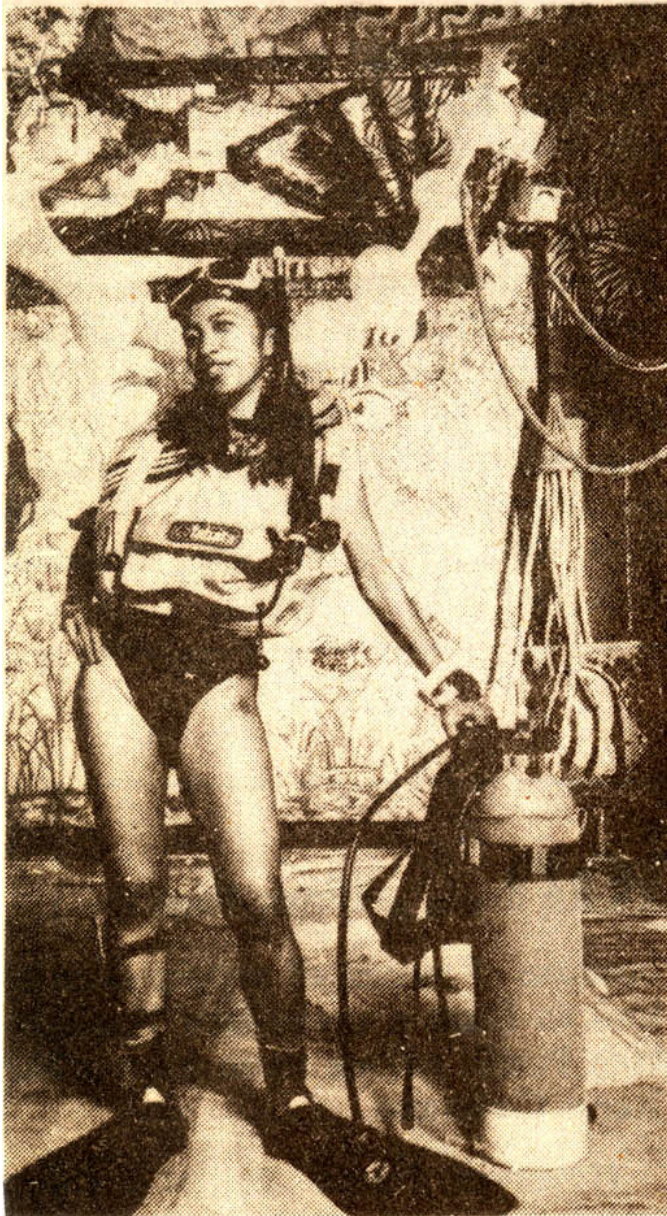


'Bad girl' in a dry sea of art

ONE of the weirdest exhibits now in Manila is "Assaulting the Deep Blue Sea" at the Ayala Museum filled with large trapuntos, paintings and yards and yards of cloth to smother the visitor into thinking that he is really drowning in a dry sea of art. The exhibit mounted by "a bad girl" named Pacita Abad



PACITA ABAD: Vicariously underwater

who gained fame (or notoriety) when she became one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men in the Philippines a few years back is an expatriate Filipina now living in Washington. She had just returned from Hongkong where she opened another exhibit entitled "Oriental Abstractions" People and a few art critics have questioned Pacita Abad's meteoric rise in the art world and so wherever she goes there are people who are ecstatic over her work and an equal number of those who hate it.

An interesting woman who never leaves the house with a "together" look: she wears lots of accessories, orange lipstick and fluorescent nail polish! She terrorized hotel staff by pulling down their curtains and leaving paint drops on their carpets as she paints the scenes she sees outside her window. Then she scandalized museum goers a few weeks back by posing in the middle of her exhibit in a bathing suit complete with scuba gear! Pacita Abad is a woman whose art may be primitive and rough but it is the strength of her personality, this "wild" bohemian lifestyle which captures the imagination of everyone who has the opportunity to encounter these "walking pieces of art."