0 FACE



Abed: Finding expression through colour and risk-taking.

W HEN PACITA ABAD DISCOVERED mist, and travels extensively teaching and the world of painting, the legal profes-

cion lost an aspiring practitioner.

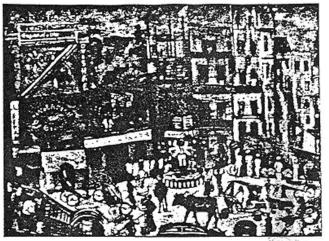
Today, the 43-year-old former law student directs all her energies to dazzling the eye. Her unusual style and colourful personality have made her one of the Philippines' best known artists.

She mastered trapunto, a 14th century Italian-inspired method of using cloth, the texture and thickness of quilts, as canvas.

Clothes are among her canvases. The buttons, beads and sequins she sews on her

Daring as she is flamboyant, her "trademarks" include orange and green fingernalls and hair worn in corn rows. A collection of paintings, shown in the Philippines during 1984, depicted her native country in turmoil. Death threats arrived as well as the honour of being included in the nation's "Ten Outstanding Young Men" award.

When a group of paintings on sea themes debuted in Manila, she arrived at the opening in scuba diving gear. During one globe-trotting adventure, she defied tradition in Dacca, Bangladesh, and paint-



ed nudes of a local Muslim woman, then displayed them.

The fourth of 12 children, Abad was born in the province of Batanes in the northern Philippines. Her late father, a former minis-ter of public works, encouraged her to study law. Little did she know that her part-time job, art co-ordinator at the University of San Francisco, would change the direction of her

She lives in Washington, DC, with her husband, an American econo-

