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PACITA ABAD: New Paintings

Ayala Museum and Luz Gallery are pleased to announce two solo exhibitions of new paintings by Pacita Abad. This simultaneous exhibits will take place at Ayala Museum, Makati Avenue, from February 1-28, and at Luz Gallery, Locsin Building, corner of Ayala and Makati Avenues from February 1-21, 1991.

For the past five years, Pacita Abad has been based in Washington, D.C., a city known for its international and cultural diversity. During this period she has been extremely active in both the local and international art scene. She represented the Philippines at the following international exhibitions: 'La Bienal de la Habana' in Cuba in 1986; UNESCO's 40 Years with a traveling show in 15 museums in Europe and Asia in 1987; Olympiad of Art in conjunction with the 24th Olympics in Seoul, Korea in 1988; and the International Art Show for the End of World Hunger exhibited in Europe in 1988-89.

On the local side, Pacita has had several solo shows in Massachusetts, Washington, and New York and has participated in numerous invitational juried shows in the United States. In recent years, she received awards for distinguished achievement from the National Endowment for the Arts as a visual arts fellow for 1990; the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities as visual arts grantee for 1989 and 1990; the

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New York State Council on the Arts as a visiting artist and most recently, Pacita won the MetroArt Award over 200 artists to install a mural at the Metro Center subway station in Washington, D.C.

This exhibition will feature a collection of more than fifty small trapunto paintings, a technique which she has continuously develop, as well as numerous works on paper in which Pacita has made assemblages using a wide variety of materials like buttons, tiny mirrors, glass, gold threads, shells, beads, embroidery and fabrics. Pacita paints, silk-screens, cuts, glues and sews objects to her work in order to emphasize certain shapes and forms. When these objects and materials are sewn to the canvas, textures can be felt as well as seen and the painting becomes animated.

In a quote from her review written for Pacita's 1989 Franz Bader Gallery (Wash., D.C.) show, Shirley Koller writes:

"In several of the smaller works, you feel a rhythmic flow as tiny colored buttons, attached in close formation march along a trail. Serpentine paths of color which wind through some compositions lead you through a route which allow intimate discoveries along the way. In some paintings, the surface patterns reveal sweeping painterly passes made with the brush. In others, large units of colored dots form patters of their own. The natural exuberance flowing from Pacita Abad as she speaks about herself and her artwork can also be felt emanating from the colorful, luxurious canvases she produces."

Pacita, a 1984 TOYM Awardee, had her last one person show in 1990 at the Astraea Gallery in Washington.

The exhibit, open to the public, will be viewed at Ayala Tuesdays through Sundays from 10-6 PM and at Luz Gallery Mondays through Saturdays from 10-6 PM.