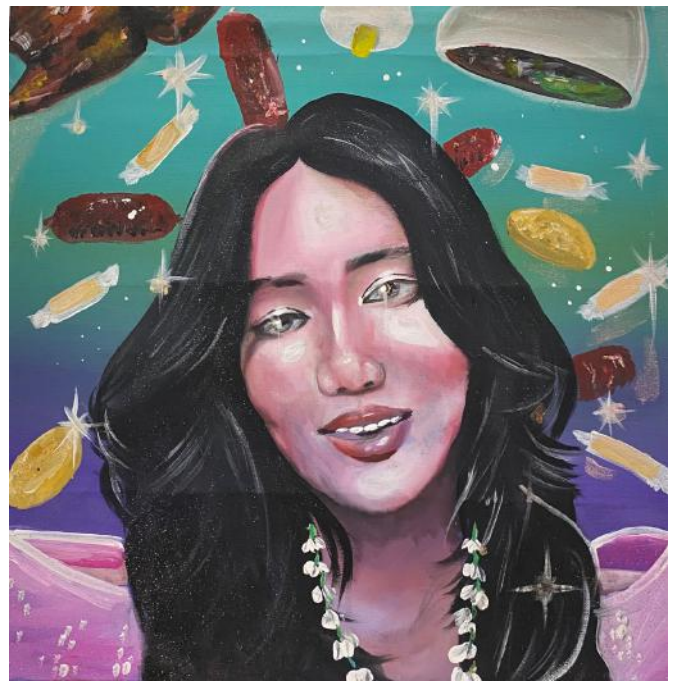
ANN LORRAINE MIRANDA
Baliwag, Bulacan

JCI LEEGENDARY AWARDS

ON-THE-SPOT CATEGORY

“FLAVORS OF TIME”
2024
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

MARK CHRISTOPHER QUIZON
Baliwag, Bulacan



RALZ JEROME D. TABERAO
“Angkin Produkto Baliwagenya”
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

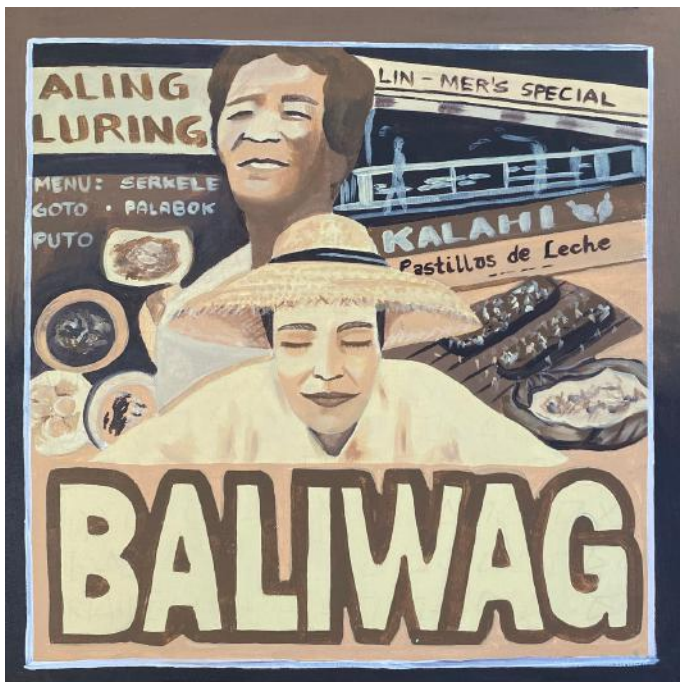
RONWEL CRUZ
“Minana”
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

WEBSTER MANALILI CORONEL
“Time to Eat at Baliwag”
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

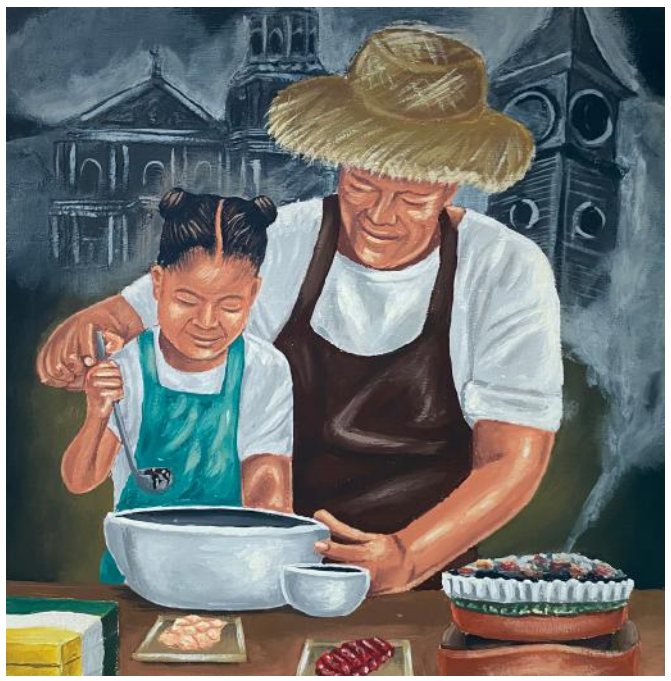
HAROLD DELA CRUZ ROBLES
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

JEFF ANDREW C. ESTABILLO
“Hapag”
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

JOVIC DIEGO CUDIA
“Invitation of Every Generation”
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

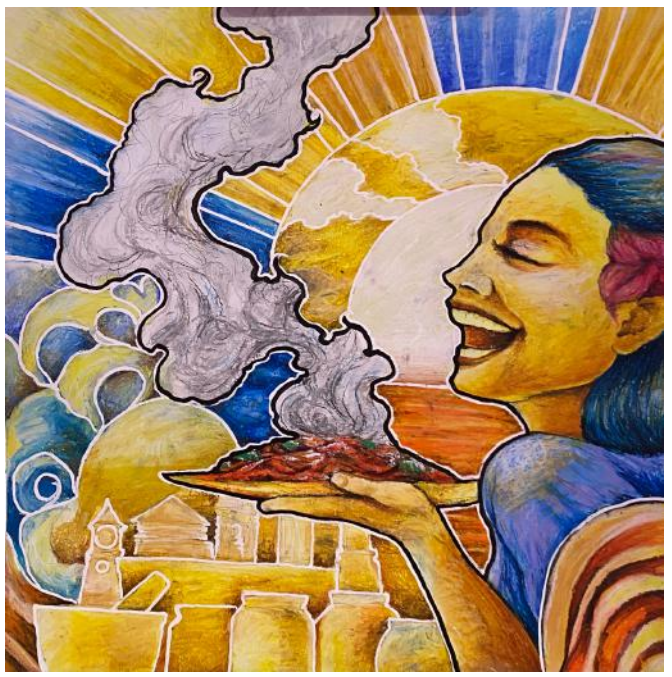


REYMART GUIDOTE HUNGAY
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"



KYLE JERICHO BISCAYNO
“Sikretong Sangkap ni Apo”
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

JEZRAEL ALBERT NOA A. TRINIDAD
“A Harvest of Culture on Your Plate
Mixed Media on Canvas
20"x20"



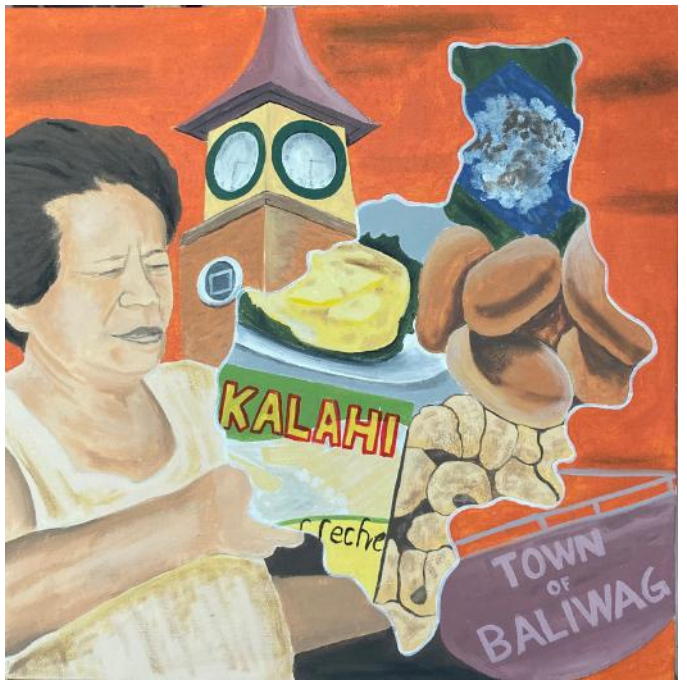
JAYSON P. MONTEMAYOR
“Untitled”
Mixed Media on Canvas
20"x20"

FROILAN SILVA
“Only in Baliwag”
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

MARINELLE MONTEMAYOR
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

JACK E. DE CASTRO
“B”
Oil on Canvas
20"x20"

MARIA FATIMA SAAVEDRA
“Christmas Bonding”
Mixed Media on Canvas
20"x20"



ARIEL V. MARBELLA
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

CHRISTIANA THERESE MIRANDA
“A Buntal Splash”
Mixed Media on Canvas
20"x20"

LANIE ROSE J. LUARTEZ
“Kalutong Pamana”
Mixed Media on Canvas
20"x20"

JOHN PHILIP R. FABRO
“Ang Alamat ng Kaldero Pamana ng Baliwag”
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

JAKE GIAN S. AQUINO
“Pamana ng Ina”
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

Members of the Panel of Judges

ON-THE-SPOT CATEGORY

DINDO LLANA

Artist

Dino Llana studied at the Philippine High School for the Arts in Mount Makiling and took up Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines, Diliman. His artworks often portray sociopolitical satire that blends local food and culinary heritage, political figures, and Filipino folklore to offer sharp commentary on societal issues. He worked for a multi-national company and a local company in the advertising industry for over a decade as an art director and had a share of advertising awards. He was a Finalist for Best Children's Book in 1996 for "Anna Learns to Swim" and Book Designer of the Year in 1998 for the "Secret Is in The Sauce" at the National Book Awards. "Anna Learns to Swim" was also Listed for Outstanding Picture Book at the White Ravens in Germany in 1996. He was a bronze medal awardee in the Art Association of the Philippine Painting Competition in 1995. He was also included in the group show "Ang De Latang Pinoy" of Hiraya Gallery in 1996 and had his first solo exhibit, "Impatso," in the same year. He was invited to international exhibitions, notably the At Home & Abroad: 20 Contemporary Filipino Artists at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, USA, in 1998 and Filipiniana at the Conde Duque Museum in Madrid, Spain, in 2006. He was awarded as an art grant to America from the Asian Cultural Council in 2009. Since 2016, he become an art consultant.

ALAIN ZEDRICK CAMILING

Chairperson – BA Creative Industries Management

Allan Zedrick Camiling is a curator, writer, and educator. He is currently Chair of the BA Creative Industries Management Program (formerly Arts Management) at De La Salle- College of Saint Benilde and Consultant-Curator at Museo Pambata. In 2018, he pioneered Bank of the Philippine Islands' arts education program, managing its collections and museums. He was curator for the Philippine Embassy's exhibition in Rabat, Morocco (2022), and co-curator of the Philippine entry for the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Space and Design in the Czech Republic (2023), among others. He is currently affiliated with the International Committee for Museums and Collections of Modern Art (CIMAM) and the Association of Arts Administration Educators (AAAE).

SANTIAGO CRUZ

Cultural Heritage Advocate
Grandson of Ico and Lety Cruz

Santiago C. Cruz is the grandson of Renato "Ico" and Leticia "Lety" Cruz and the son of Dr. Nick and Lisa Cruz. He graduated from Ateneo de Manila University with a degree in Management. He is pursuing a second degree and minor in Art Management and cultural heritage at the same institution. He has a special passion for heritage structures and cultural preservation, and his other interests include visual arts, design, and architecture.

ON-THE-SPOT

SPECIAL EDITION

Art and Faith

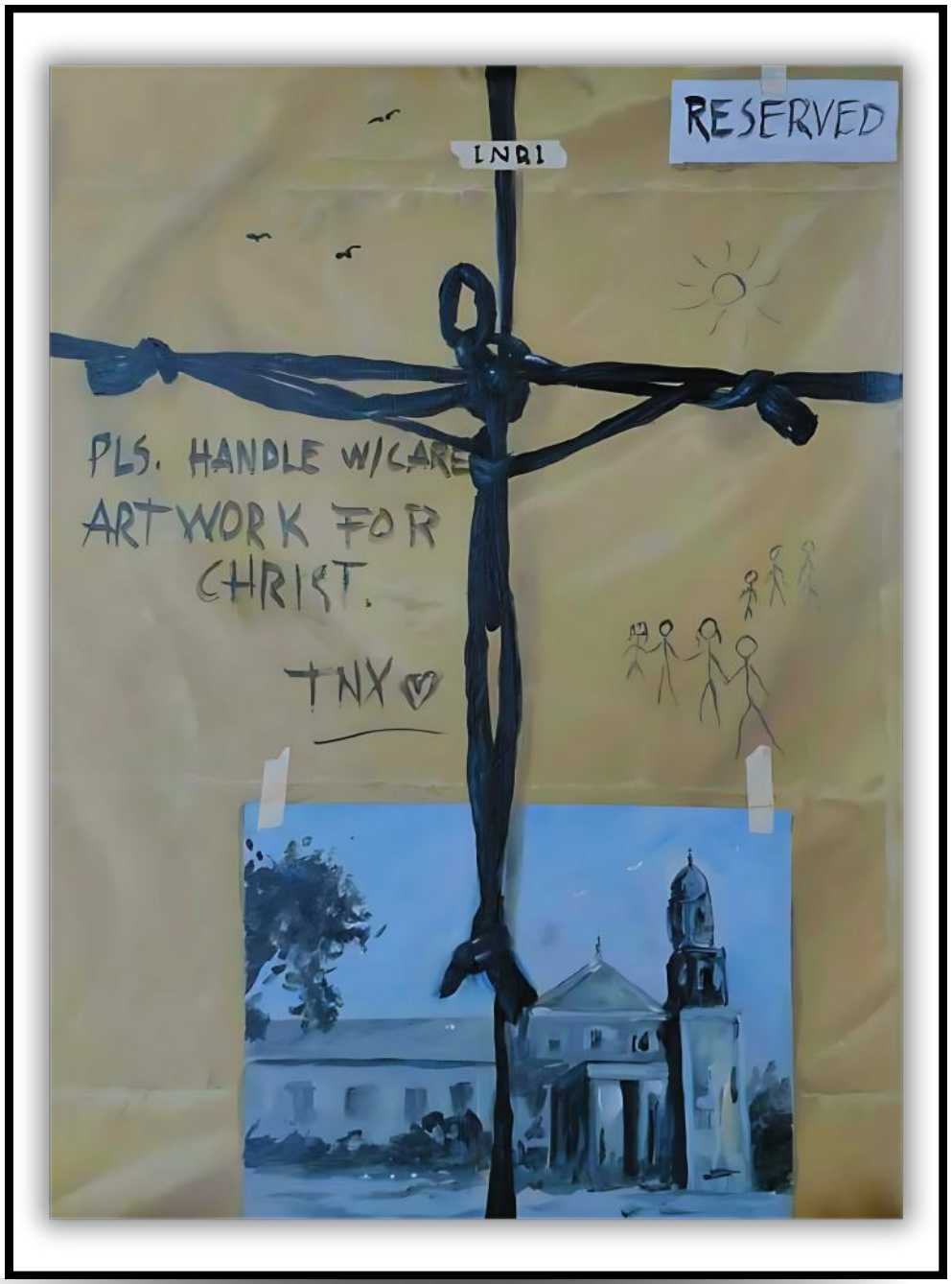
Art and faith have always shared a profound connection, intertwining to express devotion, culture, and identity. In Baliwag, this connection is evident in its rich traditions and religious artistry.

Baliwag's ties to faith may have begun during the Spanish colonial period with the establishment of the town by Augustinian priests. At its heart stands the St. Augustine Parish Church, one of the oldest in the Philippines. Built between 1769 and 1774 under Father Gregorio Giner, the Baroque-style church is a historical and cultural landmark. Despite renovations altering some original elements, it remains a symbol of Baliwag's foundation and a focal point for its faith and heritage.

The church has greatly influenced Baliwag's religious traditions; the most well-known is the Lenten Procession. The annual Holy Week processions, held on Holy Wednesday and Good Friday, feature over 100 carrozas with rebultos depicting the Passion of Christ and significant saints. This longest Lenten procession in the country showcases the craftsmanship of local artisans who create santos and intricately decorated carrozas. The devotion of the community, whether expressed individually or through various religious organizations, is evident in their active participation and dedication to preserving these traditions.

In Baliwag, artistry and spirituality are deeply interconnected. Visual artists expresses their unique interpretations of faith through their works. Their paintings capture the depth of religious experiences, portraying scenes from religious traditions, the lives of saints, and personal reflections on spirituality. These artistic creations celebrate devotion and serve as a testament to the enduring relationship between art and faith. (JGV)

1ST PLACE

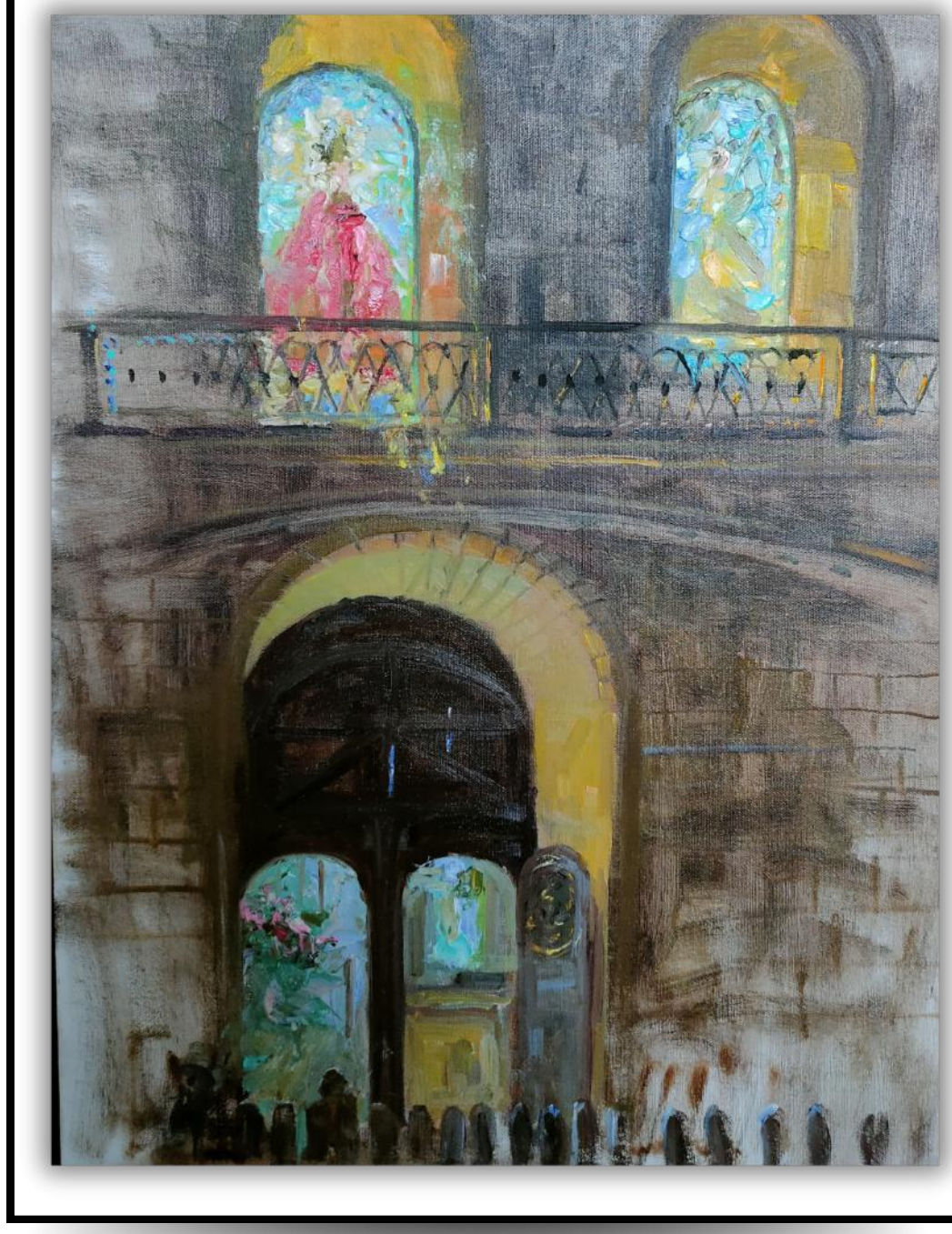


"ART FOR CHRIST”

