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NOVEMBER 2022

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MANILA ART ISSUE

EDWIN WILWAYCO

Master Abstract Impressionist

RICHARD BUXANI
The Pillar of His Soul

OTTO NERI
The Flame of Enlightenment

FRANCIS MARTE
Honors His Creative Calling

THOMAS DE LUZURIAGA
The Art Curator

WENCE ZYL
Living Her Greatest Purpose

RA TIJING
Uncovering the Mystery of Art

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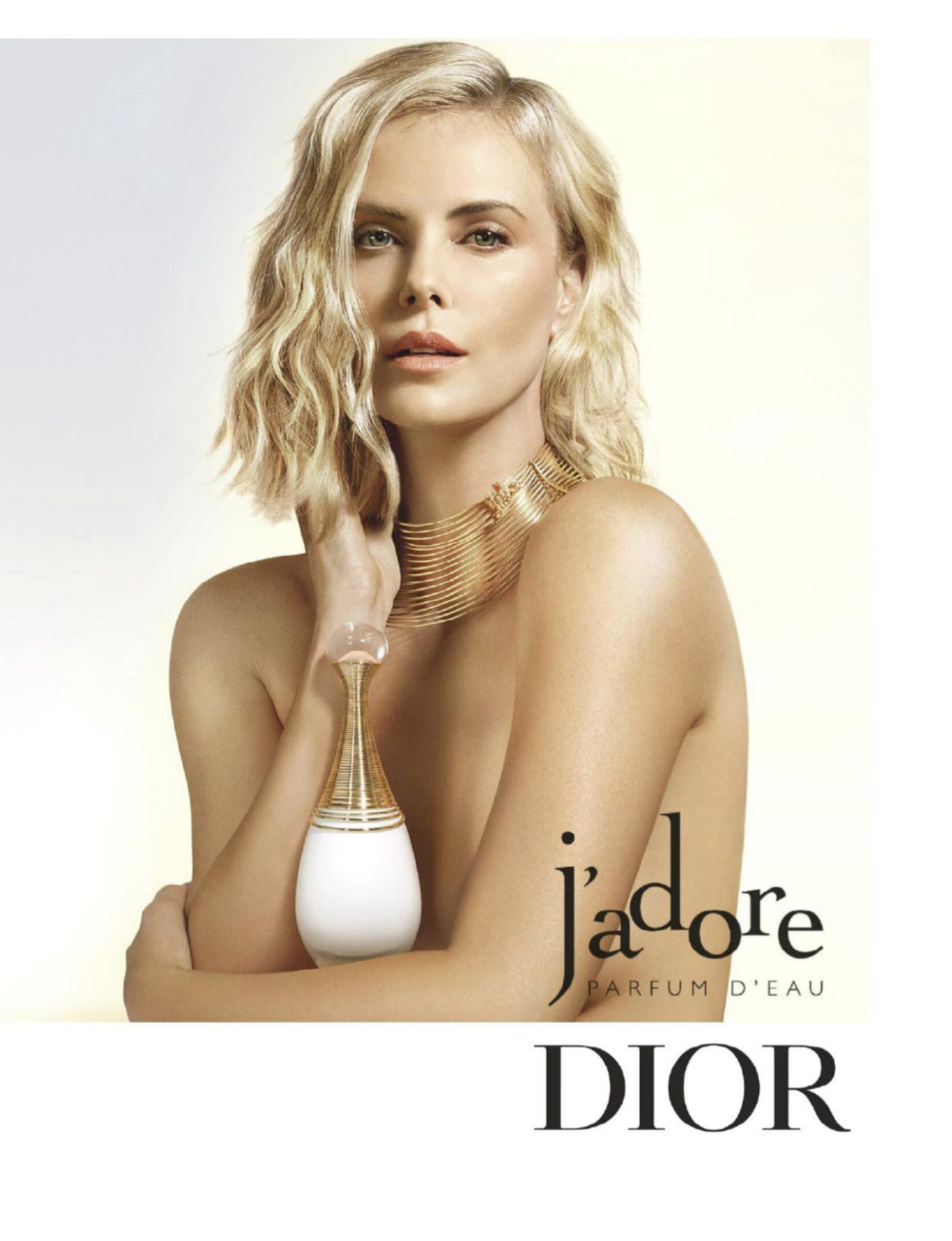
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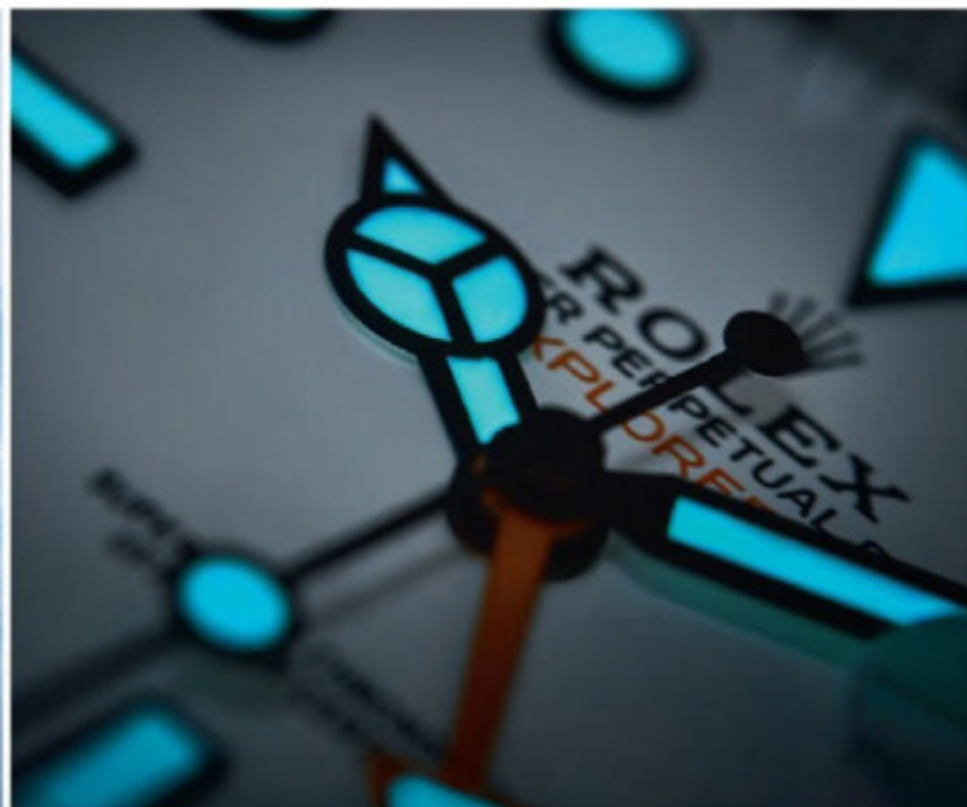


LOUIS VUITTON





ALAIN HUBERT, 2007
POLAR EXPLORER AND MOUNTAINEER

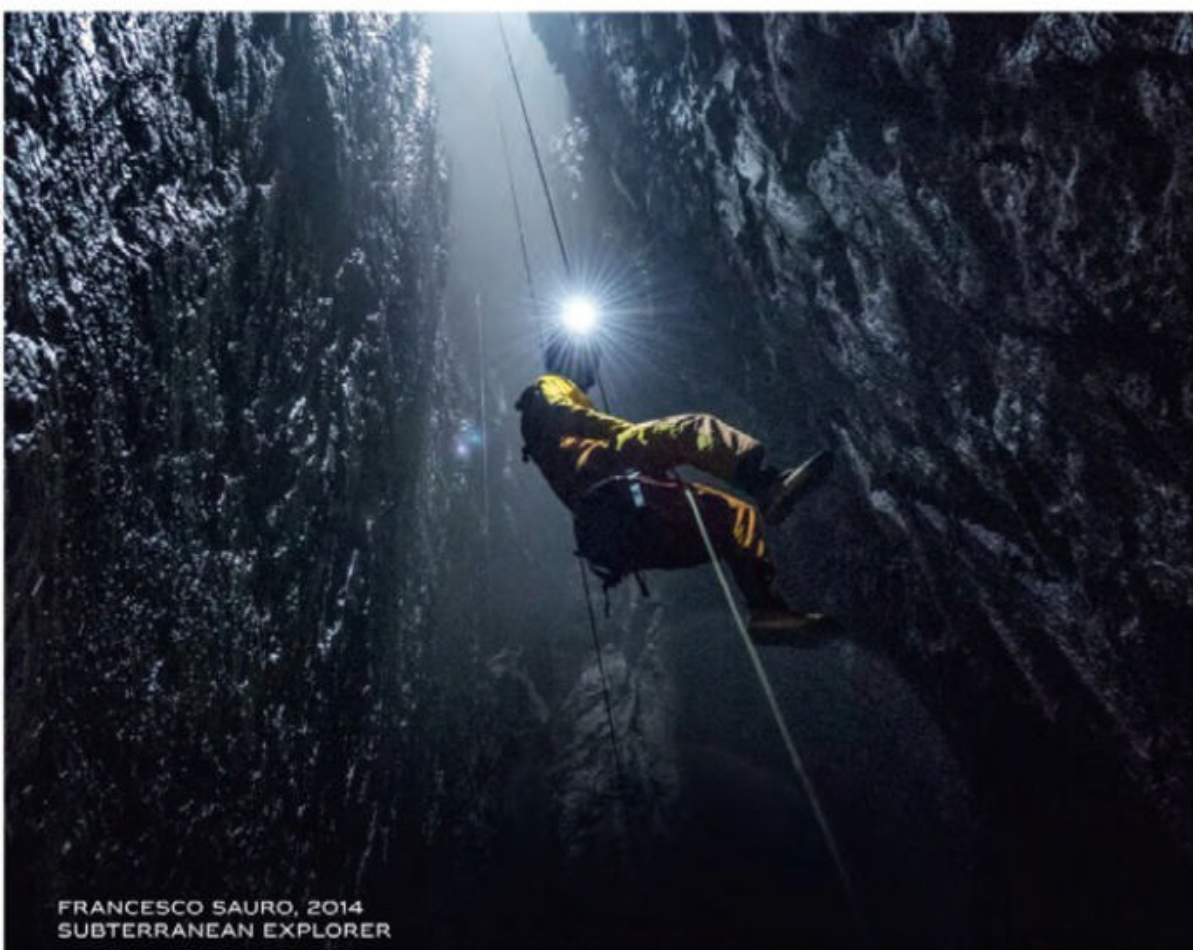


ERLING KAGGE, 1990
FIRST TO REACH BOTH POLES AND MT EVEREST

WHAT IS THE QUEST?

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#Perpetual



FRANCESCO SAURO, 2014
SUBTERRANEAN EXPLORER




HAROUN TAZIEFF, 1963
PIONEERING VOLCANOLOGIST



OYSTER PERPETUAL EXPLORER II



A close-up photograph of a man with a beard and a watch, smiling broadly. A woman's hand is covering his eyes. The man is wearing a tan jacket over a white shirt. The background is a dense field of green grass. The watch has a dark dial with light-colored hour markers and a leather strap.

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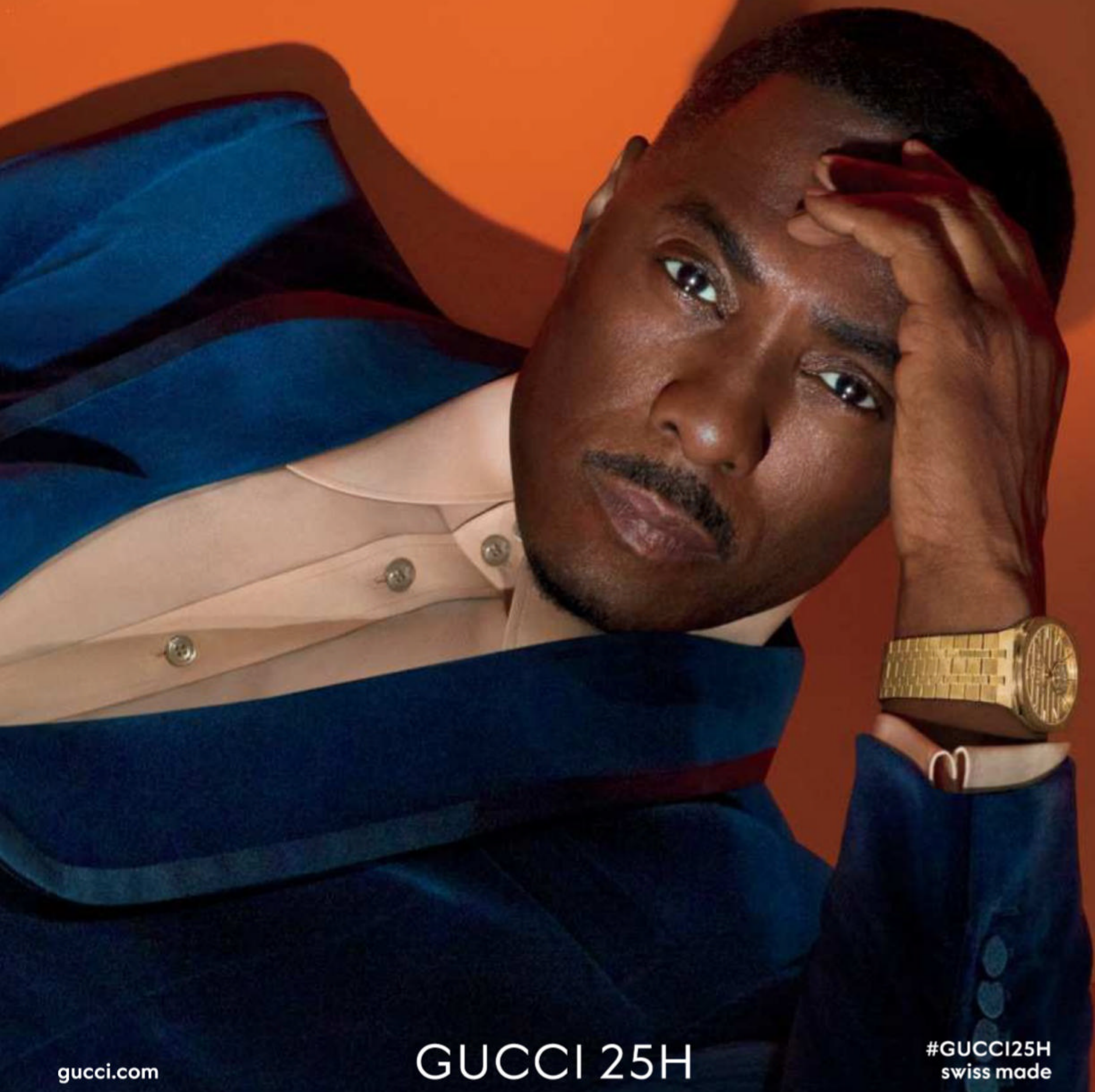
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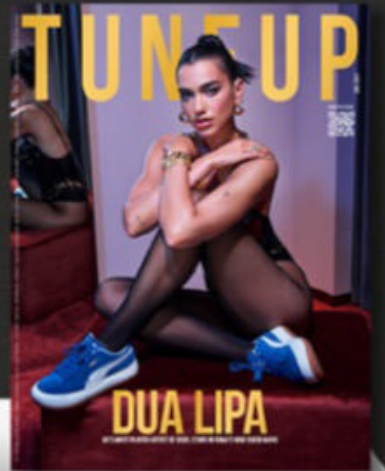
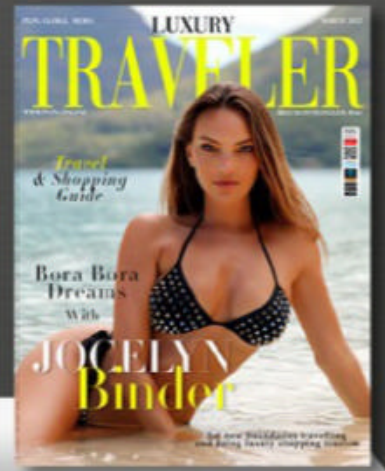
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A long-haired dog, possibly a Saluki or Afghan Hound, is shown in profile, looking towards the right. The dog has long, flowing white fur. The background is a dimly lit room with a framed painting on the wall. The painting depicts a floral arrangement in a vase. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

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A dark, moody photograph of a city skyline at dusk or dawn, viewed through a complex, dark metal framework that resembles a staircase or a structural support system. The sky is a deep blue, and the buildings are silhouetted against it. The overall aesthetic is industrial and architectural.

