



RIENTAL ABSTRACTION TRAPUNTOE PAINTINGS BY PACITA ABAD

*Vibrating colors presented on a large scale make for an exciting exhibit.
Here B-International previews an interesting new show.*



Men") awardee in the art field, Abad is the first woman to have received the prestigious Philippine award and is described by the TOYM body as "a young, dynamic and original artist imbued with a global outlook and deep compassion for and understanding of the less fortunate and oppressed". Yet, the somber, compassionate humanist who portrays human pathos and tragedy sympathetically in her art is equally sensitive to the exuberant colours, excitement and whimsicality of the world. This gives birth to her creation of another art form, one of visual extravagance, bold rhythms, imaginative colours and with techniques reflecting the bright, energetic sphere of her personality.

Working in oil painting, acrylic, collage, prints, textiles and trapuntoe paintings, the versatile cosmopolitan artist has had 17 one-man exhibitions and has taken part in 12 selected group exhibitions from 1977 to 1985, both in her home country and other parts of the world including the United States, England, Bangladesh, Sudan, Thailand



Dominican Republic, Bulgaria, Germany, Japan, Taiwan and Indonesia.

A twenty-day exhibition, comprising Pacita Abad's twenty outsized hung-on-pole trapuntoe paintings in vivid colours and twenty drawings and serigraphs, will be the first solo exhibition by a Philippine artist at the Hong Kong Arts Centre. It is jointly presented by the Hong Kong Arts Centre and Alisan Fine Arts Ltd., and sponsored by Philippine Airlines. The artist will personally come to Hong Kong for the duration of the exhibition.

Born in 1946 in the Philippines, Pacita Abad attained her master's degree in San Francisco in 1972, then pursued her art studies at Washington D.C.'s Corcoran School of Art from 1975 to 1977 and the Art Students League of New York in 1978. Pacita Abad virtually painted her way around the world until she and her husband settled in Manila three years ago. Her travels to over 70 countries, as she said, "Have been very rewarding because my exposure to different cultures and interesting people has been an important catalyst for my painting."

Selected as the 1984 TOYM ("The Outstanding Young



In this exhibition, we can see the art of trapuntoe which was created in the 14th century in Sicily. A Trapuntoe, normally used as a large wall hanging, is a high relief worked through two layers of cloth. The top layer, carrying the design, is joined to the underneath muslin layer with running stitches, which define areas and delineate the design. Stuffing (eg. kapok, cotton batting, woolen yarn, foam rubber, old blankets and soft feathers) is then used between the two layers to give the tapestry a puffed-out or three dimensional effect. Surface decoration can be further achieved by embroidery and applique. In addition, the tapestry is edged with bias binding. Materials utilized by Abad in her hand-sewn trapuntoe art include acrylic and fabric paints, rick rack, ribbons, lace, batik cloth, Ifugao weaves, tie-dyed material, mirrors, coloured buttons, cowrie shells, Nepali beads and rhinestones.

The exhibit will be presented from the 7th to 23rd of June 1986.