2024
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

MELCHOR BERNALDO
SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, BULACAN

2ND PLACE



"LIWANAG NG KALOOBAN”

2024
Oil on Canvas
18"x24"

NILO BADAJOS
PLARIDEL, BULACAN

3RD PLACE

"AMEN”

2024
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

MARIA LOURDES P. INOSANTO

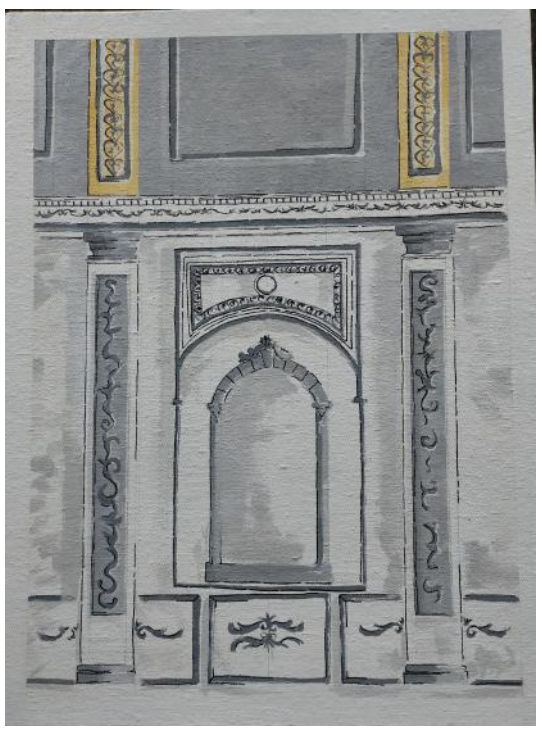
SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, BULACAN

HONORABLE MENTIONS

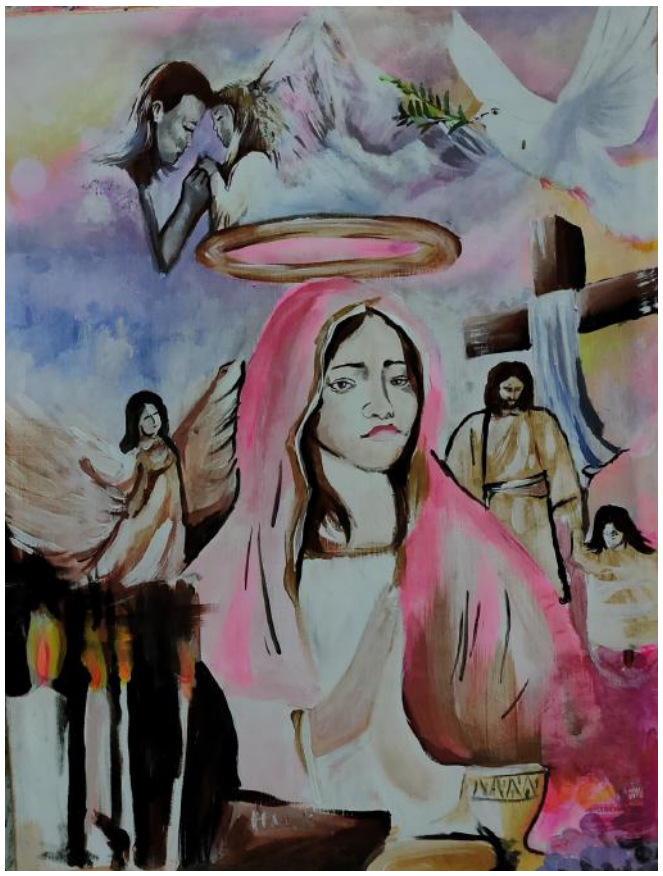
HENRY HAO ORDOÑA
“God is My Provider”
Oil on Canvas
18"x24"

EDEL SANTIAGO
“Eli, Eli Lama Sabachthani”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

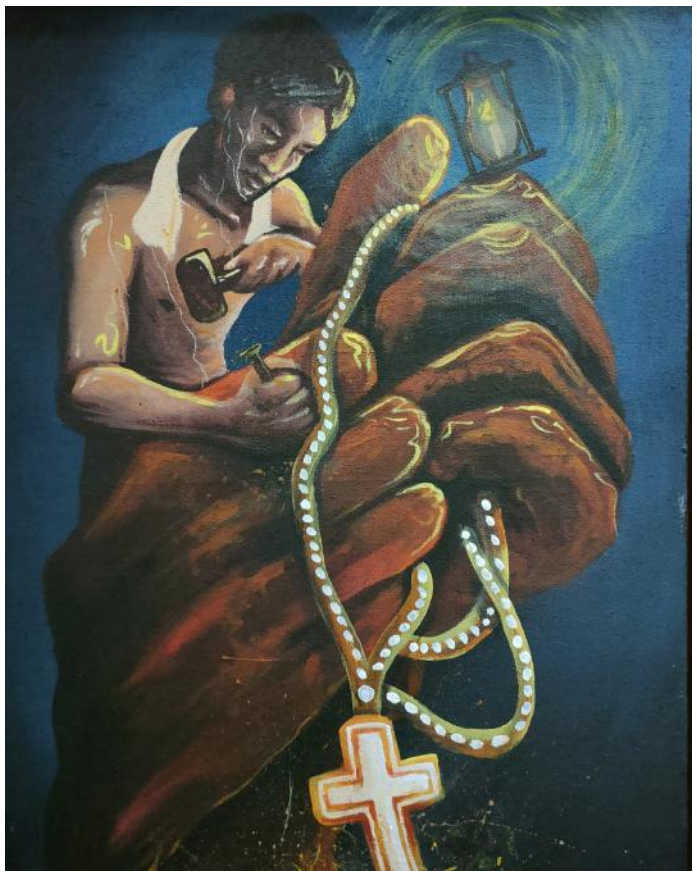
JAKE GIAN S. AQUINO
“Untitled"
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x18"



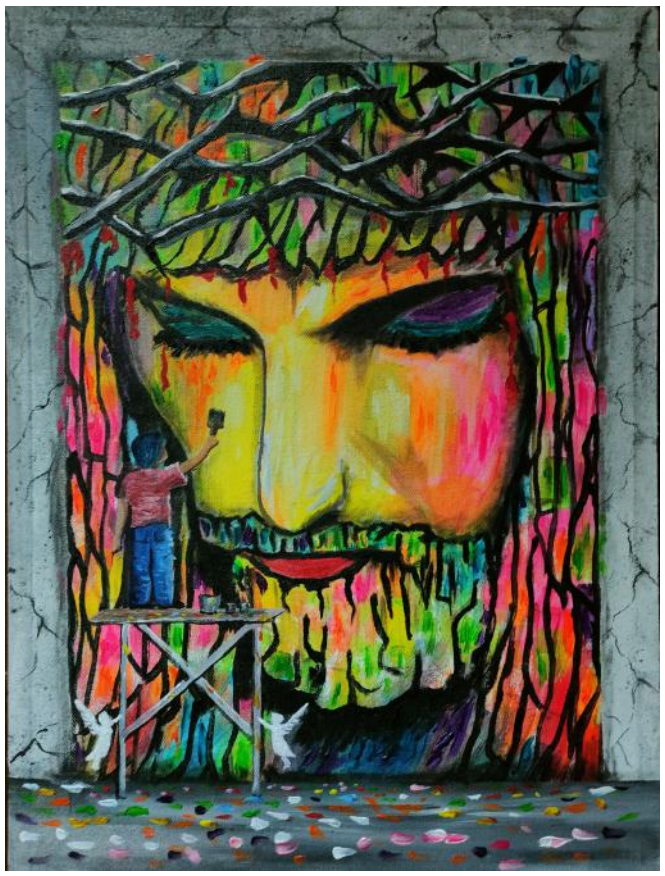
MARK BRYAN J. HIPOLITO
“Pinta ng Kahapon”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"



RAJ JEROME D. TABERAO
“Untitled”
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"



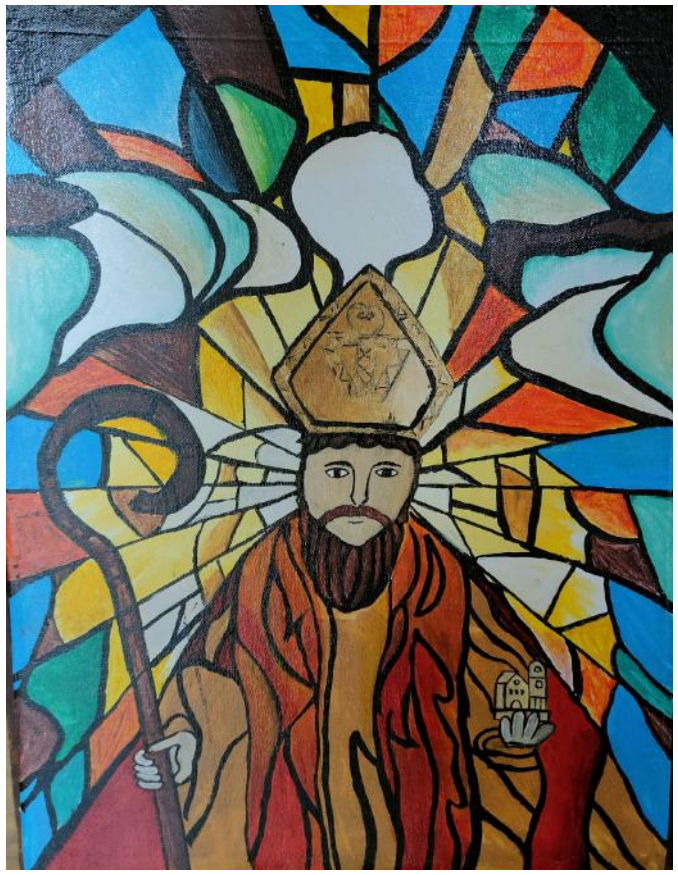
JEFF ANDREW C. ESTABILLO
“Lilok”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"



CHRISTOPHER ADRIANO SANTIAGO
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

CHARMAINE GACULA
“Beyond the Waves”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x18"

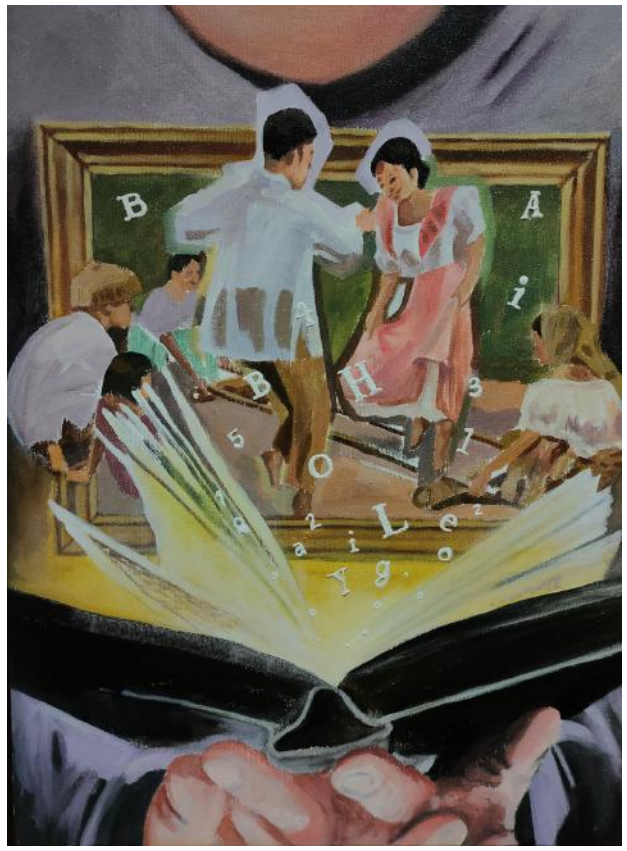
SHERWIN GACULA
“Gusto ko Magdrawing ng Jesus”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"



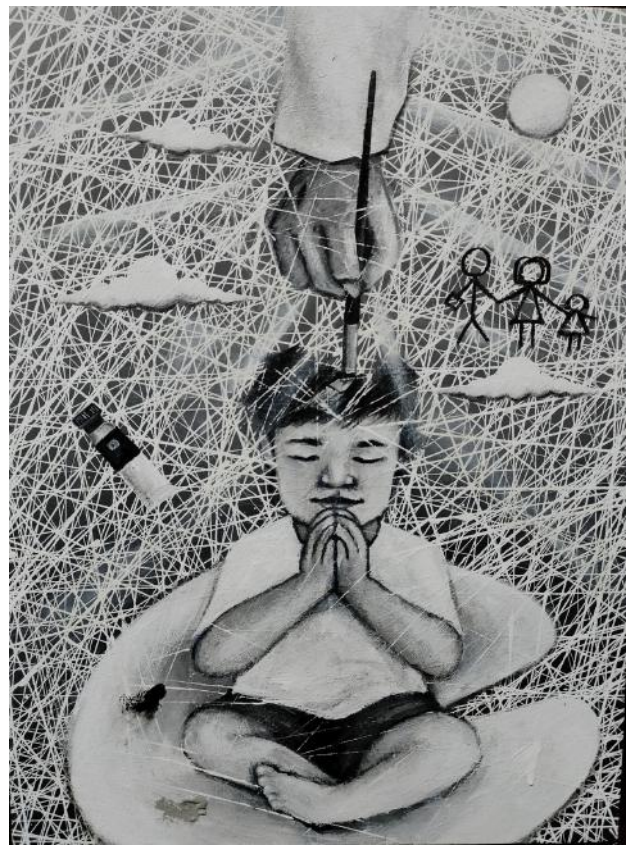
JAYDEE MARCELO CO
“Art of Stained Glass”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

RAIN JHARED MARBELLA GROSPE
“The First Paddle of Faith: Navigating the Waters of Adulthood”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x18"

FREDERICO M. PALINES
“Kapit Lang”
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

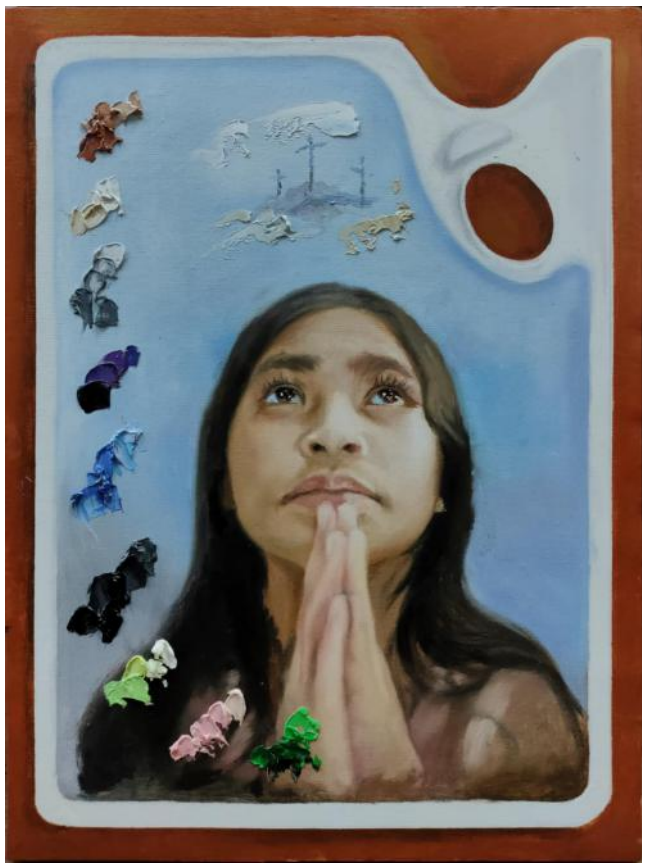


RYAN FRANCISCO CASLIB
“Untitled”
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

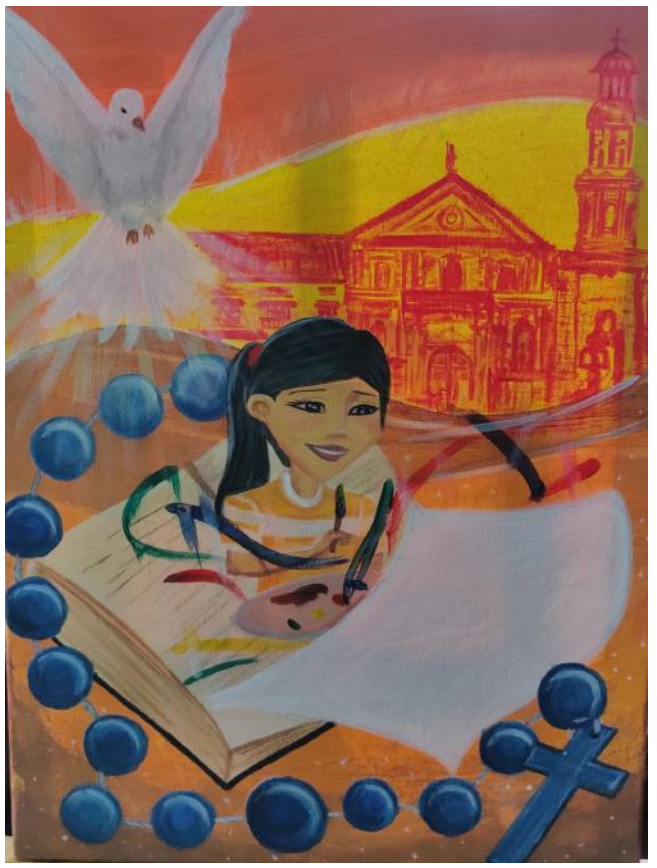


MARY GRACE A. SANTOS
“God's Masterpiece”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

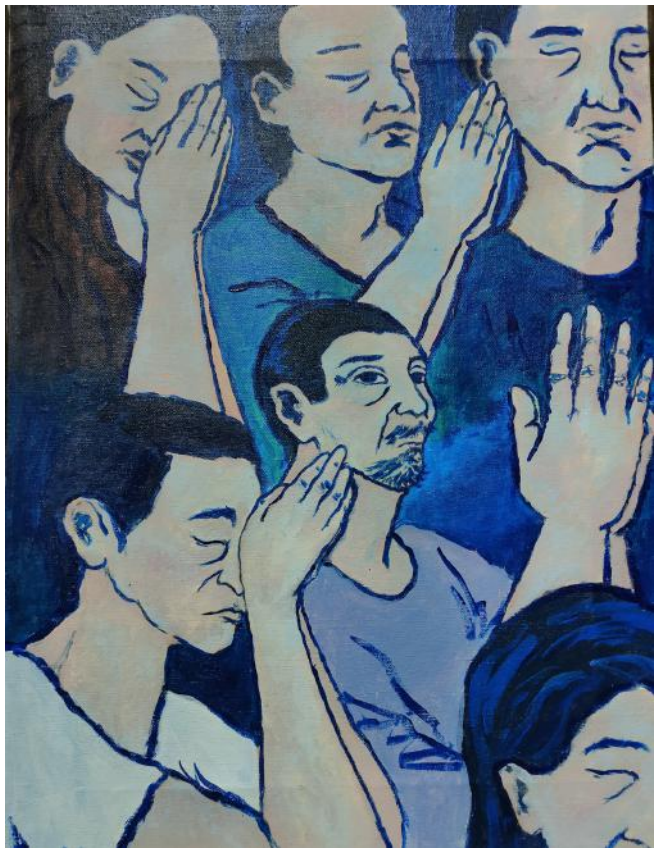
JUNBERT C. LLANETA
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"



EMMANUEL ROBLES
“Untitled”
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"



