



GP of the Month

Pacita Abad "Trapunto Painter"



Name:
Pacity Abad

Year of Birth:
1946

Birthplace:
Basco, Batanes

Filipino émigré Pacita Abad is an established artist internationally recognized for her *trapunto* paintings - unique works of art artistically created in a technique she developed. Her murals are made by quilting and sewing pieces of fabric together to form a cohesive image. A peripatetic artist, she has traveled an incredible number of countries all over the continents of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Her art works are strongly influenced by her own culture and by the diverse cultures she interacts with along her journeys.

Abad hails from Basco, Batanes on the northernmost tip of the Philippines. She finished her Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines in 1968. Coming from a politically active family, she became involved in the anti-Marcos demonstration, which forced her to flee the country in 1970. While abroad, she supported herself as a seamstress and a typist in California. She immersed herself in Anthropology at the University of San Francisco and received her MA in 1972. She also studied painting at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C., and the Art Students League in New York City.

After graduating, she traveled with her future husband, drawing and painting through thirty nations. Once married, she moved with her husband's assignments from international agencies, living in Paris, New York, Bangladesh, Thailand, and the Sudan. Her trips to Asia and Africa started her fascination with indigenous art and crafts which reminded her of her homeland.

Throughout 1980-1994, she traveled around the United States and Europe teaching lectures. Abad has lectured at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, Columbia University Teacher's College, the National Museum for Women in the Arts, George Washington University, the University of Massachusetts and the Textile Museum in Washington DC, among others.

Achievements:

First Asian woman to receive the Excellence 2000 Award from the U.S. Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce presented at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington D.C. in 1995.

Featured in numerous shows worldwide:

New York (1987, 1990 & 1992)

Musee des Arts Africains et Oceanien, Paris. (1988)

Cultural Center of the Philippines, Manila (1985)

Metropolitan Museum, Manila (1984)

Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba (1984)

Museum of Philippine Art, Manila (1984)

Altos de Chavan, Dominican Republic (1984)

National Center of African American Artists, Boston (1982)

National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.

Hong Kong Arts Center, Hong Kong

Bhirasri Institute of Modern Art, Bangkok

Art Museum of Western Virginia, Roanoke