

PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed till 10 November 2009

***Thrice Upon A Time: A Century of Story in the Art of the Philippines*
14 November 2009 to 31 January 2010**

***In the Eye of Modernity: Philippine Neo-Realist Masterworks
from the Ateneo Art Gallery*
14 November 2009 to 14 March 2010**



Jose Tence Ruiz, *Paraisado Sorbetero (Orange)*, 2004, Mixed Media Installation, Singapore Art Museum Collection

The Singapore Art Museum proudly presents *Thrice Upon A Time: A Century of Story in the Art of the Philippines* and *In the Eye of Modernity: Philippine Neo-Realist Masterworks from the Ateneo Art Gallery*. The exhibitions are held in conjunction with the National Heritage Board's Philippines Fiesta.

The exhibition will be opened by Her Excellency, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on Friday, 13 November, 7pm, at the Glass Hall, Singapore Art Museum. Media preview led by Curator for *Thrice Upon A Time*, Ms. Joyce Toh, Director, Mr. Tan Boon Hui, and Consul General from the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines Mr. Neal Imperial will be held on Tuesday, 10 November, 11:00 am at the Glass Hall, Singapore Art Museum.

Thrice Upon A Time invites viewers on a journey filled with the stories and art of the Philippines, an adventure spanning over a hundred years. The Philippines has a rich tradition of storytelling, with stories from her pre-colonial past to present-day tales, and this exhibition presents the epic story of the country and her people through visual art. The role of the artist-as-storyteller is highlighted within this exhibition and ideas about representation, authenticity, identity and history of the nation and its people are explored. Playing with the classic line that begins those familiar stories, “Once upon a time”, the show suggests that the best stories are told over and over again. The exhibition presents works from the Philippine grand masters to some of her most exciting contemporary artists, including Fernando Amorsolo, Carlos ‘Botong’ Francisco, Ben Cabrera, Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Charlie Co and Geraldine Javier. Audiences will also have the exceptional opportunity to see two of Philippines’ most iconic and legendary masterworks, from Juan Luna and Félix Resurrección Hidalgo, and a rarely seen painting of the Philippines’ national hero, Jose Rizal. There are eight sections in *Thrice Upon A Time*: Epic of a Nation, Magic Realities, Chronicles of Faith, Myths, Legends and Folktales, Larger-than-Life, Filipina: Romancing the Heroine, The Tale Untold and A Poem Painted.

In the Eye of Modernity presents the Neo-Realist Masterworks from the renowned Ateneo Art Gallery in Philippines. The landmark exhibition revolves around what many art historians consider to be one of the most important junctures in the development of modern visual art in the Philippines, the so-called Philippine Art Gallery years from 1950 to 1964. It presents major works from post-war modernists such as Arturo Luz, Vicente Manasala, Jose Joya, HR Ocampo and Cesar Legaspi. The exhibition is co-organised by the Embassy of the Philippines in Singapore, the Ateneo de Manila University on its 150th Anniversary, and the Singapore Art Museum.

Says Director, Singapore Art Museum, Mr. Tan Boon Hui, “Both shows, *Thrice Upon A Time* and *In the Eye of Modernity* presents the best of Philippine Art in the last 100 years. *Thrice Upon a Time* itself takes a contemporary look at the very old notions of stories and storytelling in the Philippines, and highlights the role of the artist as the storyteller. *In the Eye of Modernity* gives local audiences a sense of this period in Philippine art that broke with the past and set the tone for the future. Emphasis is given to the Neo-Realists school of thought.”

Annex A **Key images from the exhibition**

Carlos V. Francisco

First Mass in the Philippines, 1965
Oil on canvas
145 x 301 cm
National Museum of the Philippines
Collection



Félix Resurrección Hidalgo

Las Virgenes Cristianas Expuestas Al Populacho, (*The Christian Virgins Being Exposed to the Populace*), 1884
Oil on canvas
115 x 157 cm
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Collection



Juan Luna

España Y Filipinas, 1886
Oil on canvas
249 x 80 cm
Lopez Museum Collection



Fernando Cueto Amorsolo
Rizal Avenue in Ruins, 1945,
Oil on masonite
68 x 107 cm
Paulino & Hetty Que collection



Pablo Baens Santos
Manipesto, 1985
Oil on canvas
159 x 256 cm
Singapore Art Museum collection



Rodel Tapaya
Pedro & the Witch, 2009
Mixed media
60 x 38 x 26 cm
Singapore Art Museum collection