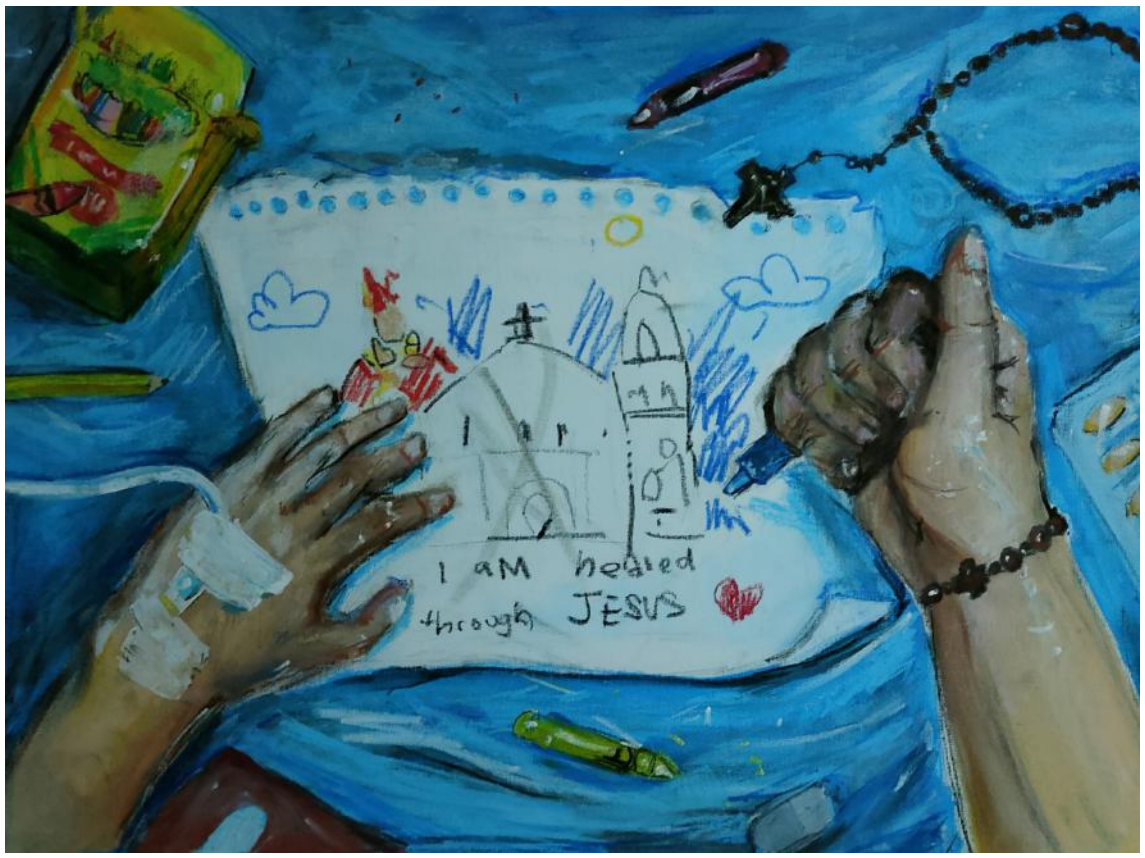
JANE CLARISE ESTOESTA FERNANDEZ
“Ginabayang Likha”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"



ANN LORRAINE MIRANDA
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

ANGELINA JANET BAISA SIMEON
“Faith and Passion”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

MAR PEREZ
“Untitled”
Oil on Canvas
18"x24"

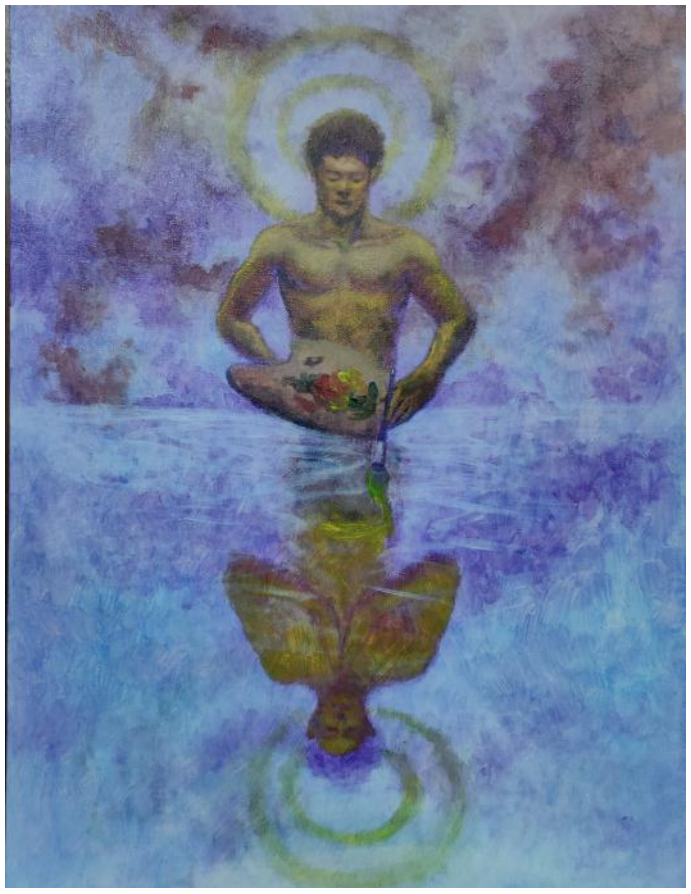


MIKAH ALESSANDREI M. RIVERA
“Untitled”
Mixed Media on Watercolor Paper
24"x18"

MANUEL GOMEZ
“Untitled”
Oil on Canvas
18"x24"

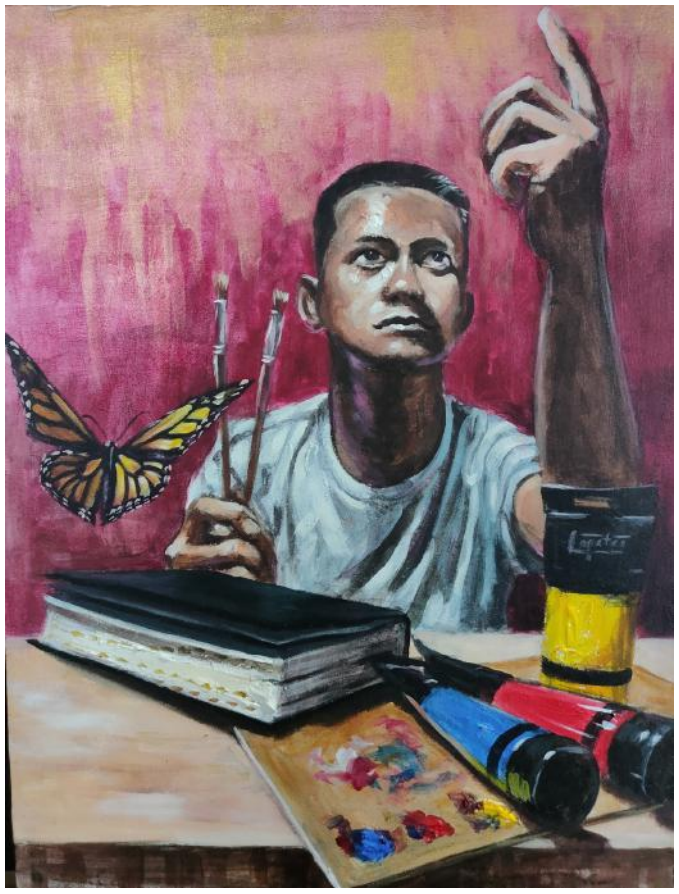
ANGELA MAE V. MATA
“Lilim”
Mixed Media on Watercolor Paper
24"x18"

ROI ESTEBAN BAUTISTA
“Untitled”
Oil on Canvas
18"x24"



LAWRENCE JAY D. CERVANTES
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

ANTONETTE C. DELOS SANTOS
“Untitled”
Mixed Media on Canvas
18"x24"

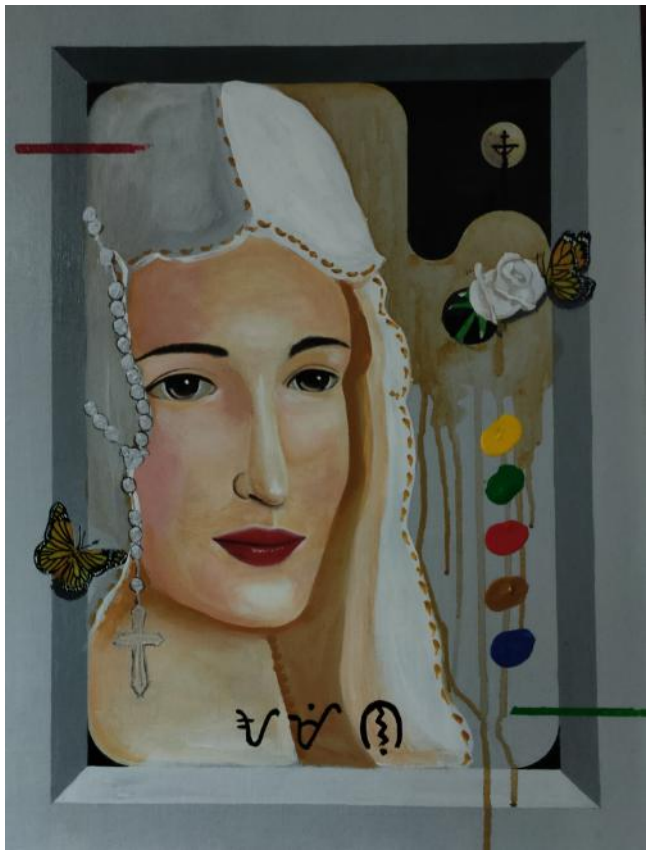


CARL JUSTINE LEGASPI
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Plywood
18"x24"

SAMUEL P. SANTIAGO
“Untitled”
Oil Pastel on Illustration Board
24"x18"

DENNIS NICOLAS GARCIA
“Untitled”
Mixed Media on Canvas
18"x24"

ABRAHAM RODRIGUEZ
“Untitled”
Mixed Media on Canvas
18"x24"

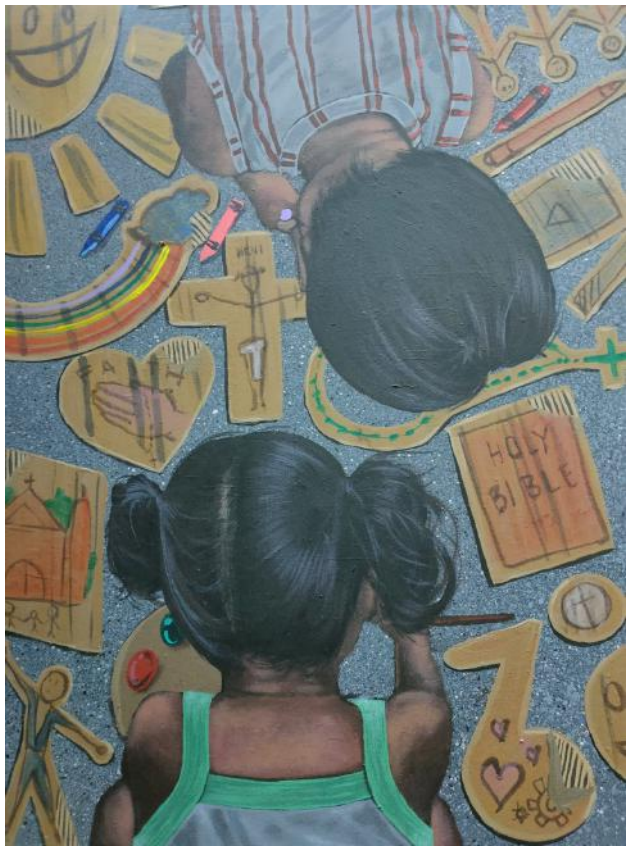


RENANTE S. ALEJO
“Ora Pro Nobis”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

MARIA FATIMA SAAVEDRA
“Mathew 14:24-27”
Mixed Media on Board
18"x24"

JAYSON M. ROBLES
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

JOHN ALBERT HIBAY ALBA
“Untitled”
Oil on Canvas
18"x24"



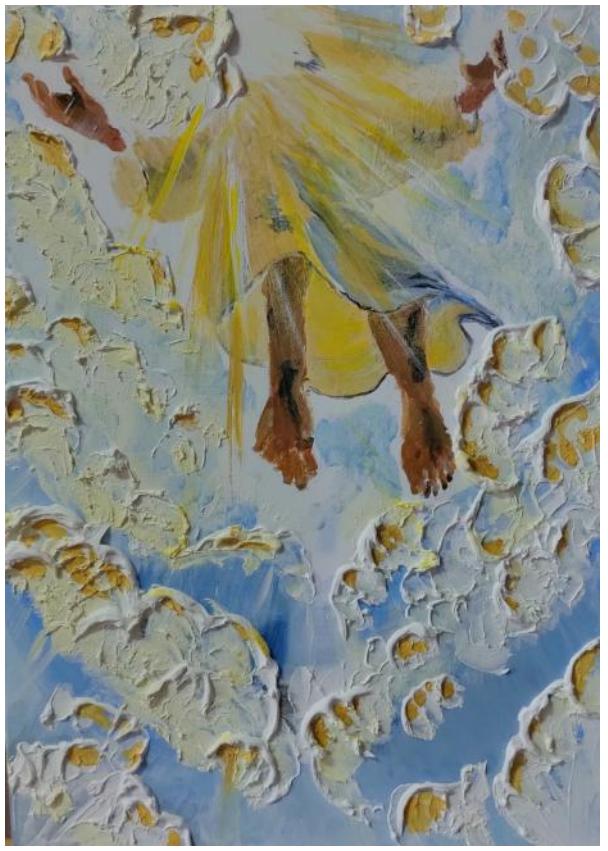
MIGUEL EMMANUEL D. BORBOR
“Kabataan Para sa Sining at Pananampalataya”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

VERONICA MANAGBANAG CASTILLO
“Daan”
Mixed Media on Canvas
18"x24"

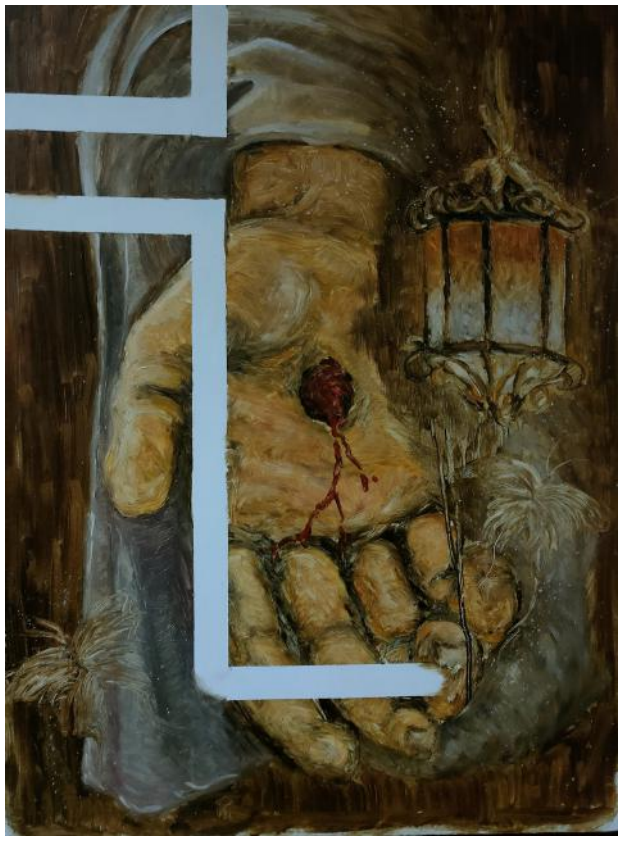
KHALIL D. ALDABA
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

KYLE JERICHO BISCAYNO
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

EMIL JAY GUIANG
“Untitled”
Oil on Canvas
18"x24"

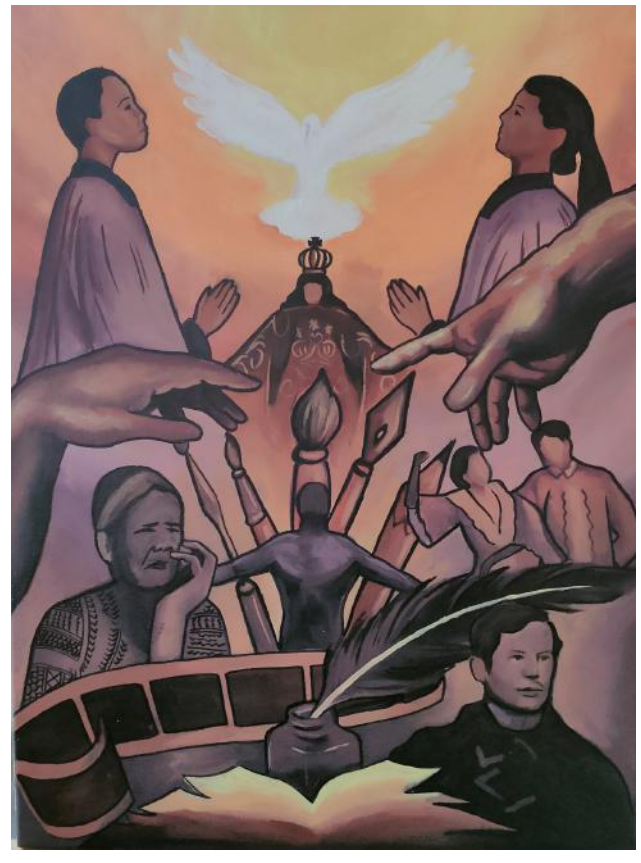


ANGELO ABCEDE
“Ascension”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"



MARK LORENZ ALEXIS G. JOSE
“Salt & Light”
Mixed Media on Canvas
18"x24"

JELVEE V. ELVAMBUENA
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Illustration Board
24"x18"

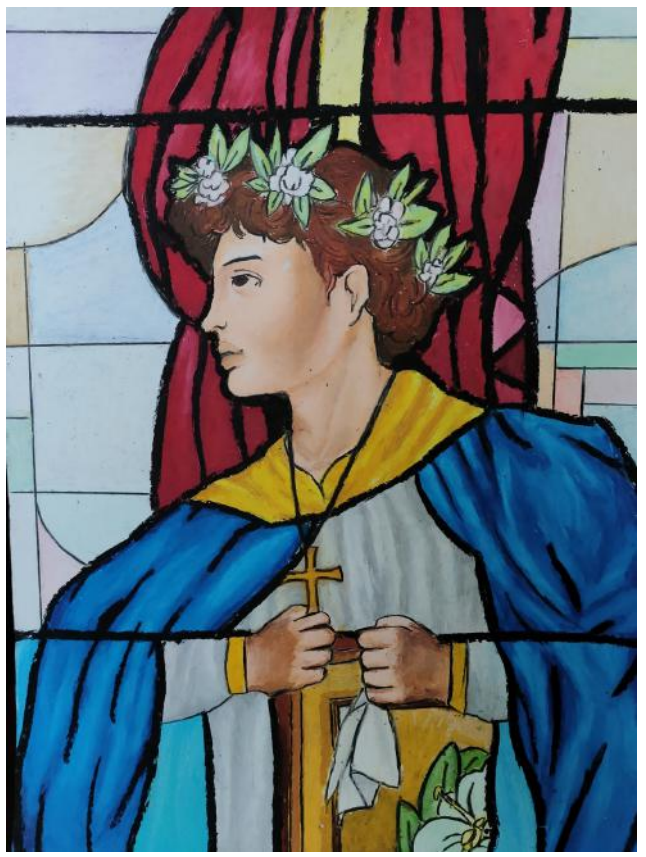


GIO CARLO CRUZ FRANCISCO
“Untitled”
Mixed Media on Canvas
18"x24"

RODA ALDAY
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x18"

RANDY BOY RONDA
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

LANIE ROSE J. LUARTEZ
“Untitled”
Mixed Media on Canvas
24"x18"



FORD YZEUS REGALADO
“Untitled”
Oil Pastel on Bristol Board
18"x24"

ALVIN JOHN R. SALES
“Pananampalataya sa Sining”
Oil on Canvas
18"x24"

MIGUEL OBNIALA VOLUNTAD
“Faith on our Purpose that God Planted to us”
Oil on Canvas
18"x24"

KENT FRANCIS V. MACAPAGAL
“Faith Outgrows Uncertainty”
Oil on Canvas
18"x24"

SIMPLICIO G. DELA CRUZ
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

LAWRENCE A. VICTORINO
“Untitled”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

DIANA CLAREN T. SANTOS
“Untitled”
Mixed Media on Bristol Board
18"x24"

MCRAVEN STA MARIA
“Kamay ng Lumikha, Gabay sa mga Manlilikha”
Oil Pastel on Watercolor Paper
18"x24"

JACK DE CASTRO
“C”
Mixed Media on Canvas
18"x24"

JESSIE S. SAJOL
“Stand by Faith”
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

Members of the Panel of Judges
SPECIAL EDITION

AR. JOHN ALDRIN UMALI
Head, Committee on Visual Arts and Architecture, Baliwag Arts and Culture Council

Ar. John Aldrin Umali is part of the Executive Committee of the Baliwag Arts and Culture Council, serving as the Head of the Committee on Visual Arts and Architecture. He is also the Chapter Secretary of the UAP Bulacan Chapter and section Treasurer in the Philippine Institute of Architects—Bulacan Section. He received his Bachelor of Science in Architecture degree at Bulacan State University in 2017 and is currently the Principal Architect at AU Architecture.