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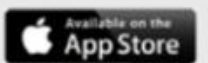
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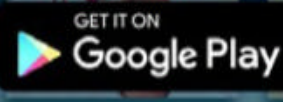
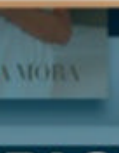
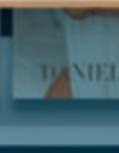
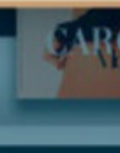
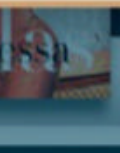
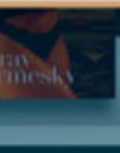
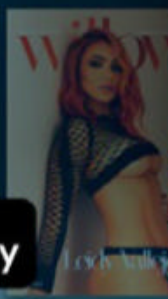
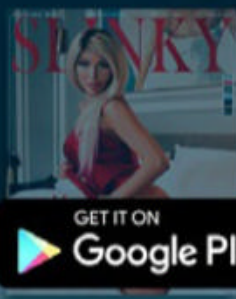
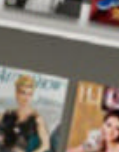
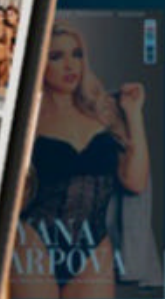
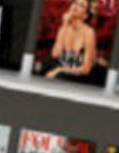
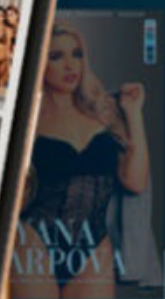
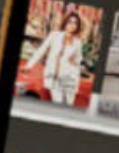
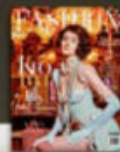
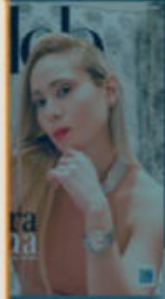
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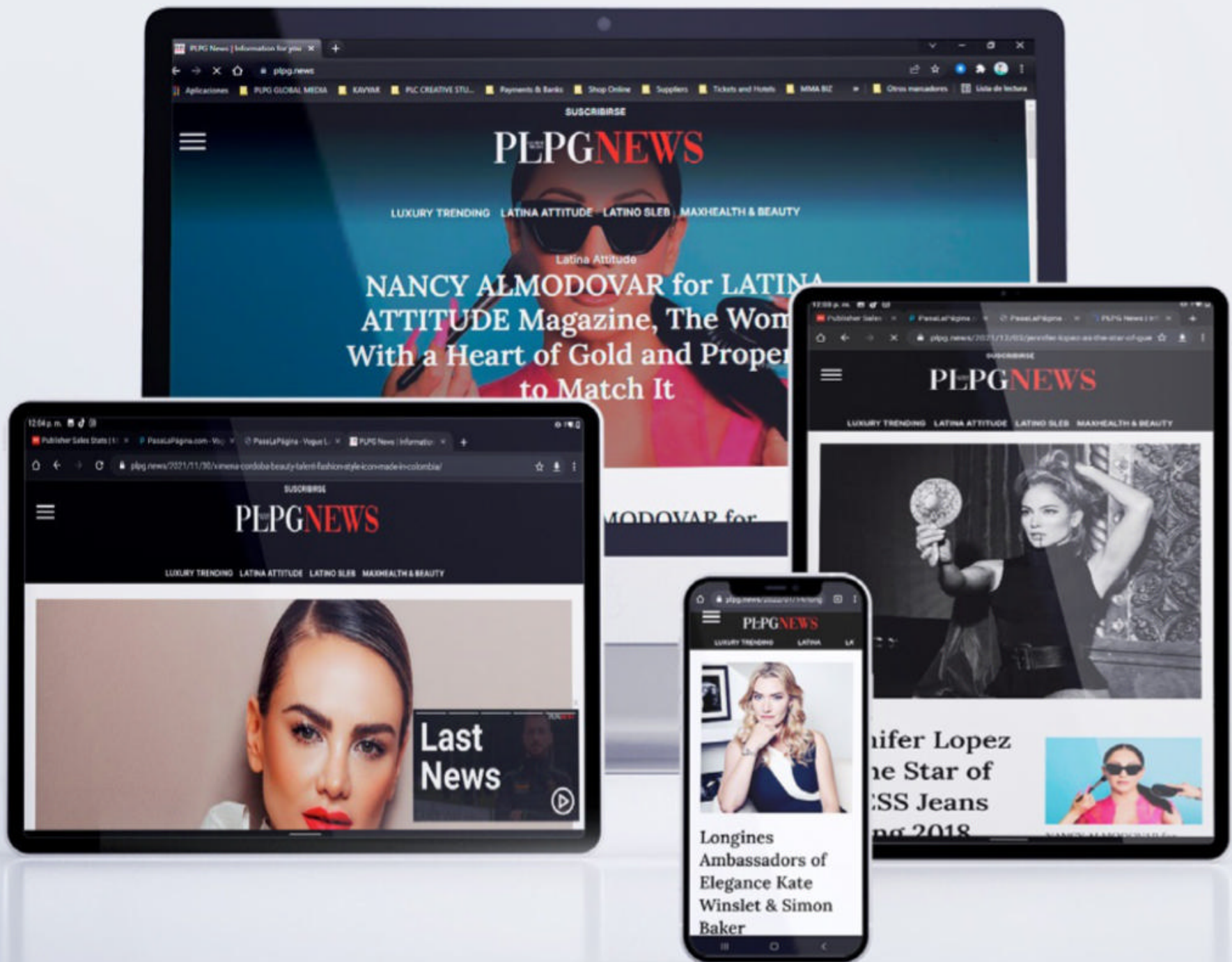
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DYLAN TURQUOISE

VERSACE pour femme DYLAN BLUE



VERSACE
POUR FEMME
DYLAN BLUE

BLOOMINGDALE'S DILLARD'S MACY'S





HERMÈS
PARIS

H24

A FRAGRANCE
BEYOND THE LINES



EAU DE PARFUM
A NEW INTENSITY



CONCEPT

RICHARD BUXANI

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BUSINESS
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Richard and his wife, Thristle Buxani

The Pillar of His Soul

by *Geraldine Zialcita*

Filipino Indian artist Richard Buxani was born and raised in Manila, Philippines. As a child, Richard had several childhood dreams, an athlete, an actor, or an archaeologist. Little did he know that the universe had other plans for him. “Just like any kid, I kept dreaming of becoming something new during the phases of my childhood. Books and movies can easily influence a child with a wild imagination.” He smiles.

Richard graduated with a BS in Architecture degree from the Royal and Pontifical University of Santo Tomas. After spending several years in the architecture field, Richard stumbled upon his true calling through a serendipitous moment that paved the way to his destiny. “I never dreamt of becoming an artist. I emerged late in the art scene, at age thirty-nine after being introduced to sculptures by a close friend. He used to create metal sculptures for my architectural projects and eventually taught and guided me through the ropes. I call it happenstance. It was interesting to see the works coming to life, and how fire tempers the material and makes it surrender to the will of the artist. *Magic*. In one of those instances, the artist decided to teach me art welding. It was hard, back-breaking work but I wanted to do more and more. The transition was inevitable, swift, and quick, and from that moment on, I knew this was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life,” he relays.

Richard shares a deep fascination with warriors, with an avid curiosity to explore the myths, legends, and the complexity of war, loss, and victory. “I am most likely still nurturing my interests as a child and doing what feels right at the moment. My very first sculpture was a Samurai Warrior in 2009. I have kept that piece as a reminder that we each have a place under the sun, regardless of our age, gender, race, religion, or discipline in life,” he states.

When Richard first immersed himself in the art scene he found it difficult to discover the subjects he wished to depict, yet experience and continuous practice have unleashed the process. Richard draws inspiration ranging from simple and ordinary to exceptional moments or ideas. His sculptures exude eye-catching aesthetics integrated with rich symmetry to narrate a spellbinding story. “It is just a matter of sculpting the visions in your head. No matter how mundane or complicated, if people accept the idea, then the work has served its purpose. If my work does not stir

emotions or appeal to the senses of the audience, this creates room for improvement. We need to be sensitive to the actions and reactions of the audience, to use as a learning curve in the presentation of future ideas,” he defines.

During his first exhibit, Richard was on top of the world, receiving amazing feedback and positive reviews. This experience propelled him to spearhead his own metal studio in 2016 to fully concentrate on creating sculptures. In 2018, Richard launched his first solo exhibit for Eskinita Art Gallery at the 1st Ortigas Art Festival. During the same year, his sculpture Re-imagination of St. George was named a finalist in the GSIS nationwide sculpture competition. To date, Richard has participated in multiple groups and solo exhibitions around the world. “I would not consider anything to be a great achievement, but sort of a bucket list if you will. Exhibiting with a certain artist, in a certain event or biennale, in a specific country or city, and showing works and my sense of aesthetics to an audience. I have exhibited in the Philippines, Malaysia, South Korea, Taiwan, USA, Egypt, Hong Kong, and in cities like New York, Venice, Udine, Busan, and Taipei. I am slowly ticking off boxes from my list and hoping to conquer more places and events. It’s been twelve years since I’ve started sculpting, which might be the last hat I will ever wear,” he informs.

Transitioning from architecture to being an artist exposes similarities and differences for Richard. “The delineation in my practice between architecture and sculpture is heavily blurred and the integration of both for me is seamless. Architecture is still, at the very core, sculpting space with ergonomic, form, and function in mind. The reasoning and purpose are the same, but with style and flair. Sometimes, I think sculptures are mini architectural creations. I sculpt metal, in the same manner, I sculpt space, but with a different intention. Metal sculpting is similar so much in the process of building structures because the technique involves addition or build-up. A building starts at ground zero with no foundation and is completed over time as the work progresses, which is similar to metal welding. A wood or stone carver differs so much in practice because he starts with a block that he needs to chisel bit by bit until the final form appears. The analogy is evident when you are working on the materials,” he shares.

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Richard and his cat, Dio







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“I always thought that creating art and living a life are two separate things, but in truth, they are both intertwined.”

– Richard Buxani

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Richard has been in awe since the moment laid eyes on the glass sculptures of artist Dale Chihuly who has served to be instrumental in his career. Richard describes his style as the bend and weld method. “I use gas torch welding primarily for this, heating the components that start out as sheets, bending them to the desired shape, and tucking weld. I intentionally leave raw welds on the pieces because I never liked a too-polished look. My desire to leave traces depicts how the art piece has evolved, which includes the process as part of the narrative. This demonstrates the journey before reaching the final destination,” he characterizes.



Possessing a strong passion for each sculpture he has created, Richard acknowledges that not every work is a masterpiece with a mixture of good and bad days. Relatively, Richard can complete an artwork in three to six weeks. “It is never the same, and for a moment of excitement, a sculpture can be completed in a week or two. In an extreme case, an artwork can also take years before it is actually done. Some works require a certain maturity and time. I believe the universe will cooperate from start to finish to converge on almost perfection,” he briefs.

Since expressing one’s creativity elicits powerful emotions, Richard navigates through anticipation and excitement, without feeling pressured since he possesses the freedom to choose his own subjects and projects he wishes to participate in. “I can maximize my expertise and step out of my comfort zone. There is no struggle to create, but it also has to work. The emotions I feel during that moment can either make or break my day, but I have learned to zone in and out while working. When I am in the process of creation, my body and mind remain focused on the task at hand until I am happy with the outcome. Yet, this still involves a process of forming and reforming. The next day entails viewing the work from a fresh perspective and decisions need to be made on how the work should proceed,” he imparts.

Richard provides a glimpse into the creative process and habits he maintains while working. “I used to draw the warriors before starting my work, but I no longer do that. I jump-start to shaping the framework of my design directly to the material. My process requires a two-man job and to reduce the amount involved in the anatomy stage, I bend the pieces to my desire, sometimes, with pre-formed basic shapes, while a spotter welds it in place. The metal needs to be tempered and heated for manipulation. We have already developed synchronicity in the process that we hardly speak to each other. Simple taps, twists, and hand gestures are enough to be able to communicate with each other. It is a very interesting process to watch, how figures are formed with few words exchanged.” He smiles.

What Richard loves about sculpting is his ability to produce form and substance from his ideas, feelings, and dreams. “This is where my drawing originates and where I illustrate concepts on paper in that moment of inspiration. It is normal to have pencils and sketchbooks lying around our home. These drawings provide me with content that I can return to, especially when I want to experiment with new ideas. At times, when I grasp inspiration from daily life, I draw on table napkins, placemats, receipts, labels, or whatever paper is available to document the idea. Art manifests life into reality during that exact moment of conceptualization is recorded,” he conveys.