Sanggawa Group

Second Coming, 1994

Oil on canvas

207 x 619 cm

Singapore Art Museum collection



Roberto Feleo

Tao-Tao: Bukidnon Myth of Creation,
1997

Mixed media (sawdust, powdered egg
shell and white glue)

126 x 65 x 50 cm

Metropolitan Museum of Manila
collection



Geraldine Javier

Self Portrait (Blue Moon), 2008

Oil on Canvas

213 x 152 cm

Quimbo Brothers collection



Jose Tence Ruiz

Paraisado Sorbetero (Orange), 2004

Mixed Media Installation

198 x 122 x 198 cm

Singapore Art Museum collection



Poklong Anading

Anonymity, 2005-2008

Photographic transparency-Lightboxes

155 x 122 cm (each)

Singapore Art Museum collection



Annex B Programmes in conjunction with the exhibition

Programmes in conjunction with *Thrice Upon a Time: A Century of Story in the Art of the Philippines and In the Eye of Modernity: Philippine Neo-Realist Masterworks from the Ateneo Art Gallery*

Jose Rizal: The First Overseas Filipino

This talk cum food-tasting event traces the life and works of Jose Rizal, the Philippine national hero whose death sparked the revolution that gave birth to Philippine Independence in 1898. The talk will be accompanied by the serving of savoury delights and snacks which are exclusive to Rizal's birthplace of Calamba, Laguna as prepared by 7107 Flavours. *Speaker: Ambeth R. Ocampo* is a multi-awarded Filipino historian, academic, journalist, and author best known for his writings about Philippines' national hero José Rizal and for his bi-weekly editorial page column in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, "Looking Back."

Date: Sat, 16 Jan 2010

Time: 3pm – 5pm

Venue: SAM Glass Hall

Fee: Free admission. Registration Required.

Religious Iconography: The Vanishing Art of Statue-Making

With Roman Catholicism as a predominant force in a pious society as the Philippines, religious statues representing biblical characters are very much a part of every Filipino family's expression of faith. Statues can be seen in homes, churches, schools, municipal buildings and even offices. But the art of statue-making is fading with the birth of modern technology. Learn more about this craft in this exclusive talk and workshop.

Date: Sat, 23 Jan 2010

Time: 3pm – 5pm

Venue: SAM Glass Hall

Fee: Free admission. Registration Required.

Barrio Fiesta: A 2-day Street Fiesta

Barrio Fiesta is a 2-day event emulating the colourful and boisterous street festivals in the rustic towns of provincial Philippines. This weekend event will offer visitors a multi-faceted experiential journey into the Philippines' rich and fascinating arts, entertainment and food culture. Locally, these fiestas are held to commemorate religious occasions, a place where the richest of local Filipino-Hispanic traditions thrive.

Key Programmes under the Barrio Fiesta:

Tiangge@SAM

Fleamarkets or a *Tiangge* in the Philippines are sanctuaries for shoppers looking for great deals and best buys. *Tiangge* will showcase a wide range of products from abaca handicrafts, handmade metal works, *Barong Tagalog* (national suit), religious objects, textiles and shirts to home decors souvenir items, snacks and other merchandise that is truly Filipino.

Date: Sat, 30 and Sun, 31 Jan 2010

Time: 1pm – 9pm, 30 Jan

1pm – 5pm, 31 Jan

Venue: SAM Queen and Waterloo Courtyards

Fee: Free admission. Charges to merchandise apply.

Lasang Pinoy or Filipino Food Flavours

Food takes centerstage at *Barrio Fiesta at SAM* as 7107 Flavours, a premier Filipino restaurant located at Marina Square, takes charge of the creative presentation of an almost-comprehensive sampling of dishes, delights and delicacies from the northern to the southern tip of the Philippine Archipelago. Savour the exquisite tastes of the 12 indigenous regions of the Philippines with inimitable favourites such as the Sardines of *Dipolog*, *Bagnet of Ilocos Norte*, *Kablao of Bacolod*, *Tuna of General Santos*, *Lechon of Cebu*, *Laing of Bicol*, *Binakol of Iloilo*, *Satti of Zamboanga*, *Sisig of Pampanga* and much more!

Date: Sat, 30 and Sun, 31 Jan 2010

Time: 1:00 PM – 9:00 PM, 30 Jan

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM, 31 Jan

Venue: SAM Queen and Waterloo Courtyards

Fee: Free admission. Charges to food apply.