JAMES OWEN SAGUINSIN
Director, Nono Museum of Art History

James Owen Gragera Saguinsin is an associate professor at the Far Eastern University, where he teaches art appreciation and previously served as the chairman of the Department of Literature and Humanities from 2010 to 2014. He is the founder and director of the Angono Cultural Heritage Office, dedicated to preserving the town's cultural identity. Additionally, he serves as the Director of the Nono Museum of Art History in Angono, Rizal. Saguinsin is the author of the book Nineteenth-Century Masters of Angono Art and holds both a BA and an MA in Art Studies from the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

DR. JOSE NICHOLAS CRUZ
Sponsor and Co-organizer, Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition

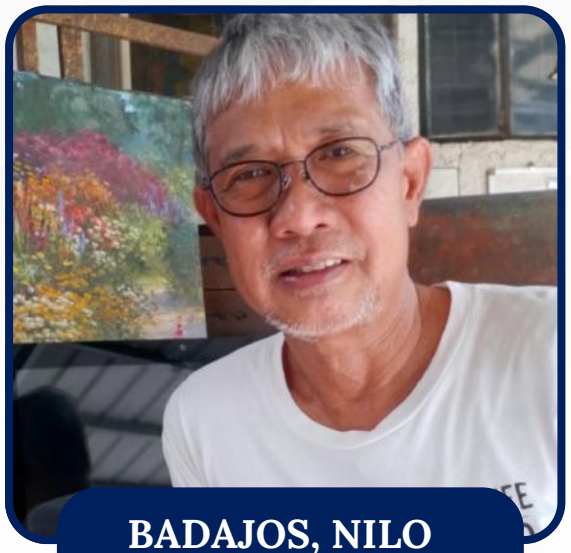
Dr. Nick Cruz was born and raised in Baliwag, Bulacan. He is an interventional cardiologist at St. Luke's Medical Center. He is one of the descendants of Mr. and Mrs. Renato and Leticia Cruz, after whom the competition is named. A visual arts enthusiast, he is one of the proponents of the Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition, as he wishes to support the artists of his hometown Baliwag and Bulacan as well.

MEDIC

Winners and Participating Artists

2024 SPECIAL EDITION TROPHIES
Designed by Mark Christopher Quizon
Crafted by Alfredo Santos Jr.

WINNERS



BADAJOS, NILO

PLARIDEL, BULACAN

2024, Special Edition
On-the-Spot Category,
2nd Place

BERNALDO, MELCHOR

SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, BULACAN

2024, Special Edition
On-the-Spot Category,
1st Place

BISCAYNO ,KYLE JERICHO

BALIWAG, BULACAN

2023, On-the-Spot Category,
2nd Place

CASLIB, RYAN FRANCISCO

SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, BULACAN

2023, Painting Category,
3rd Place
2024, Painting Category,
2nd Place

DACUYAN, ARGEE T.

CALUMPIT, BULACAN

2022, On-the-Spot Category,
1st Place
2024, Painting Category,
3rd Place

GUIANG, EMIL JAY B.

SAN RAFAEL, BULACAN

2023, Painting Category,
1st Place
2023, WalterMart Choice Award
2024, Painting Category,
JCI Baliwag Buntal
LEEgendary Award

WINNERS

INOSANTO, MARIA LOURDES P.

SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, BULACAN

2022, On-the-Spot Category,
2nd Place

2024, Special Edition
On-the-Spot Category,
3rd Place

NATHANIEL LOPEZ

BALIWAG, BULACAN

2024, On-the-Spot Category,
1st Place

MIRANDA, ANN LORRAINE

BALIWAG, BULACAN

2024, On-the-Spot Category
3rd Place

QUIZON, MARK CHRISTOPHER

BALIWAG, BULACAN

2022, On-the-Spot Category, 3rd Place
2023, On the Spot Category, 1st Place
2024, Painting Category, 1st Place
2024, On-the-Spot Category, 2nd place
2024, On-the-Spot Category,
JCI Baliwag Buntal LEEgendary Award

SAAVEDRA, MARIA FATIMA B.

BALIWAG, BULACAN

2023, On-the-Spot Category,
3rd Place
2023, On-the-Spot Category,
Orix Metro Choice Award

SAJOL, JESSIE S.

SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, BULACAN

2023, Painting Category,
2nd Place
2023, On-the-Spot Category,
Orix Metro Choice Award

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

ABCEDE, ANGELO
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 1985
Malolos, Bulacan

AGUSTIN, JOHN RENZ U.
(2023 & 2024 Painting Category)
b. 2002
Pulilan, Bulacan

ALBA, JOHN ALBERT H.
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 1995
Calumpit, Bulacan

ALDABA, KHALIL D.
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 2006
Malolos, Bulacan

ALDAY, RODA D.
(2024 Special Edition)
B. 1977
Malolos, Bulacan

ALEJANDRINO, ANGELO B.
(2024 Painting Category)
b. 2002
Bustos, Bulacan

ALEJO, S. RENANTE
(2022 On-the-Spot Category
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1967
Malolos, Bulacan

ANGELES, GILBERT CALDERON
(2023 Painting Category)
b. 1972
Plaridel, Bulacan

AQUINO, JAKE GIAN A.
(2024 On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 2008
Baliwag, Bulacan

ARRIOLA, ARLENE JOY P.
(2023 Painting Category)
b.1998
Marilao, Bulacan

ASTO, JAY
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b.1991
Guiguinto, Bulacan

BADAJOS, NILO
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1962
Plaridel, Bulacan

BARBECHO, MARK JAMES S.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2023 Painting Category)
b. 2000
Marilao, Bulacan

BASTON, ERWIN I.
(2024 Painting Category)
b. 1984
Baliwag, Bulacan

BAUTISTA, ROI ESTEBAN
(2024 Special Edition)
b.1999
Malolos, Bulacan

BAUTISTA, LLOYD FRANCIS.
(2023 Painting Category)
b. 1982
Guiguinto, Bulacan

BENEDICTOS, ABIGAIL S.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b.
Malolos, Bulacan

BERNALDO, MELCHOR D.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1968
City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

BISCAYNO, KYLE JERICHO
(2022, 2023 & 2024
On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Painting Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 2001
Baliwag , Bulacan

BORBOR, MIGUEL EMMANUEL D.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2023 Painting Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 2000
City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

BRAULIO, RYANN M.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1983
City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

BUENAVENTE, PETER
(2024 Painting Category)
b. 1988
Sta Maria, Bulacan

BULAGA, SAMUEL
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b.1979
City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

CAACBAY, CARLO M.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1979
Sta Maria, Bulacan

CABRERA, JOHN FRANCIS A.
(2023 & 2024 Painting Category)
b. 1995
Guiguinto, Bulacan

CADID, JEIMEE
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1981
Hagonoy, Bulacan

CANDELARIA, RICHARD VAL
(2024 Painting Category)
b. 1986
Malolos, Bulacan

CARMEN, ANGELA GRACE
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2000
Balagtas, Bulacan

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

CASLIB, RYAN FRANCISCO
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2023 & 2024 Painting Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1993
City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

CASTILLO, VERONICA M.
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 2008
Baliwag, Bulacan

CASTRO, ANJANET
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1994
Plaridel, Bulacan

CATAMORA, DEONER G.
(2024 Painting Category)
b. 1986
City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

CERVANTES, LAWRENCE JAY D.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1993
Hagonoy, Bulacan

CO, JAYDEE MARCELO
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 2000
Baliwag, Bulacan

COLIPAT, KLARISSE
(2023 Painting Category)
b. 2002
San Rafael, Bulacan

CORONEL, WEBSTER MANALILI
(2024 On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Painting Category)
b. 1997
Baliwag, Bulacan

CORTEZ, MARRIELLE P.
(2023 Painting Category)
b. 2003
City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

CRUZ, LESTER
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1990
Bustos, Bulacan

CRUZ, MARVIN C.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1985
Baliwag, Bulacan

CRUZ, MYLES H.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2001
Baliwag, Bulacan

CRUZ, RONWEL
(2023 & 2024 On-the-Spot Category,
2023 & 2024 Painting Category)
b. 2003
Baliwag, Bulacan

CUDIA, JOVIC D.
(2023 & 2024 On-the-Spot Category,
2023 Painting Category)
b. 2002
Baliwag, Bulacan

DACUYAN, ARGEE T.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2023-2024 Painting Category)
b. 1996
Calumpit, Bulacan

DE CASTRO, JACK E.
(2022 & 2024 On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Painting Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 2000
Plaridel, Bulacan

DE GUZMAN, JOVELL C.
(2023 & 2024 Painting Category)
b. 1959
Baliwag, Bulacan

DEL MUNDO-ANGELES, ANA NELIZA B.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2023 Painting Category)
b. 1984
San Rafael, Bulacan

DELA CRUZ, SIMPLICIO G.
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 1976
Malolos, Bulacan

DELOS SANTOS, ANTONETTE C.
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 2000
Baliwag, Bulacan

DIEZMA, GEOF ROBIN RUBI
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2006
City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

DIEZMA, GEOFREY ALLAN ROBIN RUBI
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2000
City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

DIME, EDUARDO P.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1966
Guiguinto, Bulacan

DINOPOL, DAN WILBERT
(2024 Painting Category)
b. 1995
San Rafael, Bulacan

DIZON, AERON JOSHUA M.
(2024 Painting Category)
b. 1996
San Rafael, Bulacan

DULALIA, REINALYN
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b.1993
Bulakan, Bulacan

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

ELVAMBUENA JELVEE V.
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 2007
Baliwag, Bulacan

EMETERIO, MARIO V. JR
(2024 Painting Category)
b. 1984
Meycauayan, Bulacan
Grupo Uno Visual Artist Guild

ENRIQUEZ, GILBERT R.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1980
Obando, Bulacan

ESCALONA, MICHAEL JOSHUA T.
(2023 Painting Category)
b. 2000
Baliwag, Bulacan

ESPIRITU, EFREN D.
(2023 Painting Category)
b.1984
Baliwag, Bulacan

ESTABILLO, JEFF ANDREW C.
(2024 On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Painting Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 2001
Baliwag, Bulacan

ESTRADA, RALFTINN
(2023 Painting Category)
b. 1989
San Rafael, Bulacan

FABRO, JOHN PHILIP RIVAS.
(2022 & 2024 On-the-Spot
Category
2024 Painting Category)
b.1999
Baliwag, Bulacan

FERNANDEZ, JANE CLARISE E.
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 2000
Pulilan, Bulacan

FLORES, ANJELO S.
(2023 Painting Category)
b. 1984
Sta Maria, Bulacan

FLORES, MA. VICTORIA R.
(2023 Painting Category)
b.1984
Sta Maria, Bulacan

FONTARON, LEONARD
(2024 Painting Category)
b. 2003
Baliwag, Bulacan

FRANCISCO, GIO CARLO C.
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 1999
Bustos, Bulacan

GACULA, CHARMAINE N.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1991
Baliwag, Bulacan

GACULA, SHERWIN DELA CRUZ.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1993
Baliwag, Bulacan

GARCIA, ALFREDO N. III
(2024 Painting Category)
b. 1988
Bocue, Bulacan

GARCIA, CARLO NOEL P.
(2024 Painting Category)
b. 1985
Guiguinto, Bulacan

GARCIA, DENNIS N.
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 1981
Bocaue, Bulacan

GARCIA, LEOPOLDO S. JR.
(2023 Painting Category)
b. 1990
Baliwag, Bulacan

GARCIA, MARIA LUISA
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1953
Baliwag, Bulacan

GONZAGA, AIVERIAN V.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1999
Bustos, Bulacan

GOMEZ, MANUEL
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 2000
Plaridel, Bulacan

GONZALES, JUSTINNE NICOLE V.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2004
Baliwag, Bulacan

GROSPE, RAIN JHARED M.
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 2007
Baliwag, Bulacan

GUESDAN, JEFFERD T.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1996
City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

GUIANG, EMIL JAY B.
(2023-2024 Painting Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1985
San Rafael, Bulacan

GULTIANO, JOMARIE M.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b.
Bulacan

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

HATE, MARLON A.
(2023 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2002
Baliwag, Bulacan

HIPOLITO, MARK BRYAN J.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2023 Painting Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1998
Baliwag, Bulacan

HUNGAY, REYMART GUIDOTE
(2024 On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Painting Category)
b. 1996
Baliwag, Bulacan

INOSANTO, MARIA LOURDES P.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2023 & 2024 Painting Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1971
City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

JIMENEZ, ERICKSON
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2003
Baliwag, Bulacan

JOSE, MARK LORENZ ALEXIS G.
(2023 Painting Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 2000
Plaridel, Bulacan

LEGASPI, CARL JUSTINE
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 2001
Hagonoy, Bulacan

LLANETA, JUNBERT C.
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 2002
Pandi, Bulacan

LOPEZ, NATHANIEL S.
(2022, 2023 & 2024
On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2002
Baliwag, Bulacan

LORENZO, PAMELA
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1999
Malolos, Bulacan

LUARTEZ, LANIE ROSE JOSON.
(2023 & 2024 On-the-Spot Category,
2023 & 2024 Painting Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1996
Baliwag, Bulacan

MAGO, MARLOUN G.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b.1995
Pulilan, Bulacan

MACAPAGAL, KENT FRANCIS V.
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 2000
Malolos, Bulacan

MAÑACO, LEYLA CLAUDEL F.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2005
Baliwag, Bulacan

MANAHAN, NEMESIS B.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1997
Bocaue, Bulacan

MANALO, FAITH C.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2001
Guiguinto, Bulacan

MANDILAG, ENRIQUE RIXMAN
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b.1968
Baliwag, Bulacan

MANLAPAZ, DAYRIL
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2000
Plaridel, Bulacan

MARBELLA, ARIEL V.
(2024 On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Painting Category)
b. 1995
Baliwag, Bulacan

MARTINEZ, MARK JEROME
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Painting Category)
b. 1994
City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

MATA, ANGELA MAE V.
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 2001
Malolos, Bulacan

MIRABUENOS, MARK G.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2023 & 2024 Painting Category)
b. 1988
Plaridel, Bulacan

MIRANDA, ANN LORRAINE
(2024 On-the-Spot Category,
2023 & 2024 Painting Category)
b. 2004
Baliwag, Bulacan

MIRANDA, CHRISTIANA THERESE
(2024 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2008
Baliwag, Bulacan

MODELO, PAOLO ANGELO M.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1999
San Rafael, Bulacan

MONTEMAYOR, JAYSON P.
(2024 On-the-Spot Category,
2023 Painting Category)
b. 1992
Baliwag, Bulacan

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

MONTEMAYOR, MARINELLE
(2024 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1998
Baliwag, Bulacan

NOBLE, KYLA KATE P.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1998
Baliwag, Bulacan

OCZON, GAMALIEL RENER.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1999
Balagtas, Bulacan

ORDOÑA, HENRY HAO.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1970
Plaridel, Bulacan

ORTEGA, LEI ANGELLI E.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2004
Baliwag, Bulacan

PACIO, ELMER PONCE.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1976
City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

PALINES, FREDERICO M.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1969
Pulilan, Bulacan

PARNASO, JULIUS RODEL
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1985
Guiguinto, Bulacan

PEREZ, LAWRENCE
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2023 & 2024 Painting Category)
b. 1994
Baliwag, Bulacan

PEREZ, MAR
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 1985
Hagonoy, Bulacan

QUIZON, ALLIANA JOYCE G.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2001
Baliwag, Bulacan

QUIZON, MARK CHRISTOPHER
(2022, 2023, & 2024
On-the-Spot Category,
2023 & 2024 Painting Category)
b. 2002
Baliwag, Bulacan

REBUTIACO, CRISPIN D. JR.
(2023 Painting Category)
b. 1970
Malolos, Bulacan

REGALADO, FORD YZEUS
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 2005
Meycauayan, Bulacan

REYES, VERONICA JANE A.
(2023 On-the-Spot Category,
2023 Painting Category)
b. 2002
San Ildefonso, Bulacan

RIVERA, MIKAH ALESSANDREI M.
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 2008
Baliwag, Bulacan

RIVERA, VIM KIESTER C.
(2023 Painting Category)
b. 1978
Pulilan, Bulacan

ROBLES, EMMANUEL V.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Painting Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1982
City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

ROBLES, HAROLD DC.
(2022, 2023 & 2024
On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1997
Baliwag, Bulacan

ROBLES, JAYSON MANALAC
(2024 Painting Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1978
Malolos, Bulacan

ROBLES, LEO C.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1975
Malolos, Bulacan

RODRIGUEZ, ABRAHAM F.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 2002
Malolos, Bulacan

RONDA, RANDY BOY A.
(2023 Painting Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1981
Sta Maria, Bulacan

ROXAS, ALEXANDER
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1981
Sta Maria, Bulacan

SAAVEDRA, MARIA FATIMA B.
(2022, 2023, & 2024 On-the-Spot
Category,
2023 & 2024 Painting Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1988
Baliwag, Bulacan

SAAVEDRA, LYNDSAY
(2023 Painting Category)
b. 1987
Baliwag, Bulacan

SAJOL, JESSIE
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2023 & 2024 Painting Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1999
City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

SALAMAT, RENE D.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1962
Paombong, Bulacan

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

SALAMAT, REYNALDO G.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1970
Paombong, Bulacan

SALAZAR, JEROME B.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1999
Baliwag, Bulacan

SALES, ALVIN JOHN R.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1992
Baliwag, Bulacan

SANTIAGO, CHRISTOPHER A.
(2024 On-the-Spot Category,
2023 & 2024 Painting Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1977
Norzagaray, Bulacan

SANTIAGO, EDEL
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 1985
Malolos, Bulacan

SANTIAGO, NARCISO C.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1948
Sta Maria, Bulacan

SANTIAGO, SAMUEL
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 2003
Malolos, Bulacan

SANTOS, DIANA CLAREN T.
(2024 Special Edition)
b.2006
San Rafael, Bulacan

SANTOS, JOHN VERLYN C.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2023 Painting Category)
b. 1993
Plaridel, Bulacan

SANTOS, LAURO
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1965
San Rafael, Bulacan

SANTOS, MARY GRACE A.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2023 & 2024 Painting Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1982
Malolos, Bulacan

SARIO, MARK JEFFERSON
(2024 Painting Category)
b. 1997
Sta Maria, Bulacan

SAYCON, JERRY L.
(2023 Painting Category)
b. 1976
City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

SHAIREEZ, JOY T.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2004
City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

SIGUA, ANJELINE LIPANA.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2001
Pandi, Bulacan

SIMBULAN, ARNEL
(2024 Painting Category)
b. 1993
Baliwag, Bulacan

SILVA, FROILAN V.
(2022, 2023, & 2024
On-the-Spot Category,
2023 & 2024 Painting Category)
b. 1978
Baliwag, Bulacan

SIMEON, ANGELINA JANET B.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1960
Malolos, Bulacan

SORIANO, JULIE ANN SUZAINE S.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2002
Angat, Bulacan

STA CRUZ, FELIPE C. JR
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1966
Hagonoy, Bulacan

STA MARIA, MCRAVEN
(2024 Special Edition)
b.2006
Balagtas, Bulacan

TABERAO, RALZ JEROME D.
(2022, 2023 & 2024 On-the-Spot
Category,
2023 & 2024 Painting Category,
2024 Special Edition)
b. 1997
Baliwag, Bulacan

TAGALAG, DAVE HARRIS T.
(2023 On-the-Spot Category,
2023 Painting Category)
b. 1987
Baliwag, Bulacan

TALENTO, MC CLEN A.
(2023 On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Painting Category)
b. 1995
Baliwag, Bulacan

TIONGSON, ARVIE L.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2004
Plaridel, Bulacan

TOMAS, BUZON ROGELIO
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1953
Plaridel, Bulacan

TORRES, JONATHAN H.
(2024 Painting Category)
b. 1987
Baliwag, Bulacan

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

TRINIDAD, JEZRAEL ALBERT NOA A.
(2024 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2008
Baliwag, Bulacan

TRINIDAD, KURT DALE SD.
(2023 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2001
Baliwag, Bulacan

TUANTE, MARK JOSEPH G.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b.
Bocaue, Bulacan

VICTORIA, ISRAEL
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 1982
Baliwag, Bulacan

VICTORINO, LAWRENCE A.
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 1994
Baliwag, Bulacan

VILLAFUERTE, MARCELINO JR.
(2023 Painting Category)
b. 1975
Plaridel, Bulacan

VILLAMIL, FRANCHESKA
(2023 Painting Category)
b. 2003
Baliwag, Bulacan

VINTA, MANOLITO C. JR
(2022 On-the-Spot Category,
2024 Painting Category)
b. 1984
Plaridel, Bulacan

VIÑA, JHOANNA MAE P.
(2022 On-the-Spot Category)
b. 2001
Plaridel, Bulacan

VOLUNTAD, MIGUEL O.
(2024 Special Edition)
b. 2000
Bocaue, Bulacan

ICO & LETY CRUZ

Artist Residency

Ico and Lety Cruz Artist Residency

The City Government of Baliwag, through the Museo ng Baliwag together with the Baliwag City Library, Baliwag Tourism Office (now collectively called the City Arts, Culture, and Tourism Office), and JCI Baliwag Buntal organized the Ico and Lety Cruz Artist Residency. The Artist Residency component of the Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition program has been made possible through the grant of the Department of Trade and Industry's Lunsod Lunsad program. Six artists from Bulacan were selected to be part of the artist residency program. They were the winners and finalists of last year's competition in both the Painting Category and the On-the-Spot Category. The artists are Kyle Jericho Biscayno, Ryan Francisco Caslib, Nathaniel Lopez, Lanie Rose Luartez, Mark Christopher Quizon, and Jessie Sajol.