*“There is no expiry date for dreams if one will commit to them.
One step at a time, day by day, just do what you like.
There is no certain formula for success, you just need to find one
that works for you. A hybrid practice that is unique to you.”*

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Richard and his daughter, Isis Buxani, Manager of Kalyehon Cafe

Dragon Dance
18 x 32 x 13
Brass on Stainless
(2020)



For Glory
33 x 36 x 17
Brass on Stainless
(2021)

Unbound

41 X 24 X 13.5
Brass on Stainless
(2021)



The Hammer of Thor

26 X 25 X 29
Brass on Stainless
(2022)



St. Michael the Archangel

31.5 X 29 X 10
Brass on Stainless
(2021)



Tikbalang

26 X 27 X 18
Brass on Stainless
(2019)



After all these years of being an artist, Richard has learned valuable lessons and embraced wonderful experiences. “I always thought that creating art and living a life are two separate things, but in truth, they are both intertwined. Life and our experiences are the sources of art. Distilling one’s experience becomes the essence of the artwork. I used to be challenged conceptualizing ideas, but they now unfold naturally. The ideas flow and the narratives are never forced. The stories sometimes speak for themselves and even if they don’t, the intention of the artist does. It leaves the viewers in awe or surprise. I guess that’s what makes this job amazing.” He beams.



Under the Midnight
44 X 332 X 22
Brass on Stainless
(2021)

Like every artist wishing to succeed in their field, Richard has encountered some challenges. “Since I’ve done a lot of jobs before I became an artist, the biggest challenge I faced was that of acceptance. The art world can be brutal and fickle, and no artist or talent is guaranteed success. You can become the greatest artist of all time, but that may or may not come in your lifetime. I just wanted to be able to be my own storyteller,” he reveals.

The life of an artist is similar to a doctor who is always on call. One is to treat patients, while the other is to heal the soul. “It might sound pretentious to say that everything in my life runs like a piece of well-oiled machinery, but it almost is. Art is a lifestyle, and it is a mindset that you live twenty-four hours a day, awake, or even asleep. There is no on or off button in creativity. Every moment and activity is an opportunity to be artistic. When you tie your shoelaces, you think, can I tie it any better to look better? When you build a house, make a fence, lay out bricks, wrap your things, dress up, eat, and sleep—the same question runs through my mind—how can I make it look and feel better? What ideas can I implement to deliver a statement?” He expresses.

Richard plans to fulfill more exhibits abroad, attend the best art exhibits, and engage in large-scale artworks. “As of the moment, I am creating an art space perched in an eleven thousand square feet property in Imus, City in Cavite which is intended to become an art hub for an artist to congregate, interact, collaborate, and inspire. We hope to be able to provide residencies as well as a public space filled with contemporary art. Art is not only about receiving, but also in giving,” he affirms.

Richard is the loving husband of Thistle, a lawyer who has been supportive of his career all throughout. He is also the doting father of three wonderful children. “My wife and I never butt heads since our discipline is miles apart in the job spectrums,” he quips. “Ever since the pandemic started, my wife quit her job and is focusing on consultancy work. I prefer that since I get to spend more time with her. Isis, my eldest is a licensed pharmacist who is currently handling our cafe in the art space. My second child, Seth is pursuing a degree in tourism, and my youngest, Kira is still in high school,” says.

As we conclude this story, Richard shares some advice for aspiring artists out there. “There is no expiry date for dreams if one will commit to them. One step at a time, day by day, just do what you like. There is no certain formula for success, you just need to find one that works for you. A hybrid practice that is unique to you.”

With the power of his hands, Richard integrates the essence of life to create, define, and express magic through his sculptures. Art has served as the pillar of Richard Buxani’s soul, depicting its true existence.





NAOMI OSAKA



SOME PLAY ON A COURT,
OTHERS CREATE THEIR OWN.

TAG HEUER CONNECTED
CALIBRE E4

THE THRILL OF PROGRESS

 Wear OS by Google

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The Flame of Enlightenment

by *Geraldine Zialcita*

From the very start, artist Othoniel “Otto” Neri already knew what his true calling would be. Born and raised in the Philippines, as early as one year old, Othoniel’s mother found him oblivious to his surroundings, drawing shapes and stick figures. While in school, Othoniel would fill the back pages of his notebook with his illustrations.

As a self-taught artist, at twelve years old, Othoniel transitioned from illustrations in his notebooks to painting on canvas. In 2003, he pursued one year of Fine Arts at the International Correspondence School and has garnered several awards in international and local competitions. His keen eye, strong attention to detail, and knowledge of blending shades have produced profound and meaningful pieces for the past twenty-two years. “I released my art to the mainstream fifteen years ago. Being a full-time artist is a huge achievement and has provided me with the greatest fulfillment,” he shares.

With a solid drive to hone his craft, Othoniel kept a steady focus to fulfill his childhood dream. Othoniel believes that art serves to be the best tool for artists to communicate and deliver their message to the audience. “Artists are like prophets of their time.” He smiles.

With a strong desire to be part of a cultural awakening, Othoniel reveals a twist in his work, defining the Filipino culture that has been highly influenced by Western culture. “After being colonized by the Spaniards for over three hundred centuries, followed by the Americans for many decades, the Philippines lost their identity. I want to preserve our heritage, beliefs, and culture. I want to reclaim what’s truly ours and my artwork enables me to express this,” he states.

Notable artists like Juan Luna, Fernando Amorsolo, and Anselm Kiefer are one of the artists who have greatly influenced and shaped Othoniel’s development. “I am also very fond of Norman Rockwell because of how he portrayed the daily lives of the Americans during his time. I often told myself that I want to be the Norman Rockwell of the Philippines. However, as I evolved in my career, I realized there is a higher calling for me to create a statement and depict the social realities which are better than characterizing the lives of the Filipinos, that way my paintings can speak up against the rotten system of our society,” he informs.





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"Hide, Think, Watch and Seek"
7 1/2 x 11 ft
Oil on canvas
2022



"End of Corona"
6x10 ft.
oil in canvas,
2021



"Time is Gold"
4x5 ft
Oil on canvas
2022



"Dipped in Deep Debt"
3x2 ft
Ceramic tile mosaic
2019



"Padawan" (hope)
5x4 ft
Oil on canvas
2019

Othoniel's art gravitates to Pop Social Realism, which ranges from very dark social commentaries to pop Filipino culture, adding a twist of iconography, appropriate to pun art. He embraces figurative and impasto techniques for painting and is also a ceramic tile mosaic artist. "The message of my art pieces demonstrates the wounds of our history where I forewarn the present generation to avoid making the same mistakes of our ancestors. With my heavy impasto technique, I use a palette knife to mix the elements to translate into a powerful message," he describes.

Othoniel can complete a painting in three to five days if he uses a regular canvas. On other occasions and depending on his mood, it can take three to five months to finish an artwork. Going through a mixture of emotions is part of an artist's journey in composing and implementing ideas. "Deriving the concept may take days to six months since I am driven by my experience and the environment at that moment. I want the concepts to take form before jumpstarting a painting. The current situation in our surroundings and society is what shapes my ideas and compels me to immerse in my artworks," he briefs.

Othoniel uses under paint, acrylic, and oil for his finishing touches. He uses six to ten layers of paint for each art piece to achieve and deliver the desired effects and message he wants to come across. "Art is my first wife, and the more I profess my love, the more radiant my pieces become. The ecstasy I feel while painting is endless and gives birth to an orgy of colors and strokes to deliver an intense and passionate connection with my audience," he conveys.

Like all artists, the most rewarding experience for Othoniel is when his artwork connects to his viewers. Understanding the message beyond his paintings and establishing a solid connection with his viewers has always been Othoniel's end goal. "My objective is to always produce beautiful and meaningful paintings that people can relate to. Like our native *ampalaya* vegetable, if uncooked, the taste is bitter, yet once cooked, it's bursting with flavor. I use this metaphor for my dark Social Realism pieces that may appear depressing but with the right aesthetics, my viewers have overlooked the dimness to appreciate what it stands for," he affirms.

"Checkmate"

5x4 ft

Oil on canvas

2022



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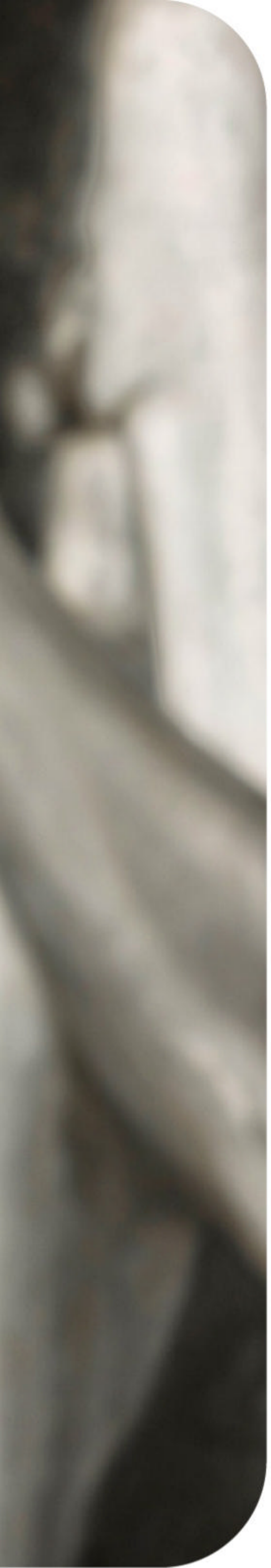
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Despite the naysayers who didn't believe in Othoniel's dream and visions, discouraging and labeling him as too ambitious with his work, he never faltered. Othoniel is living his ultimate dream of using his creative impression to fulfill his utmost potential. Over the years, he has learned that pursuing what you love most, devoting one hundred percent effort, and using the very best of your capabilities will manifest into a fruitful and rewarding outcome. He is based in Alitaptap Artists Community, Amadeo, Cavite where all the magic happens. "The path that led me to where I am now involved a rough road with financial struggles, yet I never succumbed to defeat and kept going, believing in my purpose and knowing that all the hard work will produce a harvest. I'm enjoying every moment and value the constantness and consistency in learning," he expresses.

Othoniel is a living example of how hard work, discipline, and time management can equate to promising results. He balances his time between his art, family, and the community. He plans to create more monumental art in painting and ceramic tile mosaic, train more leaders in art to be part of the cultural awakening, and teach young artists in molding their craft so they can succeed in their careers.

Othoniel eats, breathes, and lives art. He uses it as a medium to express his message, ignite one's perception and define an underlying purpose. Othoniel "Otto" Neri is the flame of enlightenment.

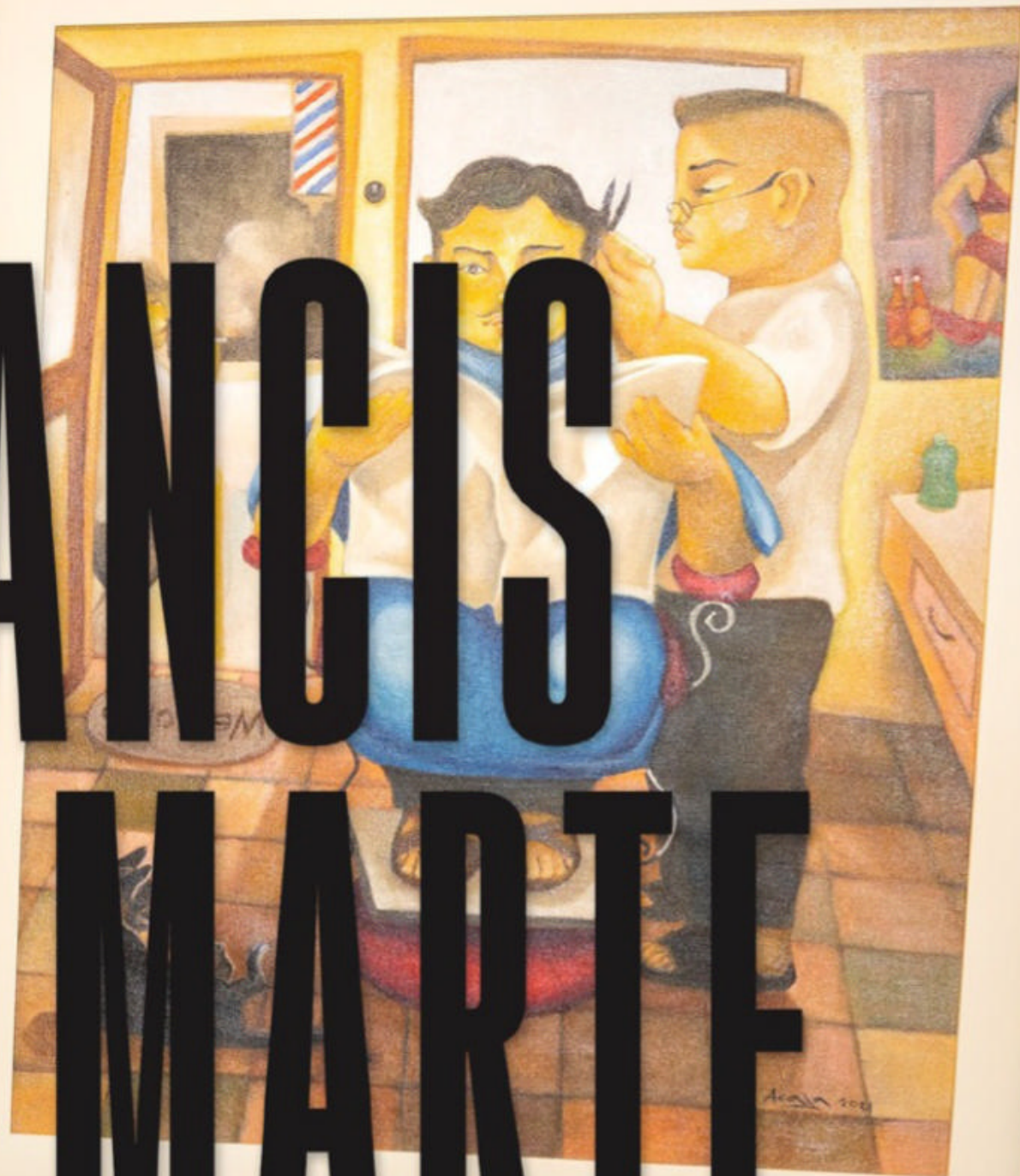




BOTTEGA VENETA

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Francis Marte: Honors His Creative Calling

Words by *Timothy Diao*

The elusive call of a new beginning can be daunting to many. The fear of uncertainty and leaving behind an established set of plans and expectations is paralyzing. But over that hurdle of fear and doubts is a greener pasture built on hard work and passion.