Manikako Workshop

Recycled clothes in the Philippines are given a new lease in life as a *Manikako* Doll. Make your very own *Manikako* doll using scraps of used clothes and help send underprivileged children in the Philippines to free art workshops. This project is an initiative by ArtHOC, a non-profit organisation that focuses on art as a powerful source of empowerment, *ManikaManila* and *Mistula*. Make a difference in these children's lives – the fun way.

Date: Sat, 30 and Sun, 31 Jan 2010

Time: 1pm - 6pm

Venue: SAM Auditorium

Fee: \$5.00

Santacruzán Procession

A tradition passed on to the Filipinos by the Spanish Conquistadores, the Santacruzán has evolved over time to become a much-awaited beauty pageant in the month of May in the Philippines. The parade features *sagalas*, or beauty queens, wearing exquisitely designed gowns accompanied by escorts who equally measure up to the task of representing only the best-looking gentlemen in town. The Santacruzán procession, sometimes referred to as Flores De Mayo (as it happens in the month of May when flowers bloom), is traditionally a religious procession on foot which commemorates the finding of the holy cross by Queen Helena and her son Constantine. See a Santacruzán parade in all its splendour at SAM!

The Santacruzán opening ceremony brings you the best of Filipino cultural entertainment with the NUS Rondalla performing Filipino folk music, the Dance Circle rendering Filipino-hispanic traditional dances and the Psalmideo chorale group serenading you with traditional *pinoy* love songs.

Date: 30 Jan 2010

Time: 5pm – 6:30pm

Venue: SAM grounds

Fee: Free admission.

Ati-Atihan Procession

In a unique contrast to the elegantly rendered *Santacruzán*, a loud and energetic item will spearhead the *Santacruzán* procession which is known to the world as the Philippines' wildest fiesta procession, the *Ati-Atihan*. The *Ati-atihan* is a parade celebration in honour of the *Santo Niño* (Baby Jesus) where participants paint their faces with black soot and wear bright outlandish costumes as they dance in revelry.

Date: Sat, 30 Jan 2010

Time: 5pm – 6:30pm

Venue: SAM grounds

Fee: Free admission

Palarong Pambata or Children's Games

Relive the moments of being blindfolded, spun, and cheered on while trying to break a piñata full of candies by swinging a makeshift baseball bat in the air. Or, jostle your way with everyone as you reach for that elusive present tied to a bamboo lattice which is pulled up with your every jump. An event exclusively for kids!

Date: Sat, 30 Jan 2010

Time: 6:30pm – 7pm

Venue: SAM carpark

Fee: Free admission

A Concert by Noel Cabangon

Performing live at the Singapore Art Museum, Noel Cabangon is one of the most talented and respected singer-songwriters in the Philippines who puts all his creative energies into writing socially responsible masterpieces. Noel wrote the song *Kanlungan* which perhaps may be considered as the best ballad ever made by a Filipino artist. He has lent his outstanding singing and song-writing skills to countless groups that advocate peace, environment, family, love and education among others, which all aim to restore the values that made each and every Filipino who they are today. Noel's efforts have earned him the reputation of "composer of modern day national anthems."

Date: Sat, 30 Jan 2010

Time: 9pm – 12 midnight

Venue: SAM Glass Hall

Fee: Free admission

Katuwaang Pampamilya or Fun for the Family

You haven't seen entertainment until you see a Filipino performer – or at least that's what they all say. Enjoy an afternoon packed with high energy Filipino entertainment with celebrity performances Singapore's best showband – SoulKool, and the most talented crooners from the Filipino community. Lucky draws and other exciting games will also be played so bring your friends and the whole family for an afternoon of *Katuwaang Pampamilya*.

Date: Sun, 31 Jan 2010

Time: 2pm – 5pm

Venue: SAM Glass Hall

Fee: Free admission

Annex C About Singapore Art Museum

Opened in January 1996, the mission of the Singapore Art Museum (SAM) is to preserve and present the art histories and contemporary art practices of Singapore and the Southeast Asian region. To date, SAM has amassed one of the world's largest public collection of modern and contemporary Southeast Asian artworks with a growing component in international contemporary art. The museum has presented shows covering both local and international art practices, traditional and cutting edge art expressions. Through strategic alliances with international arts and cultural institutions, SAM has been facilitating visual arts education, exchange, research and development within the region and internationally.