The Artist Residency Program aims to provide spaces for local artists for their creative exercises, equip them with additional knowledge and skills through mentorship from senior artists, curators, cultural workers, and other creatives, and immerse them in the community.

The artists-in-residence lived in a house together for almost two months, where they had communal spaces for art production and activities with several mentors. The residency commenced with a conversation on the challenges and opportunities for local artists with Baliwagenyo visual artist Marvin Quizon, art writer and critic Edgar Allan Sembrano, and Jesusa Garcia Villanueva, curator of Museo ng Baliwag. New artistic skills and knowledge were provided through the art restoration workshop facilitated by Tomas Daquioag and the printmaking workshop delivered by Angelo Magno. The artists attended Jose Tence Ruiz's lecture discussing the artist as a creative and as a professional. The group worked on a collaborative public mural located on one of the busiest streets in Baliwag. To close the residency program, the artist showcased their finished artworks in an open studio where they gave a walkthrough for relatives, friends, and other guests.

The culmination of those two months, where they worked together and shared their ideas and techniques, was presented in an exhibition. They learned together, and they learned from one another as well. The artworks may be the physical manifestation of that, but the friendship they built matters the most. (JGV)

The Artists

Kyle Jericho BISCAYNO

Kyle Jericho Biscayno is a 22-year-old visual artist, tattoo artist, and muralist from Baliwag City, Bulacan. He is self-taught and works primarily with traditional painting techniques, drawing inspiration from his personal life experiences. He prefers using acrylic and oil paints on canvas. In 2023, he won second place in the On-the-Spot Category of the Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

2ND PLACE - Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition On-the-Spot Category (2023)

2ND PLACE - Paper Mural Competition (2019)

ART EXHIBITIONS

- Artpocalypse - Spin Art Gallery (2025)
- Chromatic Horizons - 22nd 5th Gallery (2024)
- Ecstatic - 8 Degrees Café (2024)
- Familiar Feelings – Galerie (2024)
- Emerging Echoes - JSY Cuisine Coffee (2024)
- Sining sa Hardin: Bulacan Art in the Park Exhibition (2024)
- Ico and Lety Cruz Artist Residency Open House Exhibition (2024)
- Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition (2024)
- Marian College of Baliuag Student Art Exhibition (2023)
- Sining Malaya Art Fair (2019)

APPRENTICE

- The 12th Mandala Art Festival (Kalye Art), Pulilan , Bulacan (2024)
- Mural Painting of Gerilya, PRC Morayta (2023)
- Baliwag Summer Saya Painting Workshop, Baliwag City, Bulacan (2022)
- The 8th Mandala Art Festival (Kalye Art), Pulilan, Bulacan

"HIMALA"
2024
Oil on Canvas
24"x36"

“TINTA NG PERSONALIDAD”
2024
Oil on Canvas
18"x18"

“THE MASK MAN”
2024
Oil on Canvas
36"x24"

“SOOTHSAYER”
2024
Oil on Canvas
18"x18"

Ryan Francisco CASLIB

Ryan Francisco Caslib is an artist from San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. A self-taught artist, he primarily works with acrylic paint and has been creating and competing in art since childhood. Caslib holds degrees in Bachelor of Secondary Education and Bachelor of Science in Information Technology from First City Providential College in Bulacan. In addition to his artistic pursuits, Caslib previously worked as a Senior High School teacher in a private school in Bulacan. He is now fully dedicated to his art, actively participating in contests and exhibitions as a member of the art collective group Kulay Sapa. His works often depict the dynamic aspects of everyday life, reflecting his unique perspective and creative vision.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

2ND PLACE - Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition Painting Category (2024)
1ST PLACE - Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition Painting Category (2023)
FINALIST - Manila Bulletin Sketchfest (2021)
JUNIOR CHOICE AWARD - Santisimo Parish Church Painting Contest (2021)
GRAND WINNER - SJDM SK PAINTdemic Contest (2021)
GRAND WINNER - SINELIKSIK Poster Making Contest (2020)
GRAND WINNER - Fiesta Republica Kulaysaysayan On-the-Spot Painting Competition (2019)
3RD PLACE - NKTI Painting Contest (2018)
GRAND WINNER - PGW/IWSP Watercolor On-the-Spot Painting Contest (2018)

"FATE"
2024
Oil on Canvas
18"x24"

"BURNING FATE"
2024
Oil on Canvas
15"x15"

"EMBRACING HOPE"
2024
Oil on Canvas
15"x15"

Nathaniel LOPEZ

Nathaniel Lopez, who uses "Soothsayer" as his artist alias, is a photographer, muralist, and visual artist from Baliwag City, Bulacan. He is pursuing a Multimedia Arts degree at STI College Malolos. Specializing in pop surrealism, his artworks are characterized by vibrant and pastel colors, quirky characters, and playful, birthday-themed elements. He enjoys creating unconventional and imaginative pieces that blend boldness with whimsy. As a member of the Chroma Collective, a local art group supporting emerging artists in Bulacan, he actively contributes to fostering creativity and talent within his community.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

1ST PLACE - Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition On-the-Spot Category (2024)

FINALIST - Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition On-the-Spot Category (2023)

ART EXHIBITIONS / GROUP SHOWS

- Bambini Diaries - Gallery Sort Of (2025)
- Artpocalypse - Spin Art Gallery (2025)
- AREP 2 - Verygood Gallery (2024)
- Chromatic Horizons - 22nd 5th Gallery (2024)
- Ecstatic - 8 Degrees Café (2024)
- Familiar Feelings – Galerie (2024)
- Emerging Echoes - JSY Cuisine Coffee (2024)
- Eye Candy - STI College Malolos, Malolos, Bulacan (2024)
- Ico and Lety Cruz Artists Residency Open House Exibition, Tiaong, Baliwag, City Bulacan (2024)
- Sining sa Hardin: Bulacan Art in the Park, Mini Forest, Malolos, Bulacan (2024)
- 12th Pulilan Mandala Art Festival - Pulilan, Bulacan (2024)
- Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition (2024)
- Terra Tones: Balintataw - STI College Malolos, Malolos, Bulacan (2024)
- Kinaiya: Stuart Gallery, Malolos, Bulacan (2023)
- Elysian: Stuart Gallery, Malolos, Bulacan (2023)
- Spoiler! We Die in the End: Stuart Gallery, Malolos, Bulacan (2023)
- Red: Big and Small Art Gallery, SM Megamall, Muntinlupa (2022)
- Pati-Pato: Stuart Gallery, Malolos, Bulacan (2022)

"AFTER A YEAR"
2024
Acrylic on Canvas in Custom Shaped Wood
27"x43"

"NOT-SO-HAPPY BIRTHDAY"
2024
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY?"
2024
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x24"

" AGUA DE MAYO"
2024
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x18"

" LUCAS AS CLOWN"
2024
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x18"

"IT SUPPOSED TO BE FUN"
2024
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x24"

Lanie Rose LUARTEZ

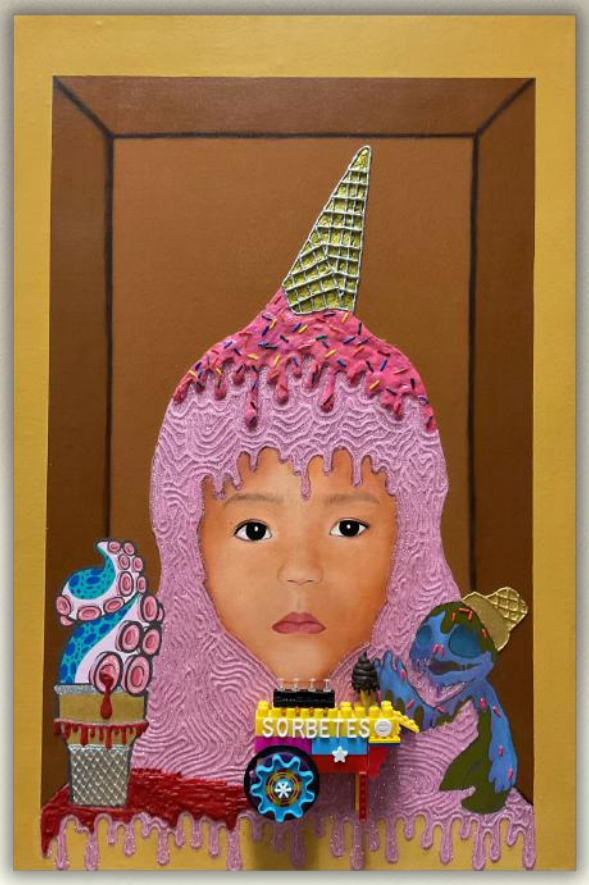
Lanie Rose Luartez is an emerging artist based in Baliwag City, Bulacan. She is an undergraduate Bachelor of Elementary Education student at Bulacan State University Bustos Campus. She began her artistic journey in 2018, deciding to pursue art full-time. Lanie hones her craft through commissioned portraits and works with various materials and mediums. Her art draws from societal issues, personal experiences, psychological insights, and philosophical perspectives, often challenging conventional norms. In 2023, she participated in the Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition (Painting Category) with her debut entry, LUNA: The Witness, which was selected as a finalist.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

FINALIST - Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition On-the-Spot Category (2023)

ART EXHIBITIONS

- Artpocalypse - Spin Art Gallery (2025)
- Chromatic Horizons - 22nd 5th Gallery (2024)
- Ecstatic - 8 Degrees Café (2024)
- Emerging Echoes - JSY Cuisine Coffee (2024)
- Ico and Lety Cruz Artists Residency Open House Exibition, Tiaong, Baliwag, City Bulacan (2024)
- Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition (2024)



"MEMENTO MORI"
2024
Mixed Media Canvas
24"x36"

"PIRASONG PARAISO NI SISA"
2024
Mixed Media Canvas
36"x48"

"UNANG HALIK NI MAYO"
2024
Mixed Media Canvas
24"x36"

"BALINTATAW NA BUGHAW"
2024
Mixed Media Canvas
20"x20"

"LITANYA NA PULA"
2024
Mixed Media Canvas
20"x20"

"ALINGAWNGAW NA DILAW"
2024
Mixed Media Canvas
20"x20"

Mark Christopher QUIZON

Mark Christopher Quizon, a 22-year-old self-taught artist from Baliwag City, Bulacan, is known for his striking artworks that blends surrealism and symbolism. Specializing in concept paintings, realistic portraiture, murals, and posters, he works with a range of mediums, including acrylics, colored pencils, graphite, and digital software. His art is distinguished by its use of color and its focus on introspection, identity, and cultural storytelling. Recurring motifs such as a man, possibly a self-portrait, and a carabao, along with other symbolic elements, are central to his pieces, reflecting a personal narrative and a strong connection to his roots. He is a Hall of Famer in the Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition, having won major prizes in three consecutive years.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

2ND PLACE - Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition On-the-Spot Category (2024)
1ST PLACE - Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition Painting Category (2024)
1ST PLACE - Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition On-the-Spot Category (2023)
3RD PLACE - Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition On-the-Spot Category (2022)
CHAMPION - Bulacan Youth Poster Making Contest (2021)
CHAMPION - Bulacan Youth Facemask Painting Contest (2021)
CHAMPION - Baliwag Poster Making Contest (2021)
CHAMPION - Baliwag Facemask Painting Contest (2021)
CHAMPION - Bagong Nayon Mural Painting Contest (2021)

ART EXHIBITIONS / GROUP SHOWS

- Testing Waters - VeryGood Gallery Group Show (2025)
- Artpocalypse - Spin Art Gallery (2025)
- Slithering Currents- Thombayan Artspace Groupshow (2025)
- Self Portray - VeryGood Gallery Community Show (2025)
- Chromatic Horizons - 22nd 5th Gallery (2024)
- Ecstatic - 8 Degrees Café (2024)
- Familiar Feelings - Galerie Jose (2024)
- Emerging Echoes - JSY Cuisine Coffee (2024)
- Sining sa Hardin - Bulacan Art in the Park Exhibition (2024)
- 12th Pulilan Mandala Art Festival Exhibition (2024)
- Ico an Lety Cruz Artist Residency Open House Exhibition (2024)
- Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition Exhibition (2024)
- "Artpocalypse" Spin Art Gallery Group Show

PROFFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **FACILITATOR** - Laro at Likha Painting Workshop (2024)
- **JUDGE** - Tapat sa Watawat Poster Making Contest (2024)
- **FEATURED ARTIST** - 12th Pulilan Mandala Art Festival

"GLOOM, BLOOM"
2024
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x24"

"SI JUAN? TAMAD?
2024
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

"THE UNARMORED"
2024
Acrylic on Canvas
24"x36"

"KATUPARAN"
2024
Acrylic on Canvas
20"x20"

"MY WORLD IS A DISCO"
2024
Acrylic on Canvas
18"x24"

Jessie SAJOL

Jessie S. Sajol, a 24-year-old self-taught artist from the City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, is a passionate visual artist, muralist, and art teacher. Specializing in the peasant genre, Jessie has carved a distinct place in the local art scene. Currently an AB Psychology undergraduate at Colegio de San Gabriel Archangel, he is also an active member of the Shinobi Art Society and the Art Association of the Philippines. With a focus on his work's cultural and social aspects, his art reflects a deep connection to his roots and his commitment to sharing his knowledge with others through tutoring and mural projects.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION
CHAMPION - Little Angel Scholar
FINALIST - Rene Robles Nationwide Painting Competition
FINALIST - Rizal Nationwide Contest
CHAMPION - (Group and Solo) Mural Contest Montalban
2ND PLACE - Ico and lety Cruz Art Competition Painting Category (2023)
4TH PLACE - National Festival of Talent
4TH PLACE - House of Representative Poster Making Contest Nationwide
CHAMPION - Collage Painting Contest SPFI
CHAMPION - Pintahusay RFT
CHAMPION - Pintahusay DFT
3RD PLACE - Diwang Sagisang Regional Level
2ND PLACE - Shoes Painting Contest Starmall
3RD PLACE - Los Arcos Resort Painting Contest
CHAMPION - Poster Making Contest Acc
CHAMPION - SK Poster Making Contest
CHAMPION - Science Poster Making Division
2ND PLACE - Mural Painting CSJDM,Bulacan
NATIONAL QUALIFIER - Shadow Puppets Contest

ART EXHIBITIONS
- Artpocalypse - Spin Art Gallery (2025)
- Chromatic Horizons - 22nd 5th Gallery (2024)
- Ecstatic - 8 Degrees Café (2024)
- Emerging Echoes - JSY Cuisine Coffee (2024)
- Artpocalypse - Spin Art Gallery (2025)
- Chromatic Horizons - 22nd 5th Gallery (2024)
- Ecstatic - 8 Degrees Café (2024)
- Emerging Echoes - JSY Cuisine Coffee (2024)
- Ico and Lety Cruz Artists Residency Open House Exibition, Tiaong, Baliwag, City Bulacan (2024)
- Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition (2024)
- Sining sa Hardin, Malolos, Bulacan
- Group Exhibitions in SM Marilao
- Group Exhibitions in Starmall SJDM, Bulacan
- Group Exhibitions in SM Tungko
- Sining Biswal San Jose Online

PROFFESIONAL EXPERIENCE
- **JUDGE** - Presscon Student Painting Contest
- **JUDGE** - Science Division Painting Contest
- **RESOURCE SPEAKER** - Art Workshop Paradise Farm National Hig School
- **FACILITATOR** - Art Workshop Shinobi Art Society

"SIGNORA AL SOLE"
2024
Acrylic and Oil on Canvas
18"x24"

"MUSICA DE LA LLUVIA"
2024
Acrylic and Oil on Canvas
16"x21"

"LECIUDAD BENDITA"
2024
Acrylic and Oil on Canvas
24"x24"

"CUCHARA DE MADRE"
2024
Acrylic and Oil on Canvas
8"x11"

"VIENI A BALIWAG"
2024
Acrylic and Oil on Canvas
24"x36"

"FIESTA DE BULAKENYO"
2024
Acrylic and Oil on Canvas
24"x36"

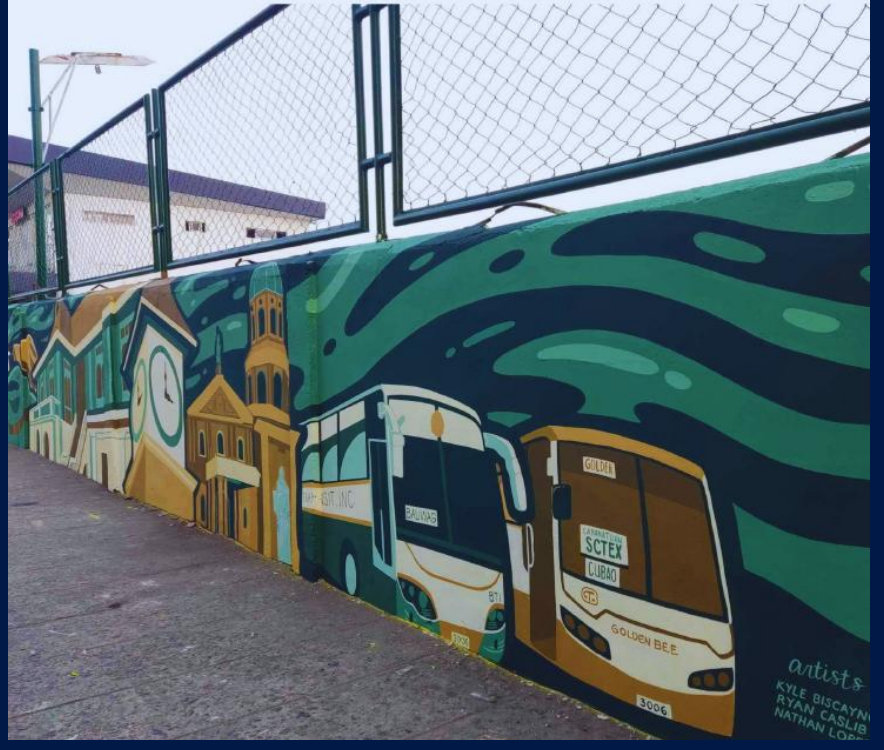
"MILAGRO DE LA LLUVIA
2024
Acrylic and Oil on Canvas
24"x36"

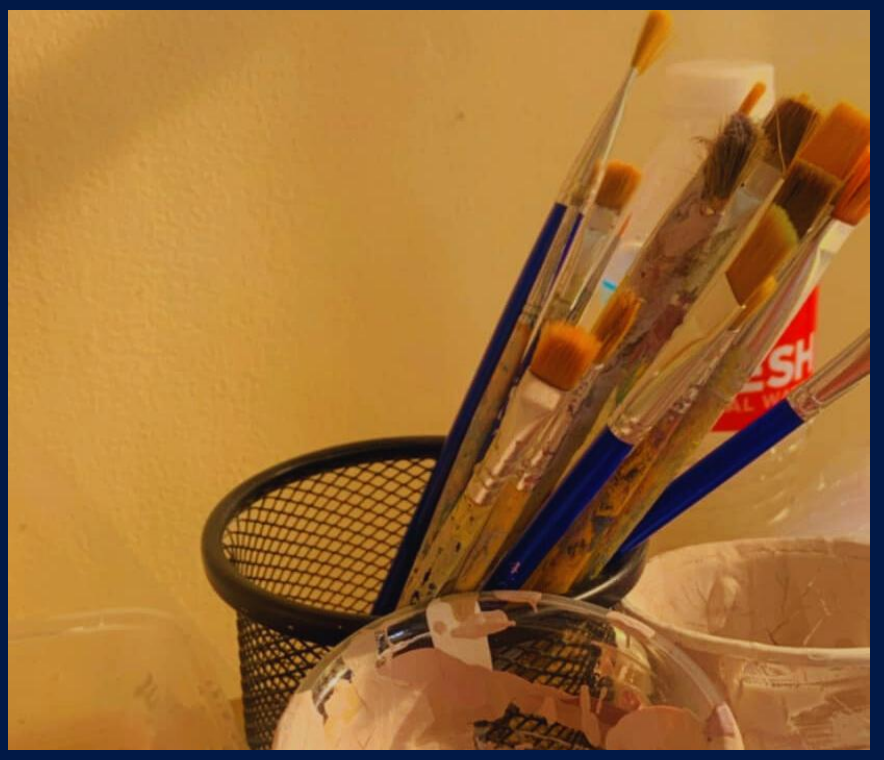
"LA TIERRA PROMETIDA"
2024
Acrylic and Oil on Canvas
24"x36"