Filipino Canadian watercolor artist Francis Marte is familiar with starting anew in the name of unsung callings and dreams. He spent most of his adult life in the hospitality industry (a career decided on practicality and stability) instead of his dream to create beauty with his own hands. After six years at The Peninsula Manila, Francis chose to pursue a creative path in interior design. He graduated from the Philippine School of Interior Design in 2002. His background in hospitality and newfound profession landed him a resort and restaurant project in Boracay and eventually more restaurant and residential projects in Metro Manila.

Though happy in his burgeoning career as an interior designer, Francis came across an opportunity to migrate and work overseas in 2007. He moved to Canada to start anew, but the call for paints and brushes came when he needed them most. He was going through a significant change in his personal life and realized that it was the right time to live his life genuinely to his passions.

Then in 2015, Francis reunited with his creative side and explored a new career path as a watercolor artist. While working full-time, he enrolled in art classes and attended local art events. Through this inspiring artist community, he grows and excels in his work. They share their knowledge, resources, opportunities, and friendship.

Francis' work explores the delicate balance between precision and fluidity. His approach to watercolor realism combines reality and imagination through hyperrealistic images rendered with intricacy and control, juxtaposed with a medium known for taking its own shape and direction.

"Being a watercolorist is rewarding. Watercolor has unique qualities and behaves quite differently from other brush-applied mediums. It dries very quickly, various pigments behave differently, and those that granulate beautifully are fascinating to see," Francis shares.

He meticulously studies how each element in his work reacts with one another to capture the exact likeness he sees in a subject. Whether it's a commissioned portrait or a still-life painting, his vision and technique bring his works to life.

Since reigniting the artist in him, Francis' paintings have been displayed in various exhibits and recognized in competitions across Canada. He participated in his most recent shows as part of the Federation of Canadian Artists since becoming a member in 2020 and winning awards for his *Indian Head Farmer (January 2021)* and *Almost Fall in Gastown (November 2021)* paintings.

Aside from finishing commission and competition pieces, Francis also spends his time teaching watercolor painting and working for the provincial government. We sat down with the Edmonton-based artist to talk about finding new beginnings, honoring one's passions, and the importance of community in the art industry.

Were you creative when you were younger?

I always excelled in drawing and creative homework since preschool. No one taught me how to draw, but I always saw things differently. I always enjoyed sketching and coloring. I like looking for the beauty in things and figuring out what I could pick up for my paintings.

There are people with God-given talents in music and performing, but I express my abilities with visual art.

How did your career as an artist begin?

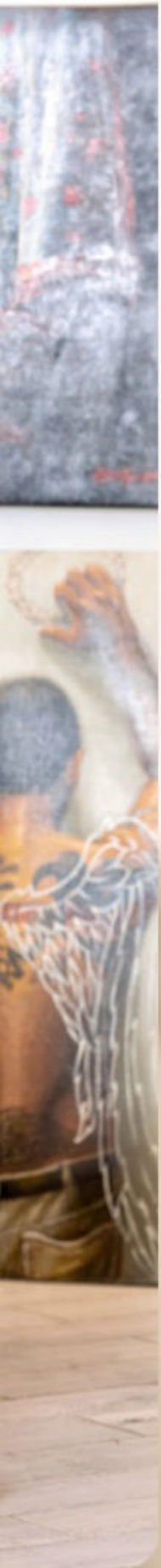
I always wanted to work as a creative because I excelled at it, but I did not come from a well-off family. I was discouraged to pursue art because it is not a stable line of work in the Philippines. I worked in the hospitality sector instead; I worked at The Peninsula Manila for six and a half years.

After my stint in the hospitality industry, I studied interior design at the Philippine School of Interior Design. When I graduated in 2002, I started taking on design projects in Boracay. A friend of mine owned a small resort and restaurant on the island, and I helped with the design. It was a great fit since I had a background in hospitality. The opening night was well attended and my design was quite well praised. I built my early connections there. Eventually, I also worked on more restaurants in Metro Manila, as well as residential and other commercial spaces.

In 2007, I came across an opportunity to work in Canada, though that meant I had to restart my career and put interior design on the back burner. One of my goals is to again work in the design or creative industry.

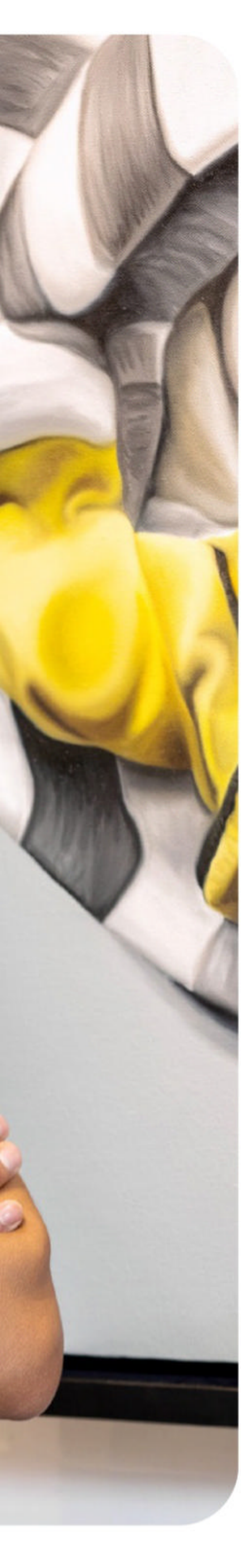


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How did your journey back to art happen?

I was beginning a career with the provincial government here in Canada when I took night classes in watercolor painting. At the time, I was also going through a difficult end to a relationship and felt the need to keep myself busy. It was therapeutic. I needed an avenue to be creative. That was how I went back to studying art and painting.

I told myself I had to move swiftly if this was to become a second career. I always wanted to become an artist. Amongst all the art classes I signed up for, I mostly enjoyed working with watercolor.

I also began attending small artist gatherings in the city. I felt so much at home with other creatives. Artists are very accepting people. I can comfortably say from experience that artists see another artist through their shared passion for art, regardless of other qualities.

During one of these artist events, I met an artist who was in the process of curating a new art gallery. She asked me to be part of their first exhibition. One of my pieces got sold. It felt so rewarding. From then I continued to participate in more exhibitions.

It was also at this time when Facebook and Instagram were exploding. These platforms became effective tools to showcase my work. I connected with more and more people and had an avenue to show my art to the world.

I continued to paint, while always thinking about how to gain a wider audience. Joining art groups on Facebook helped a lot. There are groups that encourage you to post your work in exchange for feedback from other artists. I also became friends with watercolor artists from different parts of the United States, Canada, and Europe. I learned that they regularly participated in renowned painting competitions, mostly prestigious ones. I told myself “I can do that too.” It was a lot of work, but my paintings did get juried in a number of international exhibitions and I won several awards. Joining competitions pushed me to excel in my work, as I competed with the best watercolorists from around the world. I also got featured in several art magazines and websites—*The Art of Watercolour*, *Watercolor Artist*, and *Artist Network*, to name a few.

What was your first exposure to art and painting?

What drew you to watercolor as a medium?

We used watercolor in interior design school. I discovered I’m good at it and received perfect marks

for my projects. Fast forward to living in Canada, I signed up for evening art classes. I was curious to know if I still had the knack for it.

Did pursuing art feel like a new beginning for you?

Definitely! Art is my first love. I knew my skill level. It felt like food for the soul once I again realized the thrill of creating a painting, even after not touching a brush for more than a decade. I knew pursuing art was a risk as I started rather late, but I felt myself being drawn much more so. I was confident that I can continuously produce good work even in a relatively short period of time.

Leaving my full-time job was not an option, so art became my second career. Aside from creating paintings as often as I can, I currently have my office job and also teach painting. I enjoy it tremendously. My goal is to be painting until I’m not physically able to. I live by a phrase on a T-shirt I own: *‘Til Death, We Do Art’*.

How did you realize that this could be a viable career path?

In North America, there is a clear chance to progress and succeed in whatever passions you have if you work hard. Oftentimes, in Manila, you would need certain types of connections, a little bit of luck, and being in the right place at the right time.

I live in a city where we have a small artist community. We are supportive of each other. It was fellow artist who recommended that I teach painting.

What do you love most about art and being an artist?

I would say the creativity aspect is the most fascinating to me. There is an incomparable thrill during and after creating a painting. It’s rewarding to continue to learn new techniques, to push yourself, and to paint various subjects. It’s gratifying to see how people admire your hard work.

I love going to art galleries. I love learning from other artists. I feel that I visualize things a little differently. It’s a gift and privilege to be able to have that perspective.

Being a watercolorist is rewarding. Watercolor has unique qualities and behaves quite differently from other brush-applied mediums. It dries very quickly, the pigments behave differently and some granulate beautifully which is so fascinating to see. This sets watercolor apart from other mediums.

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"Pegg's Cove"
20x15 inches

"Israel and Isabel"



Francis Marte Watercolours

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Francis Maite

"Duffy"



"Sparkling Mason Jars"

Francis Martin Watercolor



Francis Martin

"New England Boats"

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“Do not be afraid to commit to a style that you feel comfortable with and what feels good for you.”

– Francis Marte

How does your background as an interior designer affect your process as an artist?

In interior design school, we do a lot of illustrations and were taught about perspective in architecture. In drawings you learn about vanishing points, planning your composition, and focal points, amongst others. Those technical aspects are also essential to producing winning works of art.

Aside from portraits, your work consists of still-life paintings. How do you determine which subjects to paint?

Glass, ceramics, and wood. I am good at painting different textures. Currently, I am into painting rust. I like painting menial objects, like a leaf on a dirty cobblestone road or a rusting truck. I want to turn these types of mundane subjects into beautiful paintings. I also take inspiration from my travels—beautifully plated food, an interesting reflection, a glowing sunset, it's limitless.



You mentioned your community and fellow artists. How important is having that base to you?

It is very important to me. I had to work fast to make this career shift and that support helped me navigate the industry. They recommend art supplies, art organizations and competitions, and beautiful locations. I also appreciate them simply as being good friends. In Edmonton, the artist community is small. We are not competitive with each other. It's nice to see various styles, mediums, and personalities. The skill level is exceptional.

It is also a great way to grow in your craft. I sign up for online classes taught by artist friends in the US. Those classes can often include private consultations and some form of mentoring.

What got you into teaching yourself? And how has your art style developed since becoming an instructor?

I was recommended to teach by other artists at *The Paint Spot*, the store where I get my supplies. Initially, I had hesitations. Now I find it enjoyable. I have been teaching for four years now.

I also learn from my students. Many of them are passionate and I also discover new techniques and tricks from them. They are hobbyists and budding artists alike. I teach mostly the basics but students show their spin in the process. Witnessing my students' artworks grow and improve is gratifying. I love teaching now as much as painting on my own.

What could artists and people in the art industry do to make it an encouraging space for young artists and growing talents?

I think we can be a bigger community, and continue to share our knowledge and resources, especially with younger artists. We improve so much more as artists when we feel supported and are influenced by other creatives.

What advice would you give a young artist?

Great work requires time. Keep practicing. Devote a good amount of your time and energy. Life is too short. Utilize your creative gifts as often as you can. Do not be afraid to commit to a style that you feel comfortable with and what feels good for you.

Be kind to yourself. When you encounter an artist's block, take a rest. Being in the right mood is essential. Also, It is never too late to reignite or start being an artist, just like I did.





A lighthearted day



HERMÈS
PARIS



EDWIN WILWAYCO

@edwinwilwayco

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The Fragment of His Soul

by *Geraldine Zialcita*

The spontaneity and expression of Edwin Wilwayco's painting strikes a chord, encourages you to imagine, shapes your perspective so you can express a huge WOW.

Edwin was born and raised in Guimba, Nueva Ecija, Philippines. He enjoyed growing up on the farm and exploring the forest. As the eldest child, Edwin cherishes fond memories of his childhood sharing a deep bond with his father. "My most distinct memory of my father is how he never wanted me to see him carrying heavy loads while crossing the river. I didn't understand it back then, but now I realize he didn't want me to endure the hardship he was going through. Instead, my father encouraged play time through his talent and fondness for illustrating cartoons. I was five years old and he would make me and my siblings laugh at his drawings. He'd draw a fat man, then a thin man, and would add a mustache or a hat, all within a short time frame. After my father completed his presentation, I would retreat to my bedroom, copy all his illustrations, and dash to his side so I can show them to him. This always brought a big smile to my father's face, acknowledging I took after him," he shares.

When Edwin was in first grade, he drew figures and objects on his test papers after completing his exams. Unbeknown to Edwin, his teacher appeared at his house to inform his parents that their child should refrain from performing unnecessary scribbles on school property, as she declared. Yet, who would have thought that her label of unnecessary scribbles would be the foundation of what's yet to come. "The irony of it all, was when I was in fourth grade, my teacher then asked me to draw on the blackboard. To her astonishment, I copied everything from the textbook with no errors. This time, my teacher saw the flawlessness of my work." He winks.

After graduating from high school, Edwin's father convinced him to pursue a degree in Agriculture so he could help him manage the farm of Edwin's grandfather. "I told him I had no interest in dealing with

plants and animals and preferred to be an architect. However, he informed me that Architecture involved too many Math subjects, so I shifted my choice and completed my Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, majoring in advertising from the University of the Philippines," he informs.

While at the university, his talent was discovered granting Edwin a painting scholarship. "As an artist, I don't conform to a nine to five job, and although we yearn for stability in this field, the reality is we don't earn anything unless we sell a piece of artwork. This is why I worked for thirty years in the advertising industry since I needed to sustain my wallet while also feeding my soul," he defines.

Yet, while Edwin projected his creativity in advertising, his first love always haunted him. "I often hear other artists say they will start painting when they retire, yet I thought to myself this would seem unrealistic. Had I waited to paint when I retired, my bones would ache and my dexterity and agility will not be as sharp as my younger self," he quips.

Fueled by his passion, Edwin picked up a brush, canvas, and palettes, and never looked back knowing each painting represents a self-discovery and an opportunity to create beauty, express love, and feel surge amounts of joy. As an Abstract Impressionist, Edwin's goal and objective are to differentiate each series he works on. In 1976, his first solo series, Images of Exuberance was a success, and shortly after, Edwin got married to Loby and had a daughter which he named Moma after the Museum of Modern Art. In 1979, Edwin showcased his second solo exhibit, The Flag series, yet it didn't share the same fate as the first one. "I only sold one painting. The art collectors were disappointed since they felt that flag paintings could only be displayed in government offices. This incident brought me to tears and I never felt so devastated in my life. I felt like this was the point of no return and I decided to quit painting," he discloses.

