

F N N L I N K

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PACITA ABAD – Life is Full of Colors and Texture

Pacita Abad was born in the post office in Basco, Batanes, a small Philippine island in the middle of the South China Sea, halfway between Taiwan and Luzon. In a strange way the post office was the perfect place for a spirit destined to travel the world, experience foreign cultures and bring them to others through colorful paintings. I was fortunate to visit her home in Singapore and have an inspiring chat with the bubbly artist and her Finnish Gallerist friend Margareta Krogell.



▲ PACITA ABAD

Pacita developed her own technique Trapunto, a collaged tapestry that adds a three-dimensional aspect to her work in 1985. "I used to paint oil on canvas but it became a nuisance for me to have paintings in frames during my travels. I wanted my



▲ Pacita working with Master Papermaker Richard Haugröfved during her recent 3-month Artist in Residence at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute (STPI).

work to be more portable and free – like a wall-hanging. The idea of needle-point and mixed media which involves painting, stitching, collage, silkscreen, tie-dye, embroidery, stuffing and recycled materials fascinated me."

Pacita has had numerous exhibitions at museums and galleries in the U.S., Asia, Africa and Latin America during the past 25 years. In addition to painting, she gives frequent artists talks, seminars and workshops. To my question where she gets all that energy, she explains: "When you work constantly, you grow as an artist. With a new technique, I want to be able to absorb as much as possible. Art should be experimental – you play, compose and each piece will eventually become part of a series in making. As an artist totally dedicated to art, I put all my mental and physical energy into my work - art is my life."

Pacita and Finnish Gallerist Margareta Krogell met at an art exhibition in Singapore in November 2000. She instantly fell in love with Pacita's paintings and wanted to have her artwork exhibited at her Stockgard Gallery in Siuntio Finland. At that time Pacita was



PACITA ABAD AND MARGARETA KROGELL

planning to have an exhibition in the Netherlands and suggested to Margareta that if she finds a space for her exhibition in the Netherlands, then she will come to Finland. When Margareta thinks back about this incident, she has still difficulty in believing that such a famous artist as Pacita would trust her in her very early stage as a Gallerist. "I owe a lot to Pacita – her determination and zest for life have given me courage to follow my intuition and dare to walk my own way," says Margareta smilingly.

During her first exhibition at Stockgard Gallery in 2001, Pacita said that 'this is just the beginning' – and how right she was! Pacita comes to Finland second time as her paperworks and paintings from her "Endless Blues" Series are exhibited at Stockgard Gallery from 3 June to 19 June. Visit Pacita's exhibition and experience her passion for bright colors and rich textures and the celebration of life and joy of making art. (KK)

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Opening Hours:

Tuesdays to Fridays from 12 to 6 pm

Saturdays and Sundays from 12 to 4pm

By appointment

Credit Note

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