ICO & LETY CRUZ
Artist Residency

MENTORING SESSIONS

(WORKSHOPS, LECTURES, ARTIST TALKS, AND OPEN STUDIO)





Conversations:
Challenges and Opportunities for Bulakenyo Artists

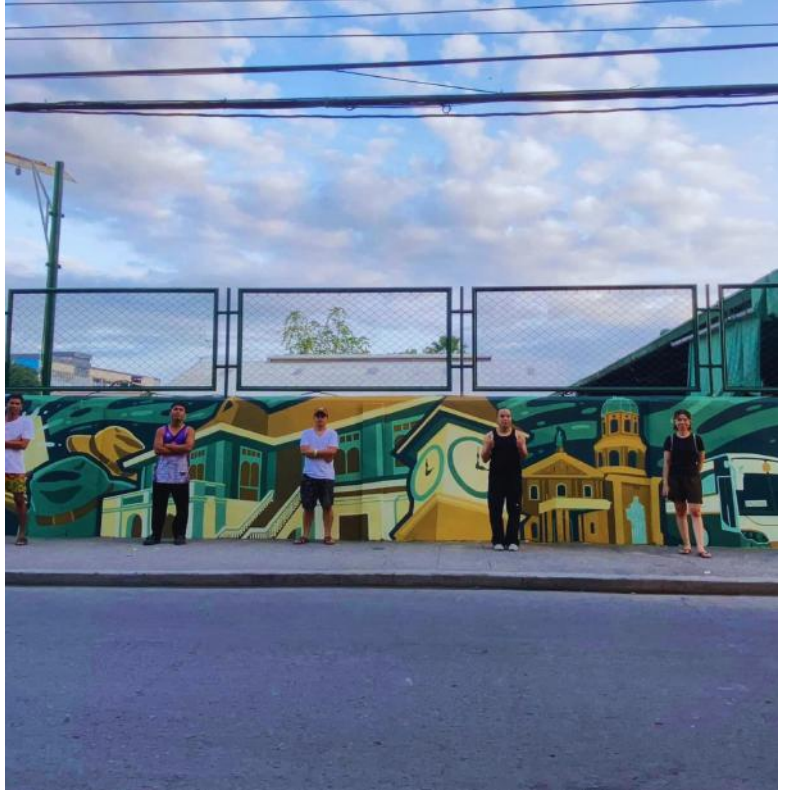
The Ico and Lety Cruz Artist Residency mentorship activities commenced with a roundtable discussion, facilitated by the curator of the Museo ng Baliwag, Ms. Jesusa Garcia Villanueva. The discussion featured two speakers: Mr. Edgar Allan Sembrano, a writer and art critic, and Mr. Marvin Quizon, a visual artist. They shared their valuable experiences and insights about the art world, discussing topics such as artistic production, opportunities for artists, and the evolving art scene. Their conversation served as a source of inspiration for the residency participants, encouraging them to continue refining their craft and persevere in the face of challenges and the politics of the art market.

BASIC ART RESTORATION WORKSHOP

The second activity for the mentorship program of the artist residency was the Basic Art Restoration workshop. The workshop was facilitated by the visual artist and art restorer Mr. Thomas Daquioag. The workshop was open to artists not only from the artist residency but also for other artists from Bulacan. The morning session focused on discussing the common causes of artwork deterioration, methods to prevent damage, and the techniques used in art restoration. In the afternoon session, participants had the chance to apply their newfound knowledge, cleaning and restoring selected artworks with hands-on guidance from Mr. Daquioag. The experience was enjoyable and educational, allowing participants to practice their skills in the real world.

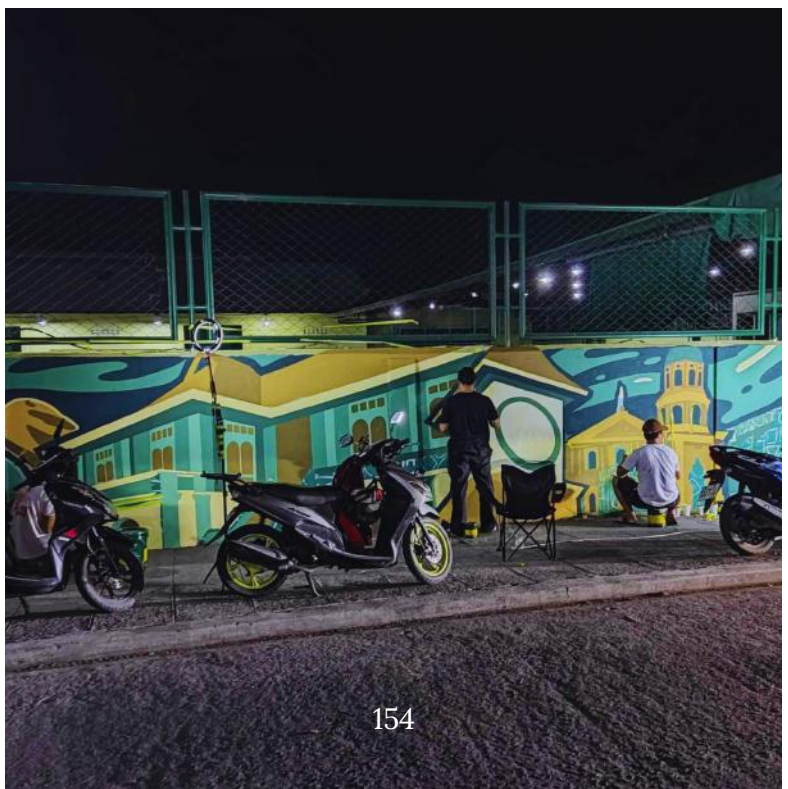
PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP

The third mentoring activity for the artists was a printmaking workshop facilitated by Angelo Magno, Vice President of the Association of Pinoy Printmakers, who is dedicated to promoting printmaking as a form of art. The workshop began with a comprehensive discussion of the history, process, and techniques of printmaking. In the afternoon, participants had the chance to try their hand at creating prints using rubber cuts, experiencing the process firsthand and applying the techniques they had learned.



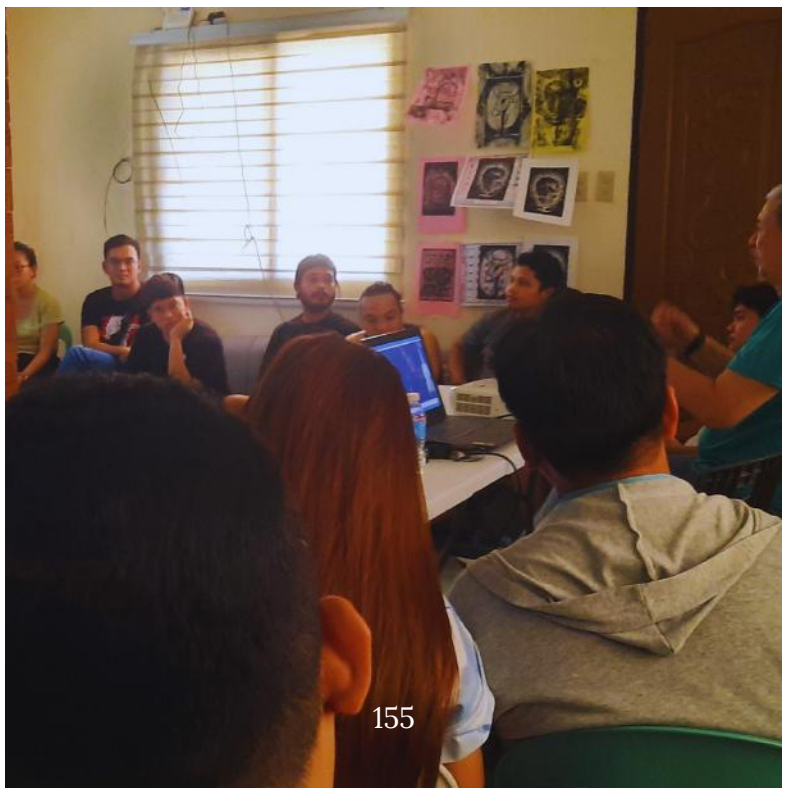
COLLABORATIVE MURAL

On April 9, 2024, as part of the Araw ng Kagitingan celebration, the Ico and Lety Cruz Artist Residency participants collaborated to create the mural "Mga Pamana ng Baliwag." The mural showcases the heritage structures of Baliwag City, such as the Lumang Munisipyo, St. Augustine Parish Church, and the Baliwag Clock Tower. The artwork includes buntal hats, which have become iconic symbols of Baliwag. The mural was painted at the Baliwag Transit Inc. Bus Terminal, a significant location, as the Baliwag Transit buses have played a key role in spreading the city's name beyond its borders. This collaborative project is part of the Ico and Lety Cruz Artist Residency and the PintaKaSi (Pintahan sa Kalye para sa Sining Baliwagenyo) programs, supported by the local government and Baliwag Transit Inc.



THE ARTIST AS A CREATIVE AND AS A PROFESSIONAL

Mr. Jose Tence Ruiz, also known as Sir Bogie, an intermedia artist with expertise in set design, publication design, book and editorial illustration, painting, sculpture, installation, and performance art, led the discussion for the last mentoring activity of the Ico and Lety Cruz Artist Residency. The artist's talk focused on the creative process, covering materials, concepts, and techniques. He shared his personal experiences and emphasized that “being an artist is considered a profession, so they should be responsible and disciplined.” As part of the activity, the book "Jose Tence Ruiz: Litanya 1972 - 2022" was distributed to selected libraries and schools in Baliwag.



THE OPEN STUDIO

After several months of training and workshops, the Museo ng Baliwag hosted an open studio to exhibit the completed works of the six artists from the residency for the closing event of the Ico and Lety Cruz Artist Residency. Following a meaningful message from Ms. Jesusa Garcia Villanueva, Curator of Museo ng Baliwag and Acting Head of the Baliwag City Arts, Culture, and Tourism Office, the artists presented their artworks and shared the meaning behind each piece. The open studio was attended by their families, friends, and fellow artists, who came to show their support. JCI Baliwag Buntal, led by its President, Mr. Alvin Lee Asuro, one of the program's partners, also supported the event, with a focus on advancing the visual arts and promoting the talents of Baliwagenyo and Bulakenyo artists.

THE FACILITATORS

JESUSA GARCIA VILLANUEVA

Curator, Museo ng Baliwag
Acting Head, Baliwag City Arts, Culture, and Tourism Office

Jesusa Garcia Villanueva received her bachelor's degree in Art Studies: Interdisciplinary at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. She has also received some units in the Master of Arts Museum Studies program. A cultural worker for more than two decades, she has assisted in establishing and writing for the permanent exhibitions of various museums, such as Museo de Pulilan, Museo San Ysidro de Pulilan, and Pulong Kabyawan Museum, among others. As an independent curator, she has curated several exhibitions in Metro Manila. She is immersed in the field of museology, being the Museum Researcher and part of the Vargas Museum of the University of the Philippines curatorial team from 2008 to 2017. She has also presented papers about museums and cultural studies locally and abroad. She has delved into documentary filmmaking as well as a scriptwriter for the documentary film "Ang Naglalahong Kaharian ni Haring Kalabaw" in 2017 and as a researcher and writer for "Musika Para sa Bayan: Kol. Antonino Buenaventura" in 2022. Her most recently published work is an essay titled "King Wa: Ang Naglahong Kaharian ng Quingua," published in the Sineliksik Bulacan: Pamana ng Lahi, Yamang aking Ipagmamalaki book. She has been the curator of the Museo ng Baliwag since its establishment in 2017. She is currently the Acting Head of the Baliwag City Arts, Culture, and Tourism Office. She is also the Vice President of the Baliwag Arts and Culture Council.

EDGAR ALLAN M. SEMBRANO

Art Critic / Writer

Edgar Allan "EA" Sembrano is a journalist who regularly contributes to The Philippine Daily Inquirer and Daily Tribune. He is a Board Member of the Philippine National Historical Society and was a judge in the 2022 GSIS National Art Competition. He co-authored Dakilang Bulakenyo: The Art and Artists of Bulacan, published by the Foreign Service Institute, Department of Foreign Affairs, in 2021. His research on the history of St. Augustine Church, titled Paletada: The 18th-century artistic heritage of the San Agustin Church convent in Baliuag, Bulacan, was presented at the SAMPAKA National Conference in 2018. He is also a Research Associate at the UST Graduate School Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics. He is a member of the Baliwag Arts and Culture Council.

THE FACILITATORS

MARVIN QUIZON

Freelance Visual Artist

Marvin Quizon is a visual artist from Baliwag City, Bulacan, with a degree in Visual Communication from Bulacan State University. In 2017, he won the Grand Prize in the Metrobank Art and Design Excellence competition under the watercolor category. He was also the recipient of the Dangal ng Baliwag Award in 2018.

Quizon's works explore the ambivalence of life, focusing on themes of death and its intricate role in the natural world. His art delves into existential questions, examining the essence of life, the certainty of temporality, and what gives purpose to human existence. He has exhibited his works in several solo exhibitions and various group exhibitions, including at the Art Fair Philippines.

THOMAS DAQUIOAG

Professor in the College of Fine Arts, University of Sto. Thomas
Owner and Art Restorer Thombayan Art Space

Thomas Daquioag studied Commercial Arts and Painting at the University of Santo Tomas. His solo show, "The Invincibles," was at Pasilyo Victorio Edades at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. He had several Solo exhibitions and participated in various group art exhibitions in the country and abroad. He was a Grand Prize winner in the Art Association of the Philippines (AAP) National Art Competition 2000. In 2002, he received the Dharmasiswa Arts and Culture Studies Grant in Bali, Indonesia. In 2007, he was granted the Asian Artist Residency, a Freeman Fellowship by the Vermont Studio Center, USA. In 2013, he was the Grand Prize winner of the GSIS National Art Competition. He participated in the International Performance Art Festival titled "The Art of Encountering" in Austria, Switzerland & Cologne, Germany. He has exhibited his works in New York, Beijing, Singapore, Korea, and Japan. He was granted on July 2014 as the only Filipino delegate for the ASEAN International Art Exhibition "New Icon: Pop in Asia" in Jakarta, Indonesia.

In 2019, after finishing his MFA degree at UST, his exposure to the rudiments of conservation and restoration was expanded, and his curiosity and innate love for the arts have been further nurtured. In 2021, he established THOMBAYAN Art Space, an alternative artist-run space in Bangkal Makati, as a creative venue with the intent to showcase the works of emerging and renowned Filipino visual artists to provide not only a space to present contemporary works but also encourage creative practitioners and art supporters to expand the current discussions and developments in Philippine Art. The art space also embraces various creative expressions --- Photography, Printmaking, and new media. It is also a restoration laboratory and venue for art education, art history, and art resources.

THE FACILITATORS

ANGELO MAGNO

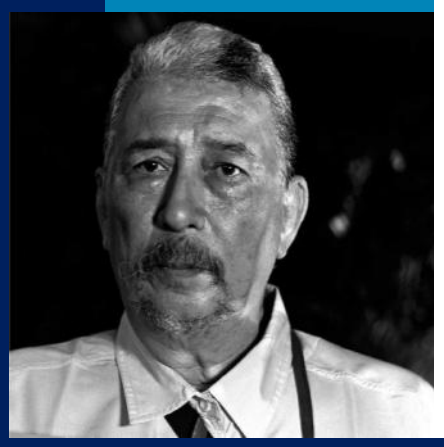
Vice President of AP: Association of Pinoyprintmakers

Angelo Magno received his bachelor's degree in Art Studies at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, College of Arts and Letters, in 2000. He finished his Master of Fine Arts from the UP College of Fine Arts in 2016. He was a former faculty member and Assistant Director of the School of Multimedia and Arts at the NU- Asia Pacific College. He is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Art Studies, College of Arts and Letters, UP Diliman. He is the vice president of Pinoy Printmakers, a national art organization formerly the Philippine Association of Printmakers, and an associate program of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

He works with drawing and printmaking and explores how this process can be expanded to surfaces other than paper. His works use the face as a motif to explore the ideas of representation, character, memory, and identity. He has exhibited his works in the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, the USA, and Indonesia.

JOSE TENCE RUIZ

Intermedia Artist



Jose Tence Ruiz (b. 1956) is an intermedia artist who has actively engaged in set design, publication design, book and editorial illustration, painting, sculpture, installation, and performance art. From 1977 to 2004, Ruiz did editorial illustrations for various Manila-based publications, the Singapore Straits Times and InterPressService Asia-Pacific, which served Manila, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, and Singapore.

Ruiz was a significant figure in the ’70s in the early articulations of what would be known later as social realism. His wide gamut of works continues to critique power and its consequences. He has embraced both traditional techniques in painting and digital manipulations. The themes and motifs of his works harness images from everyday life, such as the jeepney (public transport from the Willy’s Jeep) or kariton (wooden improvised cart). He draws from Philippine art, folk and religious devotion, native mythology, media and popular culture, politics and history, computer technologies, and biomorphic patterns. His inventive probe of the techniques of appropriation and pastiche has given rise to innovative forms. The mingling of humor and a sense of play in the appearance of the works and their titles creates a tension between the density of meaning and the latter’s affective, oftentimes lucid qualities.

He has participated in various international projects, among which were the Rencontre Internationale d’Art Performance, Québec, Canada (2014); the Havana Biennial in Cuba (2000); and the Second Asia Pacific Triennial for Contemporary Art in Brisbane, Australia (1996), and the Philippine Pavilion for the Venice Biennale.