After three years of setting his passion aside, Edwin bumped into his previous Art professor who shed some light and provided encouragement. “He said painting requires persistence and I should never give up. He motivated me to apply for a scholarship in London. In 1982, I pursued further studies at the British Council Scholar for Painting at the West Surrey College of Art and Design, Farnham, England. This is where I immersed myself by producing non-traditional paintings. I painted a series of cathedrals, school chairs, and hangers and ropes inspired by the view from the window of the school studio,” he relays.

In 1983, Edwin exhibited his plates and paintings at the Hidalgo Gallery which proved to be a success and enabled him to bounce back stronger. Filled with vigor, in 1989, Edwin projected his Jeepney Fantasia series at the Ayala Museum. In 1992, Edwin unveiled his Painted Screens: Heliconias and Birds of Paradise series at the Ayala Museum which was inspired by the garden his wife tenders to.

To date, Edwin has completed thirty-three solo exhibits and forty-six group exhibitions. He has garnered numerous awards and citations for his work of art. After forty-seven years of being in the industry, Edwin now draws inspiration from classical music. “I usually paint at two or three o’clock in the morning because this is when my creative juices flow. When I was introduced to the music of Mozart, I discovered I could sway my hand and felt like I was transported back in time. Classical music has been fundamental in developing my craft and creating my work series,” he states.

Each painting Edwin completes bears a piece of himself—his mind, heart, and soul. In every exhibit I release, I always ensure my presence is evident. I don’t treat my painting like a roll of textile. The artwork needs to resonate with me. My style has been an evolution of works influenced by internationally renowned artists like Willem de Kooning, Mark Rothko, and Richard Diebenkorn. I am greatly influenced by Filipino artist Jose Joya who was the dean when I was studying at the University of the Philippines. I also admire Rod Paras Perez and Constancio Bernardo,” he briefs.

While all the paintings he has completed serve to be a discovery for Edwin, he unleashes art to make a mark on his canvas, evoking powerful emotions to draw people in. “I want my paintings to be alluring, to captivate people, and allow them to form their own interpretation. This teaches me to learn from their observation and gain insight from their perspective,” he describes.

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“Even if I’m the creator who has given birth to a piece of artwork, each painting has a life of its own.”

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While every artist possesses their own rituals and habits to indulge in their creativity, Edwin engages us with his own regimen. Before starting his work, Edwin drinks a cup of coffee and prays for guidance. “I paint when I’m positive and in control. I want all the palettes arranged in order since I’m an organized painter. Preparing a painting can be tedious, so I want my surroundings to be pleasant and neat. I work on several paintings at a time to develop a series of 30-40 paintings,” he explains.

Edwin currently has a group exhibit at the Gallery Joaquin at the Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati, and at the same venue. Wave Cadenza is inspired by Mozart’s music where Edwin imagined himself on a sailboat surrounded by smooth, majestic, and endless waves.

Edwin considers himself to be an old soul who enjoys mingling with other artists, musicians, and writers. When he’s not working, Edwin loves reading magazines and spending time with his wife and daughter, who is a graphic designer that graduated from Rhode Island School of Design.

Aside from the euphoric feeling of basking in his artwork, Edwin acknowledges there’s more to just a painting. “Even if I’m the creator who has given birth to a piece of artwork, each painting has a life of its own. It unravels a deep mystery and deciphers a code that I can leave for the next generation. I’m grateful for the creative expression and hope to be blessed with more decades of doing what I love most and sharing my work with the world,” he concludes.

Edwin captures the many facets of his surroundings to create unity and transform them into beauty, harmony, and magic. Edwin Wilwayco defines and connects art as the fragment of his soul whispering wonders to the canvas.

EDWIN
WILWAYCO



Wave Cadenza #1
60 x 48" inches
Oil on canvass
2021



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I'm grateful for the creative expression and hope to be blessed with more decades of doing what I love most and sharing my work with the world."

EDWIN WILWAYCO



Wave Cadenza #2
60 x 48" inches
Oil on canvass
2021

EDWIN
WILWAYCO



Wave Cadenza #4
60 x 48" inches
Oil on canvass
2021

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Edwin Wilwayco



Loby Frias Wilwayco

EDWIN
WILWAYCO



Wave Cadenza #5
60 x 48" inches
Oil on canvass
2021

EDWIN
WILWAYCO



Wave Cadenza #6
60 x 48" inches
Oil on canvass
2021

EDWIN
WILWAYCO



Wave Cadenza #7
60 x 48" inches
Oil on canvass
2021

EDWIN
WILWAYCO



Wave Cadenza #8
60 x 48" inches
Oil on canvass
2021

EDWIN
WILWAYCO



Wave Cadenza #9
60 x 48" inches
Oil on canvass
2021

EDWIN
WILWAYCO



Wave Cadenza #10
72 x 48" inches
Oil on canvass
2021

EDWIN
WILWAYCO



Wave Cadenza #11
72 x 48" inches
Oil on canvass
2021

EDWIN
WILWAYCO



Wave Cadenza #12
72 x 48" inches
Oil on canvass
2021

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TRINITY
Cartier



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THOMAS DE LUZURIAGA

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The Art Curator

by *Geraldine Zialcita*

The interpretation of art embodies the essence of its work, intention, and message. Art whispers an undefined story, transports through time, and delivers an impactful message.

While most boys played with toy cars and soldiers, Thomas Luzuriaga, who was born in Bacolod City, Philippines, grew up in a home filled with art collections. The family dinner table conversations discussed art, the artists, and its origin. “Since my dad is an art collector, he taught me every single detail about art. At a very young age, I learned to appreciate beauty for what it’s truly worth. I gradually understood the value of what a painting meant,” he shares.

Since the family’s art business involved traveling around the world, Thomas shared the same excitement as his parents in searching for the next treasure. Aside from their love for art, the Luzuriaga family shared a strong fondness for food. “Travel has indeed broadened my horizons. Each place we visit offers a distinct culture and taste. For our family, travel equates to the integration of art and food. I learned to explore my taste buds and satisfy my palates by being adventurous with food.” He smiles.

Known for their huge portions and family-style dining, one of their favorite cuisines is Italian food. The Luzuriaga family always savored using fresh herbs and vegetables, concocting food from scratch, and drizzled with pure virgin olive oil. On one fateful occasion, Thomas’ father casually mentioned to an Italian friend about opening an Italian restaurant, and shortly after, Italia restaurant was born. Italia has been operating for more than twenty years now. The restaurant is known for *The Godfather’s Pizza*, *Truffle Pasta*, *Lengua Champignon*, *Saltimboca all Romana*, *Panna Cotta*, *Tiramisu*, and many more hearty

dishes to indulge in.

Little did they know that the restaurant would serve to be the gateway for artists. A friend of Thomas’ dad happened to be a talented artist but lacked exposure. Since his art career wasn’t flourishing as he hoped, Thomas’ dad suggested they hold a solo exhibit at Italia. “With minimal planning, that first exhibit acquired success and that’s when my dad merged his gallery—Charlie’s Art Gallery with Italia restaurant. Our first show gave birth to almost 100 exhibitions in the restaurant,” he informs.

To date, Charlie’s Art Gallery has showcased various local artists who have gained publicity with their platform. The gallery has enabled various local and national level artists to be viewed and appreciated by the Negrense market. “My parents’ goal was to showcase the best of Philippine art to the doorstep of the Negrense community so they don’t have to fly to Manila to admire fine artwork,” he conveys. Relishing exquisite food with fine wine and being surrounded by immaculate artwork sets the right tone and paints an unforgettable story. “We are an unorthodox gallery that features artists from all over the country. We’ve had works from budding artists who are now renowned. We hold exhibits three to five times a year,” he adds.

At 25 years old, Thomas looks back and acknowledges the foundation his parents built to shape his career and life. Knowing how much he shares the same interests as his parents, Thomas foresaw how art and food played a fundamental role in his life. “I started co-hosting exhibits with my mom when I was 13 years old and sold my first painting at 15 years old. It felt so surreal and that moment motivated me to be more involved in the art world,” he relays.

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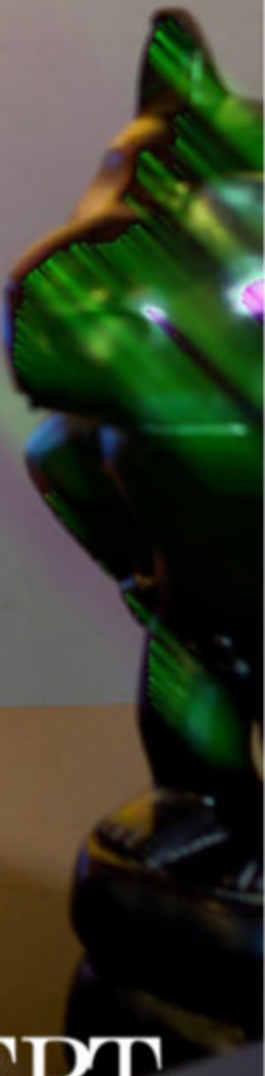
Thomas embraced his passion and felt important when older people would ask for information about the art pieces. “I always remembered the exciting stories my dad would share with me as a child when he acquired a new painting. His knowledge and experience with art equipped me to provide the artist’s background and history to clients. It became secondary to me,” he states.

In 2013, the Luzuriaga family established a second gallery in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Philippines. Galeria Lienzo features the artwork of many sought-after artists like Michael Cacnio and Ramon Orlina, all the way up to revered masters like Ang Kiu Kok, Mauro Malang Santos, and Fernando Amorsolo. They cater to private collectors and investors.

Pushing the envelope, Thomas is the designated art curator for both galleries and the manager of Galeria Lienzo. Aside from meeting with clients and educating new buyers about the mechanics of these priceless possessions, Thomas works behind the scenes to ship paintings locally and across the globe. He helps his family choose which artwork to display in the galleries. He manages the distribution of catalogs, assists his mom in organizing exhibits, and coordinates with appraisers to determine pricing points.

Spending most of his life in the art world, Thomas enjoys meeting with art collectors and businessmen. “My world resembles a fusion of creativity and investment. I’ve learned a lot about dealing with artsy clients and professional businessmen. The artsy clients embrace the essence of the art and why it’s special, while the businessmen focus on price, value, and growth. Balancing these traits has enabled me to use a personalized approach for all my clients. My line of work equates to cultivating relationships with my clients,” he explains.





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Galeria Lienzo





After all these years of being immersed in art, Thomas has learned that there's more that lies beneath what's hung on a wall or displayed in a living room. "Some people think buying a car is a good investment when the value actually goes down the minute it leaves the driveway. Real estate requires property taxes and at times, takes longer to appreciate vs. a painting. Artwork is one of the greatest investments that can go a long way. One way to approach an investment strategy after conducting your due diligence and consulting with expertise, is to purchase a painting and sell it after two to five years when the market price has increased. You can buy your condo or car after you receive your return of investment from selling a painting. I've witnessed first-hand how a piece of artwork can appreciate," he advises.

When he's not speaking the language of art, Thomas enjoys spending time on the firing range. As a competitive shooter, Thomas works hard and plays hard. He also keeps a healthy work/life balance by traveling with his wife and child.

As he forges ahead in his career, Thomas hopes to hold 4-6 exhibits a year in Charlie's Art Gallery and continue to have private viewings at Galeria Lienzo. "Great artists make great investments. It has been my strong passion to learn about them and share the value with people who also love and appreciate art," he concludes.

From the baseline, Thomas paved the way to curate his life with passion, encompassing the elements of art and food to depict beauty, value, and impact. Thomas Luzuriaga curates art to define its purpose.

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*“Great artists make great investments.
It has been my strong passion to learn about them and share
the value with people who also love and appreciate art.”*

- Thomas De Luzuriaga

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Living Her Greatest Purpose

by *Geraldine Zialcita*

For Wencyl Zyl, art has served to inspire her soul, heal her wounds, and restore her well-being. Art is and will always be her greatest blessing.

Wencyl was born and raised in Tarlac, Philippines. Her childhood dream was to become a doctor and she loved reading the encyclopedia and books about general science relating to the human body and nature. “I was very curious about life forms, but as I grew older, I became drawn to art and unleashed my creativity. To hone my craft, I engaged in activities relating to art,” she shares.

When Wencyl was nine years, her father who is an artist was teaching her cousins and uncle how to draw and paint and this sparked her curiosity and interest. “I was an inquisitive child who studied the drawings and tried to copy them. Then one day, I told my *Tatay* that I’m eager to learn, so he gave me a sketchpad, a pencil, and a photo reference and mentored me. I spent my summer vacations practicing charcoal painting and in high school, I used acrylic paints for my drawings. After graduating high school, I spent a year before going to college to study painting using oil on canvas painting different subjects from still life, landscape, figurative, and portrait painting. I also joined group exhibits sponsored by DTI. I won several art competitions in college,” she informs.

In 2018, Wencyl transitioned her childhood hobby into a full-fledged career. “This was not an easy decision for me. I was suffering from anxiety and depression and making a living through art proved to be challenging. The life of an artist is not a steady profession that entails risks in sustaining yourself. As a single parent, the struggles are real, but thanks to the people who gave me a chance and believed in my potential. I also thank God for blessing me with this talent and for the opportunities to join art exhibits here and abroad. I believe that God blessed me with this gift for a greater purpose. I get to inspire people and make them happy. I appreciate how they find connections in my artwork. I love what I’m doing and am excited about what I’m becoming. And like any other job, with hard work, persistence, and talent, it is possible to earn a good living as an artist,” she relays.



Wencyl was a victim of domestic violence. Panic-stricken and suicidal, Wencyl endured the abuse and manipulation of her husband for many years. She suffered in silence and didn't reach out to her family and friends due to her fear of upsetting her husband. Wencyl was scared to find a job and didn't have the means to sustain herself. After realizing that her kids were not living in a healthy environment, Wencyl gathered her courage to stand up for herself and escape and seek shelter at her parents house. While her husband continued to harass her, Wencyl found refuge in her childhood hobby which provided comfort and a silver lining to her life. A few years later, Wencyl's husband passed away. In as much as it proved to be difficult to forgive him, Wencyl has made peace and chosen forgiveness to obtain her freedom.

Reaching rock bottom became the solid foundation for Wencyl who picked up the pieces to rebuild her life. Wencyl sought comfort through her artwork creating phenomenal pieces that proved to be her inspiration. Her artworks are rooted from her painful experiences and life lessons. "Whatever I am today and how I evolve lies on the strength and perseverance I gained from setbacks and tragedy which I demonstrate in my artworks revealing its socio-psychological state. Since I learned to overcome my adversities, my concepts have transitioned from misery to depicting a woman's worth and essence. Art has saved me from depression, balancing and relieving my stress and enabling me to express my deepest emotions. It is the transformation from trauma to therapy to produce magic," she discloses.

