

# ARTFORUM

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## PAULINE J. YAO



Pacita Abad, *Through the Looking Glass*, 1996, oil, acrylic, sequins, and plastic buttons on stitched and padded canvas, 17' 4 1/8" × 4' 11".

1 PACITA ABAD (MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART AND DESIGN, MANILA; CURATED BY JOSELINA CRUZ AND PIO ABAD) Bursting with color and texture, Abad's unique

trapunto paintings—hand-stitched quilts painted with acrylics and oils and adorned with buttons and ribbons—are in a category all their own. The same can be said for Abad herself, a Filipina artist whose extended stays in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Sudan, Thailand, and the United States during the 1970s and '80s yielded a diverse and ever-evolving practice. Twenty-four of these intuitively composed and precisely crafted objects hung from MCAD's ceiling in a breathtaking installation that cleverly played to the works' strengths.

— Pauline J. Yao



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