



SPIDER'S WEB...acrylic on canvas embellished with rickrack, buttons and rhinestones

Art at its best

'ORIENTAL Abstractions — Trapuntoe Paintings By Pacita Abad,' the first solo exhibition by a Philippine artist at Hongkong Arts Centre, will be held at Pao Sui Loong Galleries from June 7 (Saturday) to June 23 (Monday).

Presented by Hongkong Arts Centre and Alisan Fine Arts Ltd, and with generous assistance from Philippine Airlines and Philippine Association of Hongkong, the 20-day exhibition will comprise the cosmopolitan artist's over 20 outsized hung-on-pole trapuntoe paintings in brilliant and attractive colours.

A trapuntoe, first cre-

ated in the 14th century in Sicily, is a high-relief, large wall hanging worked through two layers of cloth. The top layer is joined to the underneath with running stitches, which define areas and delineate the design on the surface. Stuffing (kapok, cotton batting, woollen, yarn, foam rubber and soft feathers) has then been applied in between to give the tapestry a puffed-out or three dimensional effect. Further edged with bias binding, the trapuntoe can be decorated on the surface by embroidery and applique.

Pacita Abad's hand-sewn trapuntoe exhibits, the largest measured at 114" x 93" and the small-

est, 56" x 79", are all created with a variety of media including acrylic, oil, fabric paints, rick rack, mirror, coloured buttons, rhinestones, fabric collage and embroidery.

Silkscreen techniques are also applied and six-cm-wide black cloth strips have been used to border the finished works.

Born in 1946 on the island of Batanes in the northern Philippines, Pacita Abad virtually painted her way around the world until she and her husband settled in Manila three years ago. Her travels to 65 countries, as she said, "have been very rewarding because my exposure to different cultures and in-

teresting people has been an important catalyst for my painting."

Having attained a BA degree at the University of the Philippines in 1968 and a MA degree at the University of San Francisco in 1972, Abad then pursued her art studies at Washington DC's Corcoran School of Art from 1975 to 1977 and The Art Students League of New York in 1978.

She was selected as the 1984 TOYM ("The Outstanding Young Men") awardee in the field of art. Abad was the first woman to have received this prestigious Philippine award and is described by the TOYM body as "a young, dynamic and original artist imbued with a

global outlook and compassion for the oppressed."

Indeed, the compassionate she does portray pathos and tragedy pathetically in her work. Yet, she is equal to the exuberance, excitement and whimsicality of the world. This gives birth to the creation of trapuntoe paintings, one of the most extravagant and imaginative rhythms, imaginations and with technical skills reflecting the energetic sphere of her personality.

Also working in painting, acrylic, prints and textiles, this versatile artist has had 16 one-person exhibitions and participated in selected group exhibitions from 1978 to 1986 in her home country and other parts of the world including the United States, Dominican Republic, Thailand