Wencyl believes that art is the language of the soul and an expression that is not logically conveyed. "Art is the gateway to communication, a connection, and visual expression to emotions. It paints a story without revealing any words which emphasizes the importance of art. Art heals an individual and creates a rippling effect to restore others and ignite powerful emotions and inspiration. Art bears a map of inner responses delivering happy or melancholic moments. Art is history, a story, and an aspiration" she describes.





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While her fans and supporters categorize Wencyl's work as contemporary art, she acknowledges her artwork to be alternative hyperrealism. "Although I'm still working on my skills in hyperrealism, I reformulated contemporary art using nature or any elements to build my concept. Using a traditional style, I focus on my subject of the dual mystic of nature and feminism. I label this as alternative because it's a combination style of traditional realism and contemporary art. My artworks are dominantly female subjects tapped on dual mystic nature and feminism. The passive realistic figures and portrait with lush nature's elements aim to show women's worth and essential. I want to reveal how strong, proud, and elegant women are," she defines.

Artists possess their signature approach and Wencyl's work has been recognized for her style of using elements to cover half of a woman's face. "I believe the whole concept needs not to be revealed because an effective painting keeps you interested, will trigger you to ponder, will attract, and will activate a sense of curiosity. I want my viewers to see realizations depending on how they relate themselves to my artworks. There is always that other side, behind a peeking mystery, a story of overcoming chaos which became a source of strength and reason why the courageous and graceful self has been revealed," she expresses.

Each time Wencyl immerses herself in crafting a painting, she feels deeply blessed with the love of God flowing through her hands. Oblivious to her surroundings, Wencyl recalls her trauma and transfers the pain into her canvas to produce spellbinding paintings which people can draw inspiration from and feel a profound connection. "Everything starts with an idea, followed by studying the process before applying it to canvas. After painting the base color on the canvas I let it dry. Since I am using oil paint that takes longer to dry, I spend my time painting other pieces. The whole process can take weeks, months, and even a year depending on the size, needs, and of course my mood as the artist. When I'm ready to paint the fine details again, using an open mind, I communicate with my canvas, allowing the artwork to reveal the direction. This process enables me to elaborate and poetically express and immerse the emotions to let the story unfold," she outlines.



"EMBRACING CHANGES"

oil on canvas
24x24 in.
2022



"FEARLESS"

oil on canvas
24x36 in.
2022



“RISING STAR”

oil on canvas

48 x 36 in.

2022



" FULL BLOOM "

oil on canvas

48 x 36 in.

2021



"THE GLOWING WONDER"

oil on canvas
48 x 36 in.
2021



“Cordelia”

oil on canvas

42 in x 36 in

2021

Wencyl loves how one simple idea can manifest into an artwork. Although completing a painting involves different stages, the outcome always amazes Wencyl. “It’s a fulfilling and rewarding experience that I can’t fully describe. Witnessing how I’ve struck a chord with my viewers is powerful. I’m grateful to be living my passion, sustaining our family’s needs, and being present full-time to take care of my children. Most importantly, what I love about my profession is the ability to give and help people. I donated some of my artworks to help the victims of typhoon Yolanda and our front liners during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic,” she conveys.


Wencyl has won several art competitions in the National category, including Grand Prize at Vision Petron National Art Competition in 2015. She has her first solo exhibit at the MANILA Art 2021 @ SM Convention Centre. She believes that there is more to art than awards and recognition. “As an individual, I’ve learned to find beauty in even the darkest moments of my past. My imperfect self has been my greatest achievement to date and is a constant inspiration for my paintings. Behind my past struggles and frustrations, I can shine and bring the best version of myself to share and inspire others.

After all these years of being an artist have made Wencyl realize the growth and learning are endless. Practicing her craft, creating ideas, and learning new techniques have empowered Wencyl to evolve as an artist. Despite her success, Wencyl has also encountered challenges in her career. “The biggest roadblock I’ve faced is appearing in public and talking to people. As an introvert, I find it difficult at times to communicate with others. Last year when I launched my solo exhibit was the first time I stepped out of my comfort zone and learned to somehow expose myself,” she reveals.

This talented woman is currently working on her upcoming solo exhibition this October, and in January next 2023. She hopes to showcase her artwork internationally and plans to venture into sculpture next year. To conclude this story, Wencyl advises young women who wish to pursue their dreams and follow in her footsteps. “There are some people who will put you down, mock your dreams, and challenge your personality, yet don’t allow them to drag you down. Believe and accept yourself and hold on to your faith. Just keep going and enjoy the process.”

Looking back, Wencyl Zyl affirms that art has built a solid foundation for her to create, grow, and transform into a profound and meaningful artist living her greatest purpose.





“There is always that other side, behind a peeking mystery, a story of overcoming chaos which became a source of strength and reason why the courageous and graceful self has been revealed.”

- Wence Zyl

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Uncovering the Mystery of Art

by *Geraldine Zialcita*

RA Tijing's paintings awaken your senses, uncovers your curiosity, and transcend you into another realm where dreams and magic do exist.

RA was born and raised in Silay, Negros Occidental, Philippines. Foreshadowing his future, at seven years old, RA picked up a paintbrush and immersed himself in the art world. As a self-taught artist and toy designer who has been painting professionally for thirteen years now, RA draws inspiration from what he sees on TV, social media, social commentaries, his daily experiences, and whatever tickles his mind.

RA completed his Bachelor's degree in Electronics and Communications Engineering & Inter Disciplinary Studies at the University of St. La Salle Bacolod City. After graduating from college in 2004, RA migrated to Schönenwerd, Switzerland to be with his parents. "While I was in Switzerland, I visited the galleries and museums which truly opened my eyes, ignited my passion, and enabled me to pursue my craft. After working for five days at a winery in Bern, I decided to quit my job and delve into my art career," he shares.

RA returned to the Philippines to concentrate full-time on his art career. In 2009, after a failed relationship and with his art not heading in the direction he desired, RA contemplated moving back to Switzerland. However, the universe had other plans for him. "I got invited to auction my work at the 1st Manila Art show in Phinma Gallery. This event led me to a serendipitous meeting with renowned artist Charlie Co who spearheaded Orange Project Gallery. Charlie invited me to have a show at his gallery which propelled me to spread my wings and be a full-time artist," he informs.

RA credits Van Gogh, Mark Chagall, Mark Ryden, Yoshitomo Nara, Brian Donnelly aka. Kaws as his greatest influencers who have shaped his career. "Sir Charlie Co who has played a significant role in my life and for mentoring me in my career," he states.



BUSINESS
CONCEPT



bea dolloso
&
XEL GONZALES





Title : World Stage
(State of the Nation Series)
Size : 42 x 48 inches
Oil on canvas
2016

Where's the Beef?
(the world is flat series)
Oil on Canvas
6x8 ft
2019





BUSINESS
CONCEPT

RA was a semi-finalist in the 2010 Metrobank Art. & Design Excellence (MADE) Awards and has been nominated three times for the CCP 13 artists awards. In 2015, RA was chosen for the Gwangju Korea Art Residency and participated in Gwangju Art Exhibition. His artworks are displayed at the Pinto Art Museum, Ayala Museum, and BenCab Museum. RA has held solo exhibits at the Orange Project Gallery, SecretFresh Gallery, Altromondo Gallery, Canvas Art Garden, Art 4 Space Gallery, Nova Gallery, and Negros Museum. He has participated in international group shows in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, South Korea, Singapore, Italy, and Switzerland.

RA blends colors and strokes to produce Contemporary, Pop-Surreal, and Social Realism art pieces. “I create my own characters and allow the story to unfold naturally. I usually write down my ideas and concept first, then directly sketch the main subject on the canvas. Shortly after, I add supporting characters and symbols to balance the overall look of the painting and I only stop when I’m happy with the outcome,” he describes.

Since painting involves an emotional journey and experience, RA can navigate through a mixture of joy, frustrations, angst, serenity, and jubilation after completing his work. He can complete three to five paintings of 2x2 ft to 4x4 ft in a month. “Aside from painting, the best part of my career is I control my own time and I’m my own boss. Doing what you love and having flexibility with time is truly rewarding,” he conveys.

Traveling around the world has infused RA’s creativity and influenced his vision in defining how art resonates with him. Being internationally recognized in the industry for his craft has opened more doors for RA who continues to push the envelope. “After all these years, I look back to see how it all started. An artist’s life contains huge risks. You’re investing time and money without expecting any returns. It could take years until

you sell just one painting and the rejections can be painful. Your will is often tested and the struggles are real, but you have to keep going because this is what you truly dreamed of,” he discloses.

RA paints during the weekdays, and the weekend is when he spends time with his friends and family going to the beach or mountain. He also enjoys playing football and basketball with his friends. RA recently bought a piece of land up in the mountains in his hometown in Silay and hopes to build his own studio where he could paint, a gallery where he could showcase other artists, and a farm where he could grow his own vegetables and be surrounded by animals.

RA will be showcasing his work in the upcoming group exhibitions:

Fortune Hills, San Juan, under Greyspace Gallery,
White Walls Gallery - October 5 opening
Canvas Banner project @ Bencab Museum
and Vargas Museum UP - End of October
Art Fair Cebu - November
Pinto Art Museum - November
J Studio Gallery - November
Alliance Francaise - December

RA manages and partly owns artist-run Grey Room Art Space (Art District Bacolod City) which is an art space committed to supporting local talent in Bacolod and surrounding cities in Negros Occidental. As he continues to evolve in his career, he will always acknowledge that art is a never-ending journey with more to grasp. “The more I learn, the less I know. Learning enhances growth and I’m grateful to be where I am right now and excited to see where I’m going,” he concludes.

A blank canvas, an array of palettes, and a collection of paintbrushes enable RA Tijing to express his ideas, inject his emotions, and open up his sense of wonder to uncover the mystery of art.





Bantay
(the GuardDog)
26 x 28 inches
Oil on Canvas
2021



Peace Sells
(Superior Series)
42 x 48 inches
Oil on Canvas
2021

BUSINESS
CONCEPT



CHRONOMAT

The Cinema Squad

Charlize Theron

Brad Pitt

Adam Driver





BREITLING

1884

#SQUADONAMISSION



TRAVEL DESTINATION



HIDDEN GEM IN THE PACIFIC MY CAPIZ JOURNEY

Written by **Cali Manzano**

Photography by **Mark Zaragoza**

Capiz is a province in the Western Visayas region that is home to Roxas City, also known as the Seafood Capital of the Philippines. Aside from the mouthwatering seafood dishes, Capiz also boasts of enchanting caves, historical landmarks, and beaches that will fulfill your wanderlust. If you're looking to feast on the freshest seafood and a fun adventure in the Philippines, then you should add Capiz to your travel bucket list.

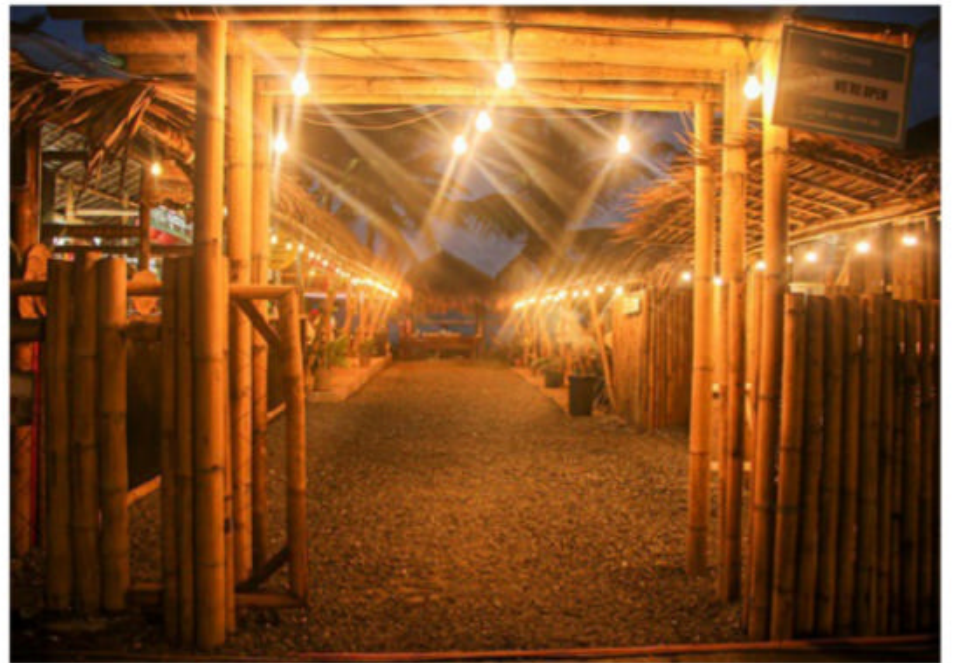


During our trip to Capiz last July, we had a jam-packed schedule, visiting ancestral houses, world class hotels, and various pilgrimage sites. It was nice to take a breather and just enjoy the refreshing sea breeze at the beach.

I envy Roxas City for having such a relaxing spot so close to business establishments. The beach is just three kilometers from the main city proper, and a mere five to ten-minute tricycle ride from the Roxas City Airport. From Manila, we booked our flight with Air Asia. It took us about an hour to arrive at Roxas City Airport.



Lots of food stalls and restaurants are located along Baybay Beach (soon to be called San Juan Coast) and we got to try four beachfront restaurants, such as Almax Grill & Restaurant, The Shack Coffee + Boards, Harry's Seafood Restaurant, and CK (Common Kitchen), during our food tripping around the province.



Roxas City, although not the first option when it comes to beach hopping—is now, for us—an obvious holiday getaway with plenty of exciting activities to do. It is known as your go-to gateway to Boracay, Iloilo, and Gigantes Island in a short period of time and is cost efficient.





Also, San Antonio Resort houses 5 restaurants: the Port Lago restaurant, famous for its pizzas and pasta; the Kainan Village, an open-air food stall; The Pool Bar for a snack and light meals; and their newly opened Café Felisa for various dining options.

Stay in a serene environment while in Roxas City and book your stay at San Antonio Resort. It boasts 50 beautifully designed rooms, equipped with a Cable TV, telephone, and bathroom with hot and cold water. They even have family rooms perfect for those who travel in big groups. The hotel also has modern amenities that guests can enjoy. I shared a Deluxe Queen room (good for 4) with 98.4 Love FM Teleradyo Staff. The room was really comfortable and tastefully decorated, fully air-conditioned with its own patio. It had a curtained area with a large closet and separate bathroom.



