

PRESS RELEASE

The World Bank Institutional Art Program

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The World Bank Institutional Art Program highlights the artworks of Filipino artist in the exhibition: *A Passion to Paint: The Colorful World of Pacita Abad*

Washington, DC -- A major exhibition dedicated to the prolific artistic career of one of the most prominent Asian contemporary artists premieres at the World Bank Main Complex 12th Floor Gallery from December 7, 2005 to January 31, 2006. In conjunction with the exhibition's opening of ***A Passion to Paint: The Colorful World of Pacita Abad***, the World Bank Institutional Art Program will present the viewing of *Groovy-The Colors of Pacita Abad*, a one-hour documentary produced by the Cultural Center of the Philippines in recognition of Pacita Abad's fruitful career. A printed brochure will guide visitors through the exhibition.

The exhibition is organized in collaboration with The World Bank General Services Department, The World Bank Group/IMF Filipino Staff Association, and the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

A Passion to Paint: The Colorful World of Pacita Abad features selected artworks from private and public collections from the United States and abroad. This exhibition traces the development of her artistic carrier and celebrates her signature work: her vibrantly, colorful, multimedia abstract paintings/tapestries.

Her art has drawn much of its character from the rich and diverse experiences of her life and also is inspired by nature and the environment. Many of her works are inspired by Indonesian Puppets, African, Papua New Guinea and Philippine masks creating metaphoric beings and spirits as in the works in the World Bank art collection.

Abad is considered one of Asia's foremost contemporary artists. The exhibition has received the passionate support of colleagues at headquarters, the Filipino community, and public and private collectors.

The Institutional Art Program of the World Bank cares for and expands the 3,000-plus piece collection of art objects representative of the Bank's member countries. As part of its mandate for outreach, the Art Program is dedicated to stimulating the imaginations of the people working for the Bank and in partnerships, promoting staff and client awareness and appreciation of the arts from developing and industrial countries, and highlighting the place of culture in development. As a branch of the General Services Department, the Art Program creates visually uplifting and culturally appropriate work environments and communicates through special events and exhibitions year round in the World Bank's corporate complex.

Our exhibition program aims to create a visual complement to the Bank's operational work, which too often fails to capture the diversity and spiritual wealth of a country for the clients and for external audiences when typically dealing with loan agreements, grant applications, and technical jargon. The Art Program, while small in scope, is broadly charged to catalyze staff enthusiasm for their work in development.

EVENT: Exhibition Opening

DATE: Tuesday, December 13, 2005

TIME: 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: The World Bank 12th Floor Gallery Main Complex 1818 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20433

On View: From Dec. 13 to January 31. Limited access, visits only with prior arrangements with the World Bank Institutional Art Program.

Please note: The opening reception is by invitation
RSVP requested by Monday, December 5, 2005 (202) 458-0333 or
artprogram@worldbank.org

For security purposes photo identification must be presented at the door with this invitation.