

The World Bank Art Program

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Pacita Abad (1946-2004) was born in Basco, Batanes, a small island in the northernmost part of the Philippines. Her more-than-thirty-year painting career began when she journeyed to the United States to pursue graduate studies. Following that trip, Pacita became committed to her painting and the joys of travel around the world. She studied painting at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington D.C. and The Art Students League in New York City, living on 5 different continents and working in more than 80 countries. Pacita's extensive travels to destinations like Guatemala, Mexico, India, Afghanistan, Yemen, Sudan, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia and Indonesia had a major impact on her life and art, and were the inspiration for many ideas, techniques and materials used in her paintings.

Pacita's art is characterized by constant change, experimentation and development. Pacita's body of work includes vibrantly colorful figurative and abstract works on a complete range of materials from canvas and paper to bark cloth, metal, ceramics and glass. A disciplined and prolific painter, Pacita created over 3,500 artworks and even painted a 55-meter long bridge in Singapore.

A truly global artist, Pacita had over 40 solo exhibitions at museums and galleries in the U.S., Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America. She also participated in more than 50 group and traveling exhibitions throughout the world. Pacita's work is now in public, corporate and private art collections in over 70 countries. One of her works is in the collection of the Smithsonian Museum of American Art and three very special artworks are part of the World Bank's Institutional Art Collection.