The in-house Restaurant Shop, Cafe Felisa serves a variety of specialty coffee, Filipino dishes, and home-baked desserts and pastries. We also had the option of ordering fresh seafood specialties from Cafe Felisa's menu right across the street.





We also got a chance to sneak to the famous Hotel Alunsina, a luxury wellness boutique hotel located in Banica, Roxas City. Situated inside the first ever Medical Tourism Park on the island, it is adjacent to The Health Centrum Hospital, the most modern medical facility in Northern Panay. It is also the perfect place to experience Roxas City (Capiz) and its surroundings. With its convenient location, the hotel offers easy access to the city's must-see destinations. My team was able to experience the homey feeling. They offer numerous on-site facilities to satisfy even the most discerning guest. Free internet access provided within the hotel keeps you connected throughout your stay. Airport transfer services can be booked before your check-in date, to ensure a smooth and convenient arrival or departure. For those driving their own car, parking is available for guests. And for longer stays or whenever you need it, the laundry service keeps your favorite travel outfits clean and available. Feel like doing nothing? Its interior evokes a blend of a hip mentality, providing a distinctive-fun and memorable experience for modern travelers. Get your money's worth by staying at Hotel Alunsina.



On our 2nd day at Roxas, we're able to experience a lot of delicious food that the city can offer to tourists like us.



BEST PLACES TO EAT IN ROXAS CITY

ALMAX GRILL AND RESTAURANT

This is Roxas City's version of Dampa, wherein you can choose what seafood you want, and then they'll cook it for you. It's located at Arnaldo Blvd., right beside the beach. I have been coming to the Farmer's Market for years but have only recently started going to the seafood restaurant. And oh my god let me tell you, the food here is so good! The menu is your basic fish camp fare; it's well seasoned and not too oily. The best part though, like everyone says, are the portions you get. They give you so much food that you definitely get your money's worth and then some. The first time we came here, our photographer and I were going to share a large mixed seafood tray.



They gave us so much food that the box barely closed and we were both able to stuff ourselves and have enough left over for lunch the next day. The restaurant is usually pretty crowded but the kitchen is fast and the food will always come out hot and fresh. Because most of



the food here is deep-fried, this isn't something that you should be getting too often but it'll definitely hit the spot when you're in the mood to be a little naughty and cheat on your diet. Great seafood for a great price! They give you enough to fill you up and have leftovers, and everything I've had there has been delicious (shrimp, clam strips, deviled crabs, grilled fish, baked oysters, and flounder).



With Capiz City being the undisputed Seafood Capital of the Philippines, it's a must to dine in its most famous restaurant. **Almax Seafood Restaurant and Grill** caters to both tourists and locals alike who want to indulge in a wide array of the freshest bounty from the sea and nearby aquaculture farms.

Located along the shore, guests would surely enjoy the view and the ocean breeze as they are being serenaded by its resident performer.



VILLA CONSORCIA
(THE SHACK COFFEE + BOARDS,
HARRY'S SEAFOOD PALUTUAN)



Discover the peak of your pleasure in the Green Valley. Welcome to Villa Consorcia Resort "A HOME AWAY FROM HOME" one of the finest resorts in Capiz.

Villa Consorcia Resort gives you access to the best, a resort can offer, with a gorgeous landscape view and a vast array of lavish amenities. Step back in time to another and let them pamper you with friendly personal service, clean, comfortable facilities, and great food. Beauty and privacy has been achieved by terracing the front of all parts. Stroll hand on hand with a loved one as you soak up the magnificent scenery or provide your toddler with a peaceful spot for a nap.





Their pool is a refreshing alternative. Relax and bathe up the sun in their large pool which is swept and cleaned daily. Frolic and glide in their gigantic slide with your family and friends. It is kept sparkling clean and is very open every day.



Quench your craving for nature tripping. Get hold of your fishing gears and enjoy hooking freshwater sunfish (tilapia). At your request, their ground staff will cook your catch as you wish, preserve or pack it for take away.

Food is about more than just comfort food. They provide their guests with a diverse selection of fresh, high quality food at a reasonable price. Their menu also features a wide variety of seafoods delivered fresh daily. They also offer a top-notch, full-service catering menu to their guests for all types of events.

You will love to try their amazing dishes such as; Shrimp Po Boy, this Louisiana USA's staple is here introducing **SHRIMP PO BOY** a traditional sandwich from New Orleans, a crispy and crunchy shrimp piled mile high on a toasted bread, stuffed with crunchy greens, fresh tomatoes, and drizzled with a lip-smacking homemade sauce. Crazy delicious! And their amazing **Capiz Seafood Special**, a soup dish that resembles Tinola, except that this is cooked using "coconut" (buko) with a variety of seafoods. You must also try their **Filipino Breakfast Overload**. A full plate combination of the best Filipino breakfast. It has Tapa, Tocino, Longganisa, Bangus, Eggs, and Garlic Rice. It also has some pan-seared vegetables to complete the whole meal. Treat your family and friends to delicious, mouth-watering, and freshly prepared seafood dishes. Their staff will gladly help you choose the perfect fare for your special occasion or just for noshing by the pool.



The Shack Coffee + Board is a restaurant that acts as a catalyst amongst the youth in exchanging brewing thoughts. It provides an ambience where one can find peace while reading a book or playing native Filipino games. The collection of books and gaming materials in the café holds a unique place which narrates stories worth sharing. The Shack Coffee + Board is a culminating place to adhere to your dates, chill outs, family gatherings, and even business dining.



One of the branch sets away from hustle and bustle of the city and it is located along the shore of Baybay (soon to be called San Juan Coast.)

At the Shacks you can try; **Cuban Sandwich-Roast** pork layered with ham, cheese, pickles, and yellow mustard makes for an addictive combo on its own, but when you heat it up, it becomes a pressed sandwich like no other. The ham and crusty bread become addictive when smothered with tangy mustard and loaded with pickles.



Villa Consorcia (the shacks and Harry's seafood Restaurant) is based on a radical yet simple idea that people have many stories and each story has something intriguing about it. In an era of technology, people are

required to dive in and share ideologies and stimulating ideas which will help the society for a better tomorrow.



Everyday is an exciting day for my team. We woke up with a smile and excitement on our next adventure. On our 3rd day, we're able to visit significant places and even visited their famous tourist destinations.



VISIT THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS MONUMENT

Also located in Roxas City, you should also try to visit the Sacred Heart of Jesus Monument, towering at 102 feet. Visitors will be able to see one of the largest statues of Jesus in Asia. This statue gave me goose bumps, on the 1st time I focused my camera it's all blurred. Even the weather is beautiful, not only me who had this kind of experience, also our photographer. We look for a better spot to take a photo of it and ask his permission and boom. We got a very beautiful angel. All of the people here in Roxas believe that this statue makes a miracle. A Lot of bar takers, board passers, and some pilgrims went here to surrender everything and let God give His blessings that you've worked so hard.

ROXAS CITY BANDSTAND



This earthquake-proof bandstand overlooking the Panay River is also a must-see tourist place in the city. It was built in the '20s by Jose S. Roldan, the first Filipino principal of the Capiz Trade School. The bandstand is the venue for many political rallies, presentations, and launching of programs that benefit the City and the Province.

PANAY CHURCH



The Panay Church or the former Santa Monica Parish Church should also be visited if you're in the province. This historic church was built in 1700 and is famous for having the biggest bells in Asia. The bell measures 5 feet in height and weighs 10 tons. Ian, our tour guide from the LGU of Capiz, assisted us to go on top of the church to personally touch the biggest bell in Asia. I never imagine that it takes a few skinny steps that you need to do for you to be able to go on top of it. Giving you the entire view of Roxas city. They said that Panay bells were used every time there's an emergency evacuation, typhoon, or any calamities that might hit Roxas. Panay bell serves as their communication to the entire cities.

AUNTIE TINA'S FARM

This farm is home to Capiz Coffee Roasters. A business which brings Capiz coffee to the scene. They produce quality coffee beans locally grown and roasted.



The view of the farm, the cornfields, and the mountains are perfect while sipping the coffee made from their locally grown and roasted beans. They also have a mini golf area. The owner is super accommodating and the place is super cool! They also serve good food and other drinks. Perfect for a chill time with friends and family.

A hot cup of latte or some cold tea, complemented by sweet snacks, grants the much-needed energy. Auntie Tina's Farm will present you with a selection of familiar drinks and seats to enjoy them. If you can't allow yourself to rest, ask if there is a To-Go option.

WATCH SUNSET AT BAYBAY BEACH

Take a breather and watch the sunset at Baybay Beach soon to be San Juan Coast. We had a chance to stroll along its stretch of black sand. It is also a perfect place where we can swim, snorkel, kayak, and skimboard. And this is the only beach where you can see a perfect sunset and sunrise.



RIVER CRUISE AT PALINA GREENBELT ECOPARK



We also experience a River Cruise here in Roxas when visiting Palina Greenbelt Park. If you want food to be served during the cruise, we suggest you to book a hut a day before the tour. It's a 3-hour ride where you can enjoy fishing, catching fresh crabs, and shells. You can also try the traditional way of fishing. Aside from that, what's the best about Palina? It gave our fisherman a regular job. You're enjoying your tour while helping the community sustain their living.

KAPIS AND MORE (ATBP..)



We also got a glimpse of a very amazing place wherein you can see the actual making of Capiz Shell, the best pasalubong here in Kapis and more (atpb). They sell gifts and decorations made with Capiz shells. It's located at Brgy. Banica in Roxas City.

When you go back to San Antonio Resort, their famous Cafe Felisa was designed by the finest shells made

just for the Restaurant. You can see different types of chandeliers made of shells. They also started to create the shell lantern that we mostly see along the roads here in Metro Manila.



On our last Night at Roxas, **Pueblo De Panay** never failed our expectations. It completes our beautiful journey here at Capiz. Most people said that Pueblo De Panay is one of the finest and high-end destinations in Capiz. This is what they called City within the City—normally like BGC in Taguig. They have their own hotels, BPO Offices, magnificent overlooking the cafeteria, fine dining at Cucina De Pueblo, and one of their best hotels located at Sitio Uno, wherein we stayed for our last night in Capiz.

CIRCULO CONVENTION CENTER



This is Roxas City's perfect venue to celebrate special moments in life—from birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, family reunions, and other social gatherings. It is located at Circulo Convention Hill at Pueblo de Panay Township, "a rising city within a city" in the country's seafood capital of Roxas City in Capiz Province, Panay

Island. It is surrounded by relaxing panoramic views of sloping greens and blue skies—a perfect working environment to boost spirit and morale.

BEST PLACES TO EAT IN ROXAS CITY (PUEBLO DE PANAY)

CAFÉ TERRAZA



What's a great way to dine in Roxas than eating at Café Terraza. Its location overlooks the scenic Pueblo de Panay Township. They have open cottages where you can sit and dine while enjoying the panoramic view of the progressive City. Café Terraza is famous for serving Asian and Western cuisine, perfect for discerning palates. We have our breakfast for our last day in Capiz and they serve a very delicious Filipino Food. Their homemade full packed meal plus additional dried fish (Uga).

COCINA DE PUEBLO



They even have an in-house restaurant called “Cocina de Pueblo,” famous for its indoor and al fresco dining. Cocina serves local dishes to international ones too.

Some of their bestsellers are Seafood Pasta, Paella Sevillana, Pasta Negra- Pork Lemon Chillies, Tuna A La Parilla- Grilled Tuna Belly, and Parmesan. They also made your dining complete by serving you with their one of a kind Baked Cheesecake- Creamy filling of cheese. We love the food! It really exceeded our expectations!



My Capiz experience was certainly serendipitous, thanks to the last minute changes in my itinerary and even unexpected staying longer in one place. It still would have been a fantastic experience otherwise, but it would also mean that it might not have been this exact same one. Needless to say, my heart was full.



Our trip was made possible by a number of partners who ensured we had the best Western Visayas experience: AirAsia for our Manila to Roxas flight; Capiz Tourism and Cultural Affairs; and the Local Government of Capiz.



GOOD DAY SUNSHINE



Veuve Clicquot

REDCARPET EVENTS

Business Concept Magazine WRAP UP PARTY

FERMENTATION LAB in San Francisco
Photography by **Vincent Gotti**

Last month, Business Concept Magazine celebrated the Asian American Women Business Leaders in California featured in the August Issue. With California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA gracing the cover, the issue focused on female entrepreneurs conquering California. The wrap up party, curated by Jeannie Kim, founder and co-owner of Fermentation Lab and profiled in the issue, highlighted signature Asian dishes including House Korean Tri Tip with Truffle goat cheese, Caviar with octopus and salmon, Shrimp Ceviche, Korean spicy fried chicken wings, apple compote with brie cheese crostini, charcuterie platter, and cherry tomatoes with burrata cheese salad.

The impressive array of women featured in the August issue encompass success in everything from California politics, to food and wine, to venture capital investing and medicine. The cover profile centered on California's 34th State Treasurer Fiona Ma, CPA -- the first woman of color to hold the position. In her first 3.5 years as Treasurer, her office worked quickly to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, offering resources to small businesses and expanding access to healthcare facilities. She grew and revamped the state's affordable housing and homeless housing programs, funded clean energy projects to create new jobs, and dramatically increased Californians' ability to save for college, retirement, live with a disability and achieve a better quality of life. At the same time, she bolstered support for K-12 and higher education.

In 2021, her office processed more \$3.2 trillion in payments. Her office provides transparency and oversight for an investment portfolio of more than \$200 billion and she is the agent of sale for all of the bonds for the state of California, the UC and CSU systems.