THE EXHIBITIONS

2022
KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS HALL,
ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH CHURCH
Poblacion, Baliwag City, Bulacan

SM CITY BALIWAG
Pagala, Baliwag City, Bulacan

2023
WALTERMART BALIWAG
Sabang, Baliwag City, Bulacan

2024
SM CITY BALIWAG
Pagala, Baliwag City, Bulacan

MUSEO NG BALIWAG
Poblacion, Baliwag City, Bulacan

WALTERMART BALIWAG
Sabang, Baliwag City, Bulacan

ICO AND LETY CRUZ ART COMPETITION
ON-THE-SPOT CATEGORY
PARTICIPANTS
PAINTING CATEGORY
"Reflections on Bulacan's Artistry"

2022

Knight Of Columbus Hall, St. Augustine Parish Church

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ST. AUGUSTINE
COUNCIL 4317
CHARITY UNITY FRATERNITY PATRIOTISM
© 2022 CHINGGOY F

2022

SM City Baliwag, Pagala, Baliwag City, Bulacan

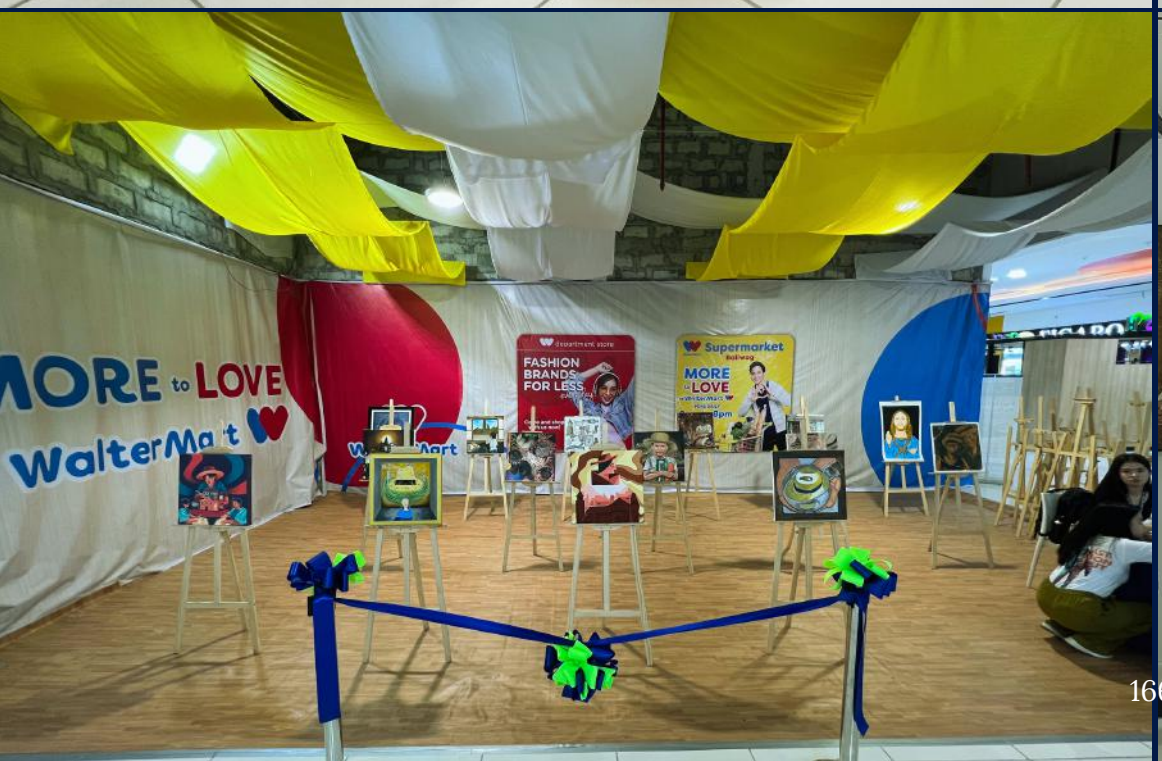
MORE FUN

7th Leonid Lety Cruz Art Competition
PARTICIPANTS
JEFFERD T. QUESDAN
MARK BRYAN J. HIPOLITO
GEOF ROBIN RUBI DIEZMA
LEO C ROBLES
RYAN FRANCISCO CASLIB
ALLIANA JOYCE G. QUIZON
MARK JEROME MARTINEZ
RENE D. SALAMAT
DAYRIL MANLAPAZ
LEI ANGELLI E. ORTEGA
CHARMAINE H. GACULA
FELIPE C. STA CRUZ JR.
REINALYN DULALIA
ABIGAIL S. BENEDICTOS
JHOANNA MAE P. VIÑA
FROILAN V. SILVA
AIVERLAN VERANCES GONZAGA
NARCISO C. SANTIAGO
KYLA KATE P. NOBLE
MARY GRACE A. SANTOS
SHERWIN DELA CRUZ GACULA
FREDERICO M. PALINES
JOHN PHILIP RIVAS FABRO
ANGELINA JANET B. SIMEON
SHAIREEZ JOY T.
FAYE SAAVEDRA
REYNALDO G. SALAMAT
MIGUEL EMMANUEL D. BOÑOR
RALEJEROME DELLERA
JULIUS RODEL PARNASO
LESTER CRUZ
ANGELINE LIPANA SIGUA
RUZON ROGELIO TOMAS
GEOFREY ALLAN RUBI DIEZMA
LAWRENCE JAY D. CERVANTES
ANA NELIZA B. DEL MUNDO-ANGELES
MANOLITO C. VINTA JR.
MYLES H. CRUZ
GILBERT R. ENRIQUEZ
DAJO VILLAFUERTE
MARVIN C. CRUZ
ERICKSON JIMENEZ
EMMANUEL V. ROBLES
JUSTINE NICOLE V. GONZALES
LAWRENCE PEREZ
ALEXANDER ROXAS
JOMARIE M. GULTIANO
MARRIELLE P. CORTEZ
JULIE ANN SUZAINE S. SORIANO
ELMER PONCE PACIO
PAMELA LORENZO
MARK O. MIRABUENOS
ABRAHAM F. RODRIGUEZ
HAROLD DC. ROBLES
ENRIQUE RIXMAN MANDILAG
HENRY HAO ORDOÑA
JEIMEE CADID
ALVIN JOHN R. SALES
NEMESIS B MANAHAN
MARK JAMES S. BARBECHO
EDUARDO P. DIME
MARK JOSEPH G. TUANTE
ARGEE T. DACUYAN
JOHN VERLYN C. SANTOS
MELCHOR D. BERNALDO
RYANN M. BRAULIO
SAMUEL BULAGA
JESSIE SAJOL
KYLE JERICHO BISCAYNO
JEROME B. SALAZAR
MARIA LUISA (MARISSA) GARCIA
JAY ASTO
MARK CHRISTOPHER QUIZON
ANGELA GRACE CARMEN
LAURO SANTOS
NILO BADAJOS
ANJANET CASTRO
JACK DE CASTRO
FAITH C. MANALO
NATHANIEL S. LOPEZ
PAOLO ANGELO M. MODELO
GAMALIEL RENER OCZON
MARIA LOURDES F. INOSANTO
ISRAEL VICTORIA
CARLO M. CAACBAY
ARVIE L. TIONGSON
MARLOUN O. MAGO
CHRISTOPHER A. SANTIAGO
LEYLA CLAUDEL F. MANACO
RENANTE ALEJO

BULALO World

2023

WalterMart Baliwag, Sabang,
Baliwag City, Bulacan



MORE to LOVE
FASHION
BRANDS
FOR LESS

BALIWAG

2024

SM City Baliwag, Pagala,
Baliwag City, Bulacan

Brewing
Happiness

2024

Museo ng Baliwag, Poblacion,
Baliwag City, Bulacan

2024

WalterMart Baliwag, Sabang,
Baliwag City, Bulacan

PROGRAMS OF THE MUSEO NG BALIWAG FOR VISUAL ARTS

The Museo ng Baliwag is an educational and cultural institution dedicated to promoting and preserving Baliwag's history, arts, culture, and heritage. Established in 2017, it is housed at the Old Municipal Hall (Lumang Munisipyo), a declared Important Cultural Property. It currently serves as the primary cultural facility of the Baliwag City Arts, Culture, and Tourism Office. It provides various programs such as exhibitions, research, art competitions, educational activities, publications, and other services to uphold enthusiasm for learning the city's local history, promote Baliwag artistry and traditions, and preserve Baliwag's cultural heritage.

PintaKaSi

Pintahan sa Kalye para sa Sining Baliwagenyo

" *Pintakasi 2018*"

PintaKaSi or Pintahan sa Kalye para sa Sining Baliwagenyo aims to raise awareness of public art and promote the town's history and culture through this art form. It also intends to organize a community of artists who cultivate creativity and share their talent and knowledge with fellow Baliwagenyos.

The abbreviation PintaKaSi is inspired by the word "pintakasi" which has three different meanings in the Filipino language. It can be a devotion to a saint, celebratory cockfighting, or mutual assistance. The program emanates the characteristics of these definitions: devotion, celebration, and bayanihan, the vernacular term for assistance. The program, hence, is a celebration of the arts and culture of the town by devoting art-making/production to the mainstream consciousness of the Baliwagenyos and, at the same time, strengthening the practice of cooperation of the local community.

The program was officially launched on April 27, 2018. Three murals portraying the life and works of Baliwagenyos, who excelled in literature, were unveiled. Aptly titled “Natatanging Baliwagenyo, Ambag sa Panitikan,” the murals featured Pedro Dandan, Teofilo Sauco, and Levi Celerio. During the pandemic, a tribute mural for the frontliners was created in September 2021. In 2022, another set of murals for the PintaKaSi program was created with the theme “Natatanging Baliwagenyo, Ambag sa Kasaysayan,” which featured heroes who hailed from Baliwag and had significant contributions to the revolution and in attaining independence for our country. They are Mariano Ponce, Dr. Joaquin Gonzalez, Felipe Salvador, and Lt. Cecilio Abraham. The collaborative mural of artists from the Ico and Lety Cruz Artist Residency was the latest addition to the PintaKaSi public mural in 2024.

“ *Pintakasi 2022*”

*“ *Pintakasi 2021*”

There is so much artistic potential at a young age. Children's imaginations are boundless; these can be transferred to creative works when they are properly guided and honed. They often see art-making as a fun and engaging activity, seamlessly blending learning with play. This is the essence of Laro at Likha—teaching children the basics of art in an enjoyable and accessible way. After several days of learning the basics of various art-making techniques, an exhibition is the culminating activity to showcase their output from the workshops.

Laro at Likha, formerly called the Summer Saya Program, is an annual program that fosters and enhances the talents and skills of young Baliwagenyos in visual arts, music, and performing arts, among others. The City Arts, Culture, and Tourism Office, through the Museo ng Baliwag, implements this program as it regularly provides free art workshops for Baliwagenyos during their school break. Local artists are facilitators for the art workshops, usually in partnership with the local art group Guhit Pinas Bulacan – Baliwag.

Summer Saya sa Baliwag: Calligraphy Workshop (2018)

Summer Saya sa Baliwag: Draw, Write, Doodle (2019)

Summer Saya sa Baliwag: Drawing and Painting Workshop (2022)

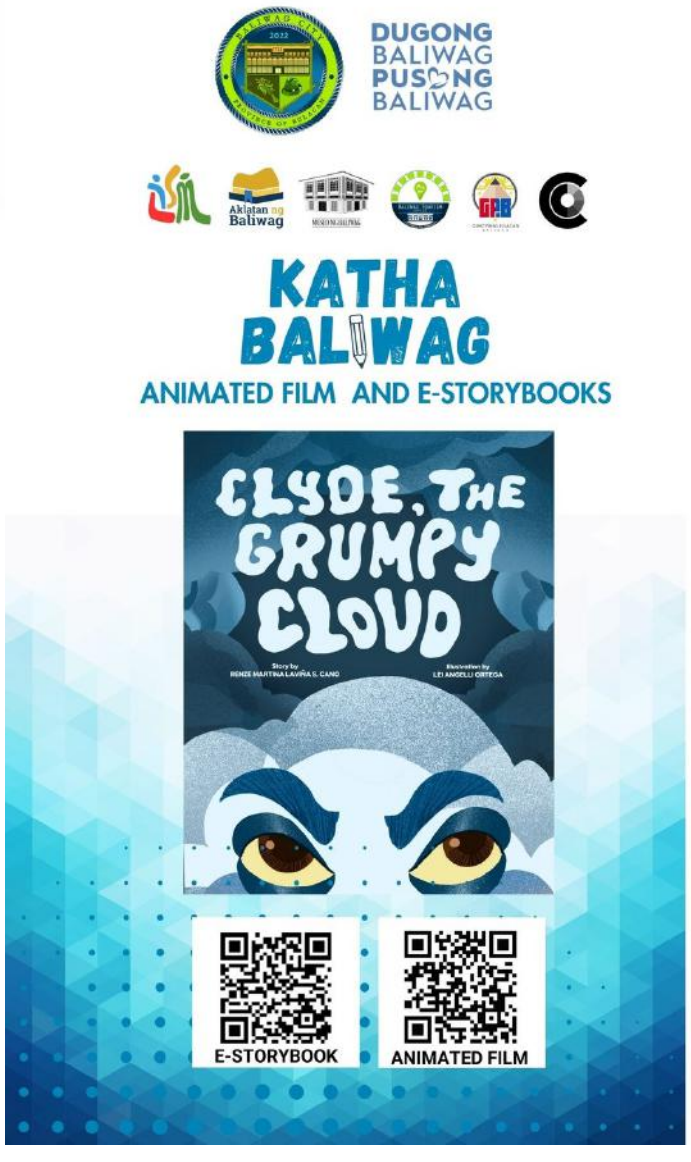
Laro at Likha: Drawing, Painting, and Photography Workshop (2023)

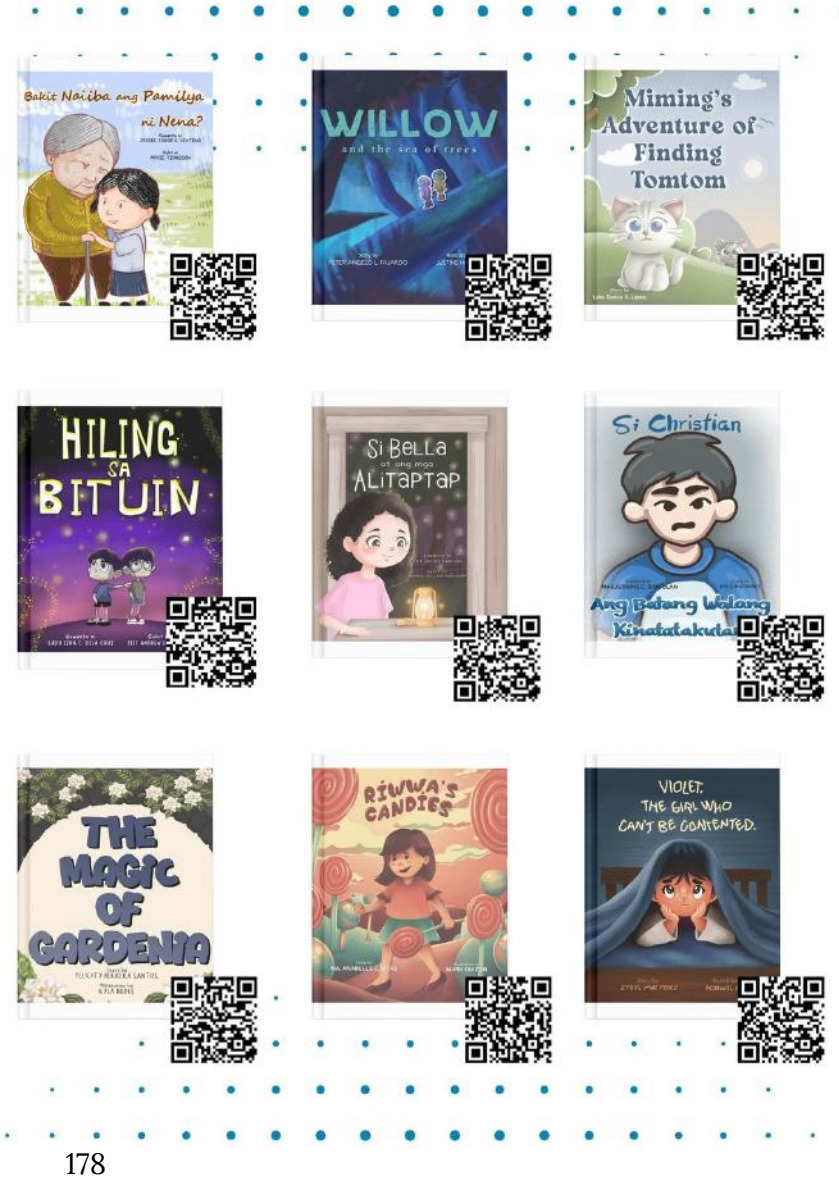
Laro at Likha: Painting, Printmaking, and Claymation Workshop (2024)

KATHA BALIWAG
STORYBOOKS

Katha Baliwag Storybooks is a collaborative project by the Museo ng Baliwag and the Baliwag City Library that celebrates the creativity of young writers and local artists. This initiative transformed ten exceptional short stories for children written by children/students into illustrated storybooks from the Katha Baliwag Short Story for Kids Competition. The illustrations were drawn by talented local artists, many of whom explored storybook illustration for the first time, showcasing their artistry through a new medium.

Available online for download and distributed to schools in Baliwag, the storybooks aim to inspire young minds while featuring the artistic talents of Baliwag. This project nurtures a love for storytelling and broadens local artists' reach and creative potential.





COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND

The Museo ng Baliwag, in partnership with the Nutrition Office, has transformed public elementary schools in Baliwag with vibrant interactive floor murals done by talented local artists from the community. These unique artworks serve as playgrounds that blend education, culture, and health.

The murals feature elements that teach children about Baliwag's rich history and cultural heritage as well as promoting proper nutrition to help combat malnutrition. The project supports healthy habits and fosters a love for learning by providing a space encouraging movement and play. This initiative highlights the creativity of Baliwag's local artists and their role in enriching the lives of young learners through art and innovation.

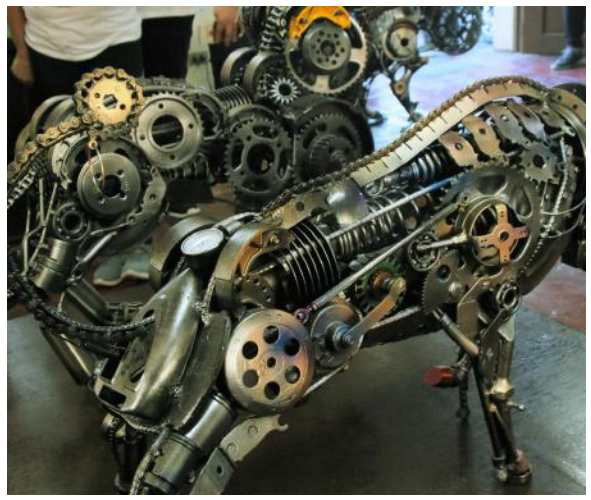
Selected Art Exhibitions

The Museo ng Baliwag has been a cultural space for presenting Baliwag's diverse artistic heritage, curating exhibitions across various fields and art forms. Among these, select exhibitions have been dedicated to visual arts, highlighting the creativity of local painters, sculptors, muralists, and illustrators while presenting the community's history and cultural heritage.

BRIDGES: MARIANO PONCE AND JORGE VARGAS (2018)
The exhibition examined the role of Mariano Ponce and Jorge Vargas as political figures and diplomats in building a nation while the country seeks its independence. This is amidst the opposing powers of the two imperialist nations, Japan and America, when the Philippines was vulnerable and in an unstable condition wherein its newly-established government was at stake. The exhibition comprises artworks from the University of the Philippines Vargas Museum Collection and a commissioned mural by Bulacan artists Maesi Dela Peña and Lawrence Victorino. The exhibition is primarily targeted at the young audience. Hence, most of its components are interactive and tactile. One of the interactive sections is where visitors were invited to reflect and express their thoughts on heroism, the relevance of history, and national identity through drawing.

TANAW (2019)

Tanaw is a two-part exhibition that explores the lives and works of visual artists who hailed from Baliwag. *Tanaw*: *Mga Maestro ng Nakaraan* featured sculptor Roman Carreon and painters Jose Castro and Reynato Villanueva as precedents of the current art-making in the town and how they could have laid out opportunities for the next generation. On the other hand, contemporary art practices were presented in *Tanaw*: *Bagong Henerasyon ng Talento*. This section showcased contemporary visual artists from Baliwag who excel in the field. They are Marvin Quizon, Adeodatus Sta. Juana, and Mark Villanueva. *Tanaw* highlighted the achievements of the two generations of artists as a form of harvest while also encouraging looking back to their roots, which is their hometown, Baliwag.



MAKINA (2020)

The Museo ng Baliwag presented *Makina*, an exhibition showcasing the works of Enrique "Rixman" Mandilag, a talented local artist from Baliwag. Known for his inventive approach, Mandilag transforms scrap metals and repurposed materials into sculptures featuring mythical beings, animals, and robotic-inspired characters and objects. As one of the museum's few exhibitions dedicated to sculpture, *Makina* celebrated Mandilag's exceptional artistry and ability to breathe new life into discarded materials. The exhibit stood as a testament to the boundless possibilities of creativity and the fusion of art and ingenuity.

SINING AT PANANAMPALATAYA (2024)
REIMAGINING BALIWAG CHURCH'S PAINTINGS AND MURALS
Edgar Allan Sembrano

Visual artist Rafael "Guy" Custodio, who is also a restorer of church paintings, is holding a special exhibition on the 19th-century Church of San Agustin in Baliwag, Bulacan.

The exhibit, "Sining at Pananampalataya: The Art of the Church of San Agustin, Baliwag, Bulacan," features Custodio's reimagined lost ceiling paintings and murals of the historic religious edifice. It aims to ignite interest among locals and visitors of the artistic heritage of the church, painted perhaps in the last quarter of the 19th century.

The renderings, based on the intricate paintings inside the San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila, are not exactly what the Baliwag Church interiors looked like more than a hundred years ago, but a creative visualization aimed to enhance appreciation, pride and identity.