FIONA MA WITH HER HUSBAND JASON HODGE





Fiona Ma, Jeannie Kim, Dr. William Ma, Heddie Chu and Monique Zhang



Jeannie Kim



Jeannie Kim and Gabriella Gomez



Jason Hodge, Steven Ma, Emilie Gatfield and Dr. William Ma



Jeannie Kim and Steven Ma



Jeannie Kim and Fiona Ma



Atty. Evie Jeang and Todd Rubin



Jeannie Kim



Fiona Ma with her dad, Dr. William Ma



Francis Tsang



Fiona Ma and Ethel Reddy



Dulo Batsuh and Steven Ma



Calvin Yuan Lin and Ethel Reddy



Amy Lee and Jeannie Kim



Jeannie Kim and Emilie Gutfield



Atty. Evie Jeang with her son Evan



Ethel Reddy and husband Madhusudhan Reddy



Fiona Ma and Brian Hoyt



Monique Zhang and Ethel Reddy



Fiona Ma, Calvin Yuan Lin and Steven Ma



Heddie Chu and Russ Naylor



Fiona Ma and Vincent Gotti



Monique Zhang, Calvin Lin and Fiona Ma



Jeannie Kim, Atty. Evie Jeang and Fiona Ma



Heddie Chu, Amy Lee and Jeannie Kim



REDCARPET EVENTS

GALLERY 181 OPENING

For Nara Roesler Art Exhibit

September 22, 2022

Photography by **Drew Altizer**



SAN FRANCISCO, CA. SEPTEMBER 22, 2022 Gallery 181, a highlight of 181 Fremont's art program located in a half-floor penthouse 700 feet high in San Francisco's acclaimed first LEED Platinum-certified mixed-use building, is excited to announce a new exhibition and the first presentation in San Francisco by the renown Brazilian Gallery Nara Roesler "Lines of Abstraction" which showcases Brazilian artists Artur Lescher, Abraham Palatnik, Amelia Toledo, and Tomie Ohtake. The exhibition proposes a reflection on the legacy of Constructivism in Brazilian Modern and Contemporary art, offering an overview of different approaches to its vocabulary and principles. This exhibition also offers the first opportunity to see more works by Tomie Ohtake, whose work was recently acquired by SF MOMA, joining its permanent collection. Lines of Abstraction will run from September 22 – November 19, 2022.

Nara Roesler is a leading Brazilian contemporary art gallery, representing seminal Brazilian and international artists who emerged in the 1950s as well as preeminent mid-career and emerging artists who dialogue with the currents put forth by these historical figures. Founded by Nara Roesler in 1989, the gallery has consistently fomented curatorial practice while upholding the utmost quality in art production. This has actively been put into practice through a select and rigorous exhibitions program created in close collaboration with its artists; the implementation and fostering of the Roesler Curatorial Project, a platform for curatorial projects; and continued support to artists beyond the gallery space, working with institutions and curators in offsite shows.



Robert Eggert Peluso, Stephen Engblom and Nick Augustinos



Burcu Garnier and Lillian Phan



Holly Baxter and Matthew Lituchy



Armit Saxena



Natasha Becker and Jonathan Carver Moore



Carmen Legarda, Holly Baxter and Laura Smith Sweeney



Frederik Schampers



Frederik Schampers, Matt Lituchy and Holly Baxter



Matthew Leberon, Jackie Comolli and Tom O'Connor



Jonathan Carver Moore



Heide Betz and Gioi Tran



Patricia Pericas, Megan O'Callaghan and Marian Goulart

Lynn Poole, Ed Poole, Blair Heath and Sara Poole



Frederik Schampers, Matt Lituchy and Holly Baxter



Frederik Schampers and Jackie Comolli



Lisa Congdon and Randy Single



Nick Augustinos



Patricia Pericas, Frederik Schampers,
Holly Baxter and Matt Lituchy



Heide Betz



Czarina Chung and Nancy Lam



Tai Krueger and Shuaky Xiong



Carrie Ann Plank and Elaine Mellis

REDCARPET EVENTS

ROMEO TABUENA

The Collection

Venue: 



Thomas R. de Luzuriaga, Jackie Zayco, Carmeli Bantug Zayco, Mikko Zayco, Nacho Zayco

Romeo V. Tabuena moved to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, in 1955, but he always retained his Philippine citizenship. His art changed into a more prismatic style after he moved to Mexico, showing people going about their daily lives.

His earlier works retain a sense of translucency and fluid form and are frequently rendered in jewel toned colours and interlocking cubist influenced shapes, whereas those from his later “Mexican” period are more opaque and have a stylized geometric quality that seem to cross reference the works of fellow Filipino artist Hernando Ocampo and the aesthetic of Mexican muralists.

By this time in his career, Tabuena had moved away from stark landscapes and pure modernism, and his figures had taken on a more naturalistic rendering and emotional intimacy.

Numerous honours have been presented to Tabuena for his service, including the Philippines’ 2007 Presidential Merit Award. He attended the eighth Biennial in Sao Paulo, Brazil, as the official representative of the Philippines in 1965. He also had solo exhibitions in Manila in 1973, Mexico City in 1975, and Galeries Bleue in Manila in 1981. In 1995, the Instituto de Bellas Artes, Centro Cultural Ignacio sponsored a significant exhibition of his art in San Miguel de Allende.

The National Art Gallery, National Museum of the Philippines in Manila, the Lopez Memorial Museum in Pasig City, and the Harwood Museum of Art in Taos, New Mexico, all have pieces of his work in their collections.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

On August 22, 1921, Romeo Villalva Tabuena, a painter and printmaker, was born in Iloilo City, Philippines. He majored in painting at the University of the Philippines and studied architecture at the Mapua Institute of Technology in Manila. He continued his education by studying with American artist Will Barnet at the Art Students League in New York in 1952 and with Henri Goetz at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière in Paris in 1954.

Tabuena’s work typically consists of figures that are put together from subdued, monochromatic outlines despite his use of a wide variety of subject matter and materials. His aesthetic is frequently cubism-inspired, imposing fractal-like geometric patterning on recognizably geometric objects.

He died on October 15, 2015 in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.



Thomas R. de Luzuriaga

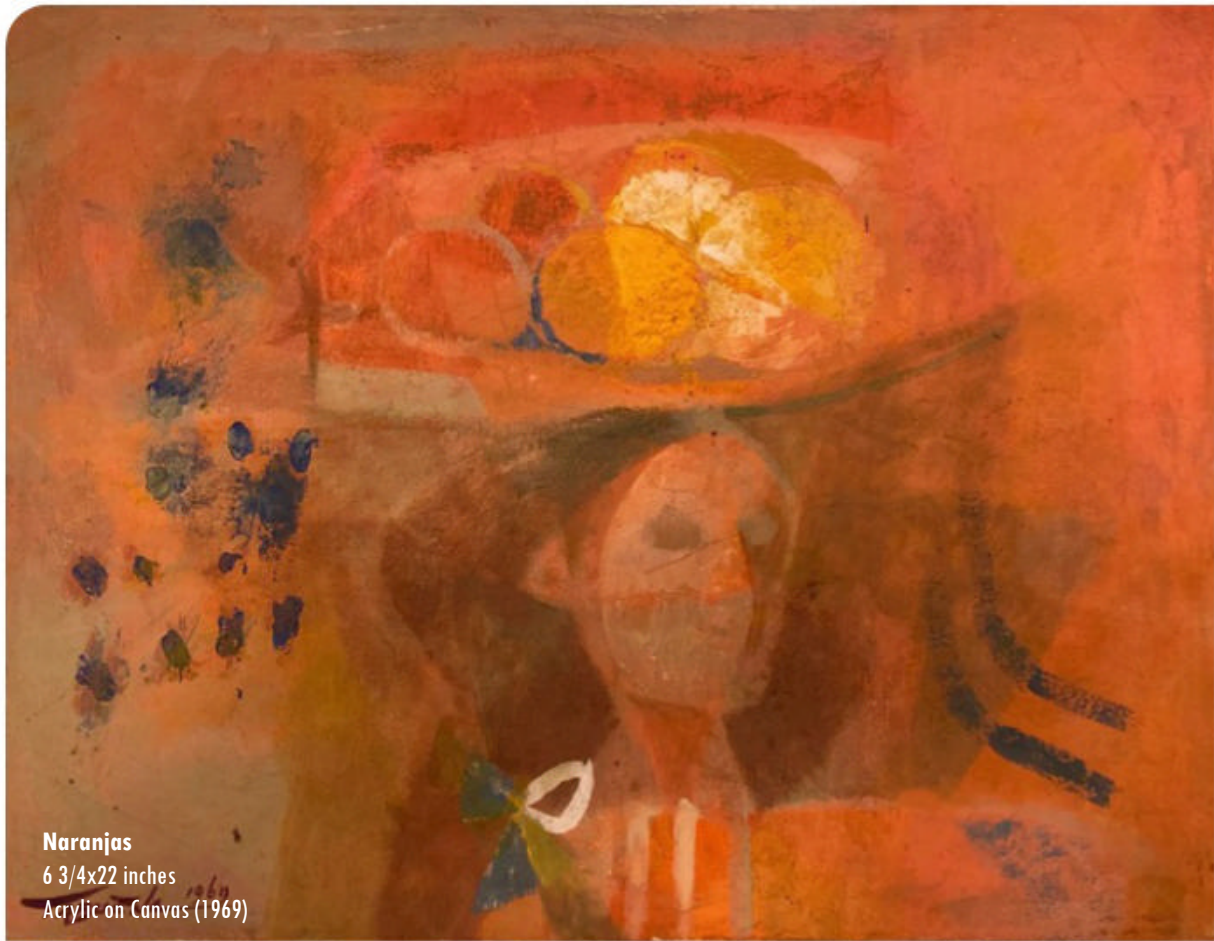
Joey Solinap, Rohit Chugani, Thomas R. de Luzuriaga



Isa Martin, Paulina Reyes R. de Luzuriaga, Nina Tinsay



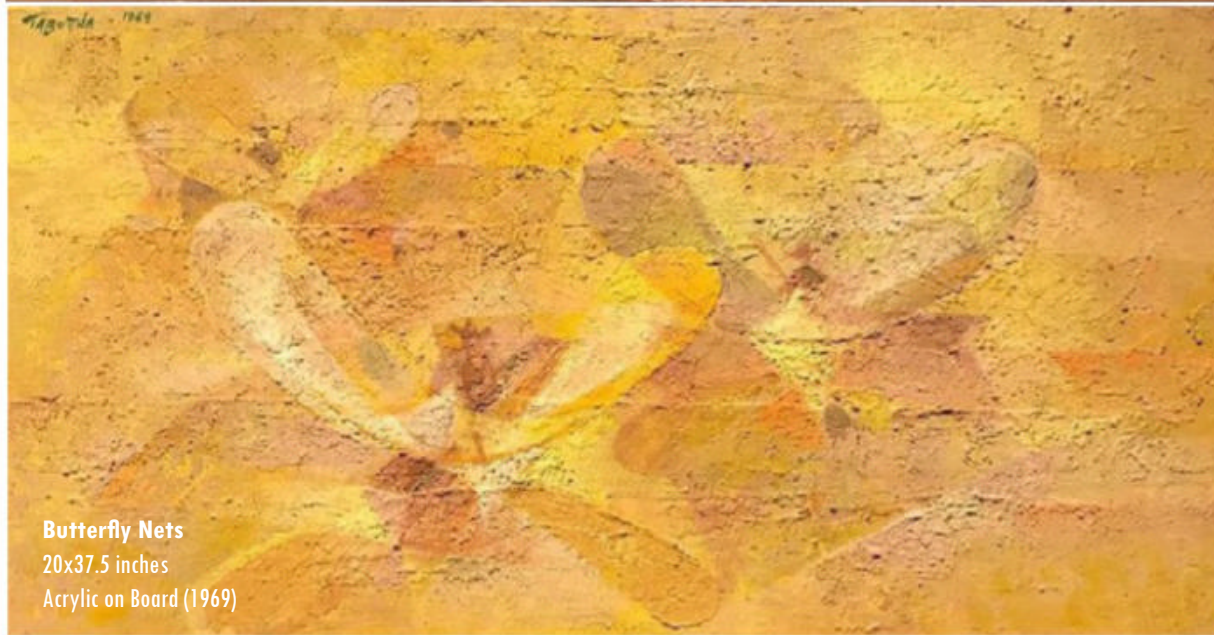
Aiber Arela, Aubrey Arela, Nacho Zayco, Luis Kilayko,
Thomas R. de Luzuriaga, Rohit Chugani



Naranjas
6 3/4x22 inches
Acrylic on Canvas (1969)



Old Man
14x11 inches
Acrylic on Canvas



Butterfly Nets
20x37.5 inches
Acrylic on Board (1969)



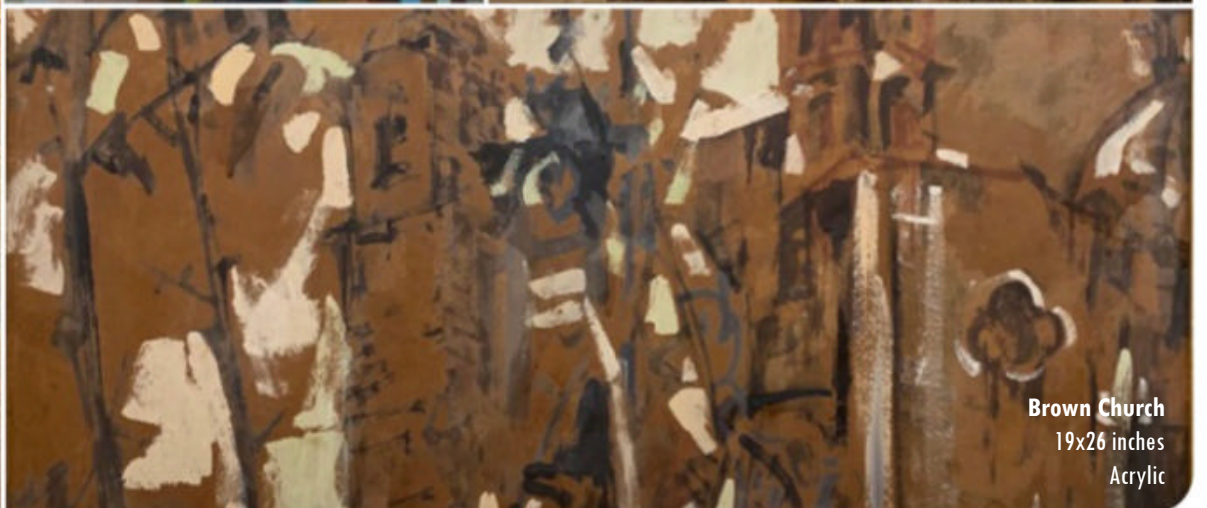
Young Boy
24x18 inches
Mixed Media on Paper (1959)



Vendedor
16.5x 22.5 inches
Acrylic (1966)



Watermelon
29.5x26.5 inches
Oil on Canvas (1980)



Brown Church
19x26 inches
Acrylic



Duco Mother and Child
23x17.5 inches
Acrylic on Board (1955)

R.V. TABUENA
57



Dom Pérignon

×

LADY GAGA



Champagne, © 2022 Imported by Moët Hennessy USA, Inc.,
New York, NY. Please drink responsibly.

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DIOR





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HUBLOT




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BIG BANG UNICO

18K King Gold and ceramic case.
In-house UNICO chronograph movement.