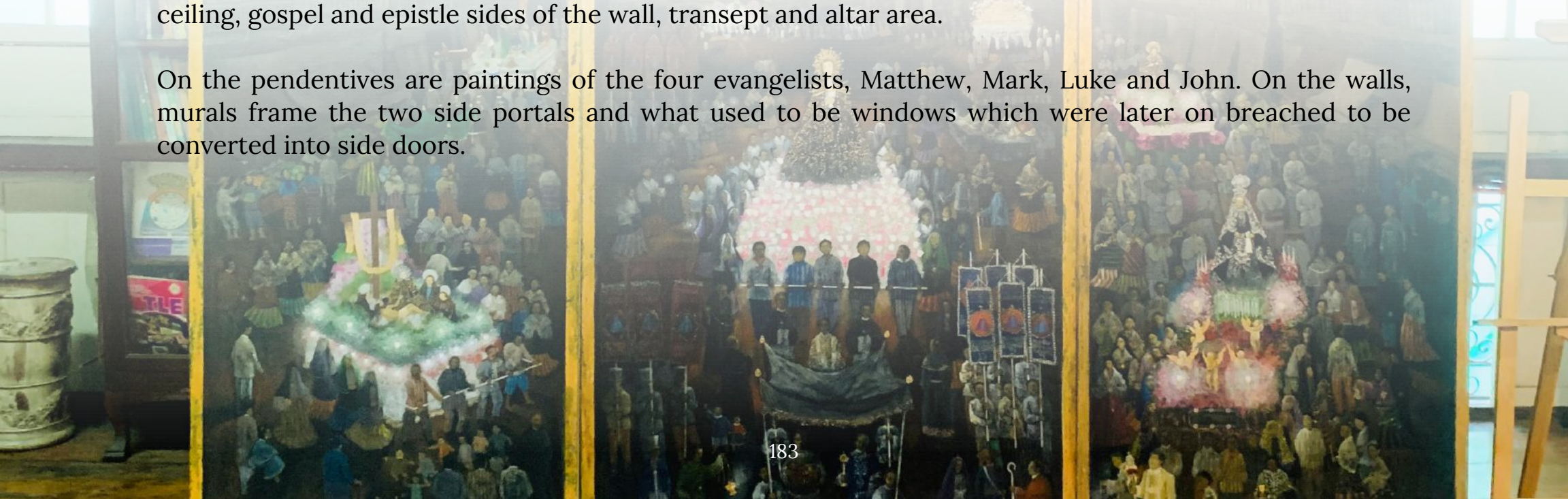
The exhibit also aims to rekindle connections to the past, leading to a more robust sense of heritage and eventually, protection and conservation. It likewise "highlights the grandeur of sacred art techniques brought to life by Italian scenographers Cesare Alberoni and Giovanni Dibella in the late 1800s."

Quadratura
Alberoni and Dibella were pioneers in the quadratura technique (trompe-l'oeil) they applied on Philippine church paintings, notably the aforementioned San Agustin Church in Manila.

Quadratura is "a style that skillfully creates illusions of architectural space, transporting the faithful to imagined heavenly realms."

Based on few archival photographs at the turn of the 20th century, the interiors of the Baliwag church were decorated with paintings of what seems to be floral and geometric designs. These are found on the ceiling, gospel and epistle sides of the wall, transept and altar area.

On the pendentives are paintings of the four evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. On the walls, murals frame the two side portals and what used to be windows which were later on breached to be converted into side doors.



More Proper

While the murals are visible in the photographs and easy to visualize, the ceiling paintings are much of a challenge.

Since very few portions of it are visible in archival images, a best possible reference is the church's baptistery located at the ground level of the belfry which was most likely painted as well. Unfortunately, it has long been closed off and is not inaccessible from the belfry stairs.

Exploring it through the use of various technologies or perhaps opening it could possibly reveal the theme of the church paintings.

Custodio explained that the goal of the exhibit, hopefully, is to replace the ceiling which he said is already weak and decorate it with more proper or appropriate paintings.

It was Sonia Estrella, he said, who gave him the idea of the church through a personal tour of the city's landmarks. It was also Estrella who suggested to him the possible replacement of the ceiling and its paintings, which would be more apt for the overall layout of the church.

Notable Project

Baliwag's church art is a testament to the artistry of its people that dates back to the 18th century and produced artists such as the American-era sculptor Roman Carreon and the contemporary painter Tats Villanueva.

A noble project, "Sining at Pananampalataya" opened on 13 November and is on view at the Museo ng Baliwag until 29 November. Free and open to the public, the exhibit is in partnership with the Diocesan Shrine and Parish of San Agustin, local government of Baliwag led by mayor Ferdinand Estrella, Museo ng Baliwag, and partner individuals from the city.

*This article first appeared in the Life section of Daily Tribune on November 19, 2024.

MGA NILALAMAN AT PUWANG
(Contents and Gaps)

It can be considered that the gathering of artifacts reflecting the past of Baliwag for a cultural institution began when the Baliwag Municipal Library was established in 1971. The Library served as the shelter of the cultural materials for a long time and eventually embraced the institution's identity as a museum; thus, it has become known as Baliuag Library and Museum. Recently, in 2017, the Library and Museum formally became separate offices that paved the way for the establishment of the Museo ng Baliwag.

This exhibition is a preview of a small collection gathered over time. Most of these are collected through donations, lending, research, or reproduction of earlier publications. These are the content of the space intended to promote and preserve the history and culture of Baliwag. However, it cannot be denied that there is still a shortfall of them, gaps that need to be filled to narrate a more comprehensive tale of history and to present the artistic heritage and vibrant tradition of Baliwag. The exhibition also analyzes further what to collect, where the Museum is heading, why heritage should be preserved, and how to extend public education. This is a specimen for a wider context.

Objects by themselves sometimes are void of meaning. But when it comes to being part of a group, in this case, that of a collection, the significance multiplies.

LIST OF PHOTOS

Page iii
Photo of Mga Awit 32:8 Painting; from Jocelle Abratique

Page 1
Portrait of Mr. and Mrs. Cruz: from Cruz Family

Page 2
Levy Celerio; from CCP Collections
Antonino Buenaventura; from Baliwag Then and Now
Antonino Buenaventura; from UP Diliman Archives

Page 3
Habing Baliwag; from Jaime

Page 4
Buntal Weaving; from Batang Baliwag
Buntal Fiber; from Batang Baliwag
Buntal Hat; from Batang Baliwag

Page 5
Balibuntal; from Philippine Information Agency

Page 6
Baliuag Comoda; from Salcedo Auctions
Bone Inlay Master Gerardo Cruz; from Batang Baliwag

Page 7
Baliwag Church Interior in 1901; from Leslie's Weekly
Rizal Monument in front of Church; fromJohn Tewell

Page 8
Baliwag Convent Frieze; from EA Sembrano
Augustinian Emblem; from EA Sembrano
San Juan Painting; from EA Sembrano
Convent; from EA Sembrano

Page 9
Baliwag Church Facade; from EA Sembrano
St. Augustin Altar; from Google Photos
Stained glass below the choirloft; from EA Sembrano

Page 10
Sacrarium; from EA Sembrano
Sabang Bisita Interior; from EA Sembrano

Page 11
BinondoPK; from Pinoy Kollektor Website
Baliwag Cigarette Wrapper; from Bahay Tsinoy

Page 12
Lumang Munisipyo; from epicreitraveler.ph

Page 13
Belapco House; from Archie Marquez
Rustia Mansion; from EA Sembrano
Lajom Tsalet; from EA Sembrano
Martin House; from EA Sembrano

Page 14
Roman Careon; from Baliwag Then and Now
Rizal Monument Archival Image; from John Tewell

Page 15
Rizal Monument Today; from EA Sembrano
Guard Dog at Rustia Mansion; from EA Sembrano
Sphynx at the Rizal Monument; from EA Sembrano
Bonifacio Monument; from EA Sembrano
Palisoc House Statue; from Jocelle Abratique

Page 16
Dela Merced-Sto Thomas - Mariano Plot; from EA Sembrano
Valencia-Rivera Plot; from Jocelle Abratique
Ponce Deco Revival Mausoleum ; from EA Sembrano
Velasquez Mausoleum; from EA Sembrano
Gumabon Family Plot; from EA Sembrano
Gumabon Plot Detail; from EA Sembrano

Page 17
Pedro Careon; from Batang Baliwag
Mariano Ponce Monument on Baliwag City Hall; from Boyet Aguila Luna
Jose D. Castro; from Baliwag Then and Now
Baliwag City Hall Painting by Jose D. Castro; from Archie Marquez
Joaquin Santos; from Baliwag Then and Now

Page 18
Reynato Villanueva; from Mark Villanueva FB
St. Augustine Dome; from Fritz Rinaldi De Asis Bernardo, MD

Page 19
Marvin Quizon; from Marvin Quizon FB
Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition Exhibit at Knight of Columbus; from Jocelle Abratique
1st Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition Proper; from Jocelle Abratique

Page 19
Flyover Mural; from Batang Baliwag
Flyover Mural 2; from Jocelle Abratique
Flyover Mural 3; from Jocelle Abratique

Page 20
Covid-19 Mural in Sta Barbara; from EA Sembrano

Pages 23 - 24
Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition 2022; from Jocelle Abratique

Pages 45 - 46
Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition 2022; from Jocelle Abratique

Pages 49 - 50
Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition 2023; from Archie Marquez

Pages 67 and 75
Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition 2023; from Jocelle Abratique

Pages 78 - 80 and 95
Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition 2024; from Kris Anthony Olmedo

Pages 97
Ico and Lety Art Competition 2024; from Kris Anthony Olmedo

Pages 107
Ico and Lety Art Competition 2024 (SE); from Mark Justine De Ocampo

Pages 123
Ico and Lety Art Competition 2024 (SE); from Mark Justine De Ocampo, Bernadette Labao, and Jocelle Abratique

Pages 124
Ico and Lety Art Competition 2024 Trophies; from Kris Anthony Olmedo

Page 133
Ico and Lety Art Competition 2022; from Chinggoy Futol Photography

Pages 137, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, and 148
Artists Photos; from Deniel Gonzales

Pages 150
Art Restoration; from Jocelle Abratique
BTI Mural; from Mark Quizon
Brush; from Jocelle Abratique
Printmaking; from Archie MArquez

Page 151
Workshop 1 Photos; from Jocelle Abratique and Jesusa Garcia Villanueva

Page 152
Workshop 2 Photos; from Jocelle Abratique

Page 153
Workshop 3 Photos; from Archie Marquez

Page 154
BTI Mural Photos; from Beeboy FB
Mural Creation; from Ryan Francisco Caslib

Page 155
Workshop 5 Photos; from Jocelle Abratique and Jesusa Garcia Villanueva

Page 156
The Open Studio Photos; from Jesusa Garcia Villanueva

Page 157
The Artists; from Deniel Gonzales

Pages 161 - 162
2022 Knight of Columbus Exhibition Photos; from Jocelle Abratique and Chingoy Futol Photography

Pages 163-164
2022 SM Exhibition Photos; from Jocelle Abratique

Pages 165 - 166
2023 WalterMart Exhibition Photos; from Archie Marquez, Boyet Aguila Luna, and Jesusa Garcia Villanueva

Pages 167 - 168
2024 SM Exhibition Photos; from Kris Anthony Olmedo

Pages 169 - 170
2024 Museo ng Baliwag Exhibition Photos; from Archie Marquez and Jocelle Abratique

Page 171
2024 WalterMart Exhibition; from Jesusa Garcia Villanueva

Page 172
Lumang Munisipyo; from Museo ng Baliwag Collection

Page 173
Levy Celerio Mural; from Froilan Silva
Teofilo Sauco Mural; from Museo ng Baliwag Collection
Pedro Dandan; from Museo ng Baliwag Collection

Page 174
Flyover Mural; from Jocelle Abratique
Felipe Salvador Mural; from Jocelle Abratique
Mariano Ponce Mural; from Jocelle Abratique
Mural in CENRO; from Archie Marquez

Page 175
Calligraphy Workshop; from Jesusa Garcia Villanueva
Summer Saya Sa Baliwag 2018; from Museo ng Baliwag Collection

Page 176
Summer Saya Sa Baliwag 2019; from Museo ng Baliwag Collection
Summer Saya sa Baliwag 2022; from Archie Marquez
Laro at Likha 2023; from Archie Marquez
Laro at Likha 2024; from James Gutierrez

Page 178
Community Playground Photos; from Archie Marquez

Page 179
Bridges Photos; from UP Vargas Museum FB

Page 180
Tanaw Exhibition Photos; from Jesusa Garcia Villanueva

Page 181
Makina Exhibition Photos; from Boyet Aguila Luna

Pages 182 -183
Sining at Pananampalataya; from Jocelle Abratique and Boyet Aguila Luna

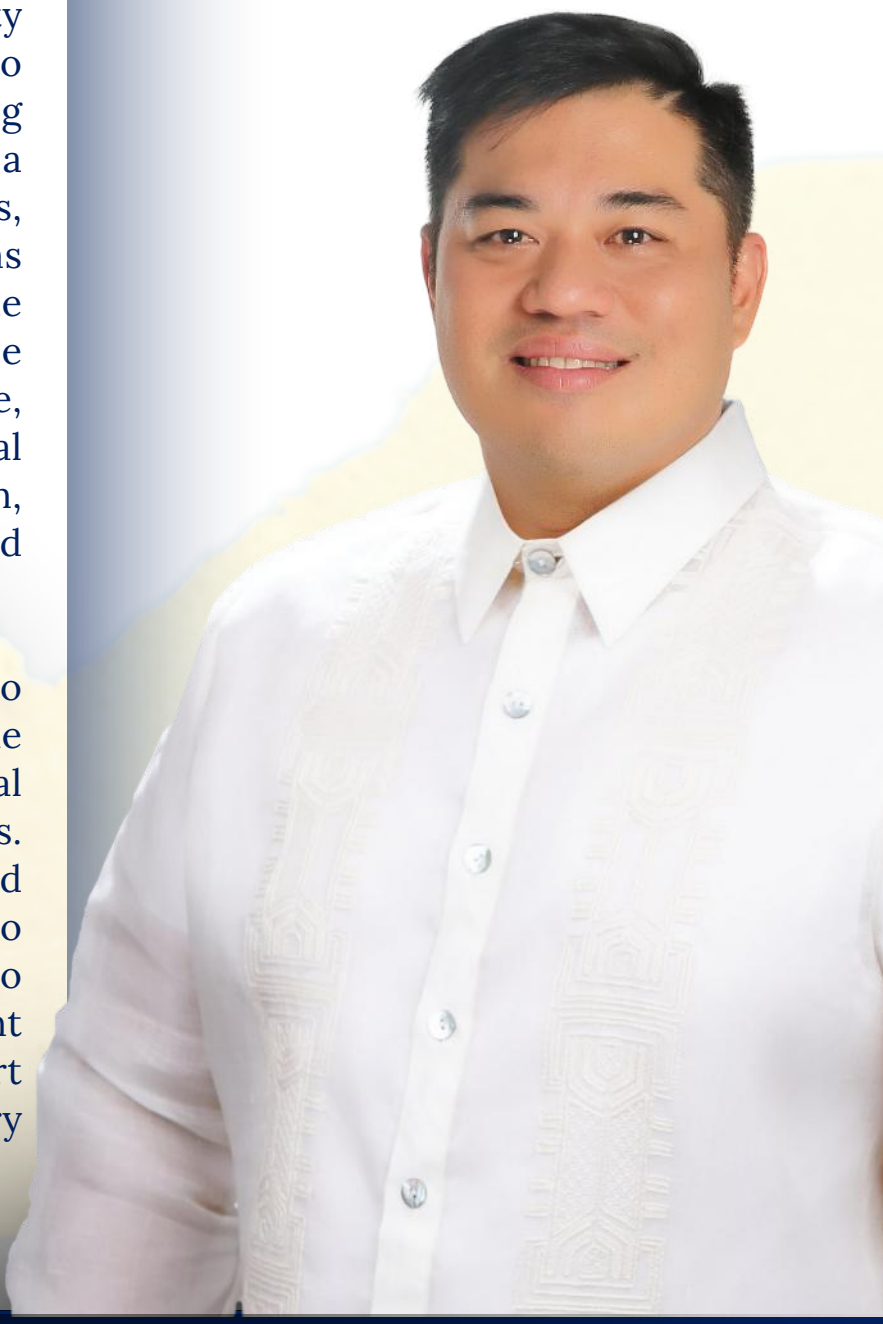
Page 184
Mga Nilalaman at Puwang Photos; from Archie Marquez

THE PUBLICATION TEAM

CITY GOVERNMENT OF BALIWAG

The local government of Baliwag, under the leadership of City Mayor Ferdinand V. Estrella since 2016, has been dedicated to preserving the city's artistic and cultural heritage. In 2017, during his first term, Mayor Estrella established the Museo ng Baliwag, a space dedicated to celebrating Baliwag's rich history, traditions, and creative talents. Since then, various interconnected programs and projects have been implemented to ensure sustainable practices. In 2024, to further streamline and strengthen all the initiatives dedicated to preserving Baliwag's cultural heritage, promoting its rich history and tradition, supporting the local artists in their creative endeavors, and developing local tourism, the Baliwag City Arts, Culture, and Tourism Office was established through the Sangguniang Panglungsod Ordinance.

For the last quarter of 2024, the local government ventured into publication to supplement its cultural education programs. The first project was ten e-storybooks for children, illustrated by local artists and featuring literary works by young Baliwagenyo writers. This Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition book marks the second major publication and reflects the city's ongoing commitment to enriching its cultural landscape. With plans to publish at least two books annually in the coming years, the local government continues to develop valuable resource materials that support cultural education and deepen appreciation for Baliwag's history and cultural heritage.



WRITER

EDGAR ALLAN M. SEMBRANO

Mr. Sembrano is the Area Editor for Architecture of the Cultural Center of the Philippines Encyclopedia of Philippine Art - Digital. He wrote the introductory essay “The Arts and Artists of Bulacan” for the book “Dakilang Bulakenyo: The Art and Artists of Bulacan.” As a regular writer for the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Daily Tribune, he has written numerous articles on Philippine arts, culture, and heritage. He is currently the President of the Manila Studies Association and a Board Member of the Philippine National Historical Society. He is also a member of the Baliwag Arts and Culture Council.

EDITOR AND WRITER

JESUSA GARCIA VILLANUEVA

Ms. Garcia Villanueva has been the curator of the Museo ng Baliwag since 2017 and currently serves as the Acting Head of the newly established Baliwag City Arts, Culture, and Tourism Office. She is also the Vice President of the Baliwag Arts and Culture Council. She has written several essays,"King Wa: Ang Naglahong Kaharian ng Quingua," published in Sineliksik Bulacan book, as well as "Transmutations" and "Mirroring the Self," featured in the exhibition catalogs of artists Fil Dela Cruz and Edgar Fernandez, respectively. She also co-authored the Vargas Museum Education Guide. In addition to her writing, she has served as an editor for various publications, including the souvenir program of the 2023 SAMPAKA Conference and the upcoming Pamana Museo Pass.

LAYOUT ARTIST

JOCELLE DELA CRUZ ABRATIQUE

Ms. Dela Cruz Abratique is a Digital Creative and Social Media Specialist at the Baliwag City Arts, Culture, and Tourism Office under the City Government of Baliwag. With seven years of experience as a creative layout artist and video editor, she has honed her visual storytelling and design expertise. She played a key role as the final book layout artist for the Katha Baliwag storybooks. She holds a Bachelor of Industrial Technology, Major in Computer Technology from Bulacan State University.

PROJECT MANAGER / OVERALL COORDINATOR

ARCHIE MARQUEZ

Mr. Marquez is the Social Media Specialist at the Baliwag City Arts, Culture, and Tourism Office under the City Government of Baliwag. As a Museum Assistant, he manages exhibition design and installation. He also serves as the overall coordinator for arts and culture programs, including the Ico and Lety Cruz Art Competition and Artist Residency. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology from Bulacan State University.

Acknowledgements

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Cruz Family
Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA)
JCI Baliwag Buntal
Alvin Lee Asuro
Baliwag Transit Inc.
Eduardo Sta Juana
Hacienda Galea Resort and Events Place
Deniel Gonzales
WalterMart Baliwag
SM City Baliwag
Orix Metro
Knight of Columbus
Diocesan Shrine and Parish of Saint Augustine
BAGA Burger

BALIWAG CITY ARTS, CULTURE AND TOURISM OFFICE
Jesusa Garcia Villanueva
Acting Head

Edwin Bautista
Tourism Officer

Staff
Angelita Bautista
Jocelle dela Cruz Abratique
Kenneth Velasquez
Archie Marquez
Jose Dela Torre Jr.
Alfredo Santos Jr.
Jennalyn Moises

BALIWAG CITY LIBRARY
Doreen Macalinao Lumabas
Baliwag City Librarian

Staff
Senando Nazar

SOURCES OF PHOTOS

Bahay Tsinoy
Baliwag Then and Now
Batang Baliwag
Beeboy FB
Bernadette Labao
Boyet Aguila Luna
CCP Collections
Chinggoy Futol Photography
Cruz Family
Deniel Gonzales
Edgar Allan Sembrano
Epicreitraveler.ph
Fritz Rinaldi De Asis Bernardo, MD
Froilan Silva
Jaime
James Gutierrez
Jesusa Garcia Villanueva
Jocelle Dela Cruz Abratique
John Tewell
Kris Anthony Olmedo
Leslie's Weekly
Mark Justine De Ocampo
Mark Quizon
Mark Villanueva
Marvin Quizon
Museo ng Baliwag Collection
Philippine Information Agency
Pinoy Kollektor
Ryan Francisco Caslib
Salcedo Auctions
University of the Philippines Diliman Archives
University of the Philippines Vargas Museum

IGO AND LETY CRUZ ART COMPETITION
IGO AND LETY CRUZ ART COMPETITION