

Pacita Abad - 1984 TOYM awardee mounts an exhibit



Pacita Abad all set for a dive

Pacita Abad presented an exhibit entitled, "Assaulting the Deep Sea", in co-operation with the Ayala Museum, on Thursday, May 29, at 6:00 p.m.

Manila's art lovers turned out in gratifying numbers to see the exhibit and of course to welcome Pacita so recently arrived from abroad.

Pacita was her irrepressible, inimitable self, finger nails green, her hair wet

and slicked back, and her neck encircled by large coloured jewels, each reflecting the shades of the deep sea. Flashing her magical smile, she received everyone warmly.

Pacita's good friends, Peter and Carol Nelson, moving spirits behind the Philippine Sub Aqua Club, opened the show.

Guests slowly crowded into Gallery III walking across a strip of imported beach, heels sinking into

the soft sand.

As one entered the gallery, it ceased to be an art gallery and became a womb in the depths of the sea.

The sound of water sloshed and gurgled, and bluish - brown muslin lengths gently flowed and rippled overhead; so like waves, one almost lost one's balance for looking up too long! Stuffed octopodes clinging to invisible threads brushed one with waving tentacles,



Pacita's husband, Jack Garrity of ADB with a friend

while scattered bits of broken mirror gleamed eerily up from a sandy floor covered with fish net. Sea shells everywhere added to the illusion.

On the wall, covering every inch of space, were Pacita's depictions. Vibrant blues, reds, yellows and purples beguiled the eye, while a carp gazed balefully out from a forest of coral and sand. Her work is a profusion of colour and detail which boggles the

mind. One could only whisper, "Wonderbar!"

The mixed media exhibit of trapunto paintings, soft sculptures, serigraphs and paintings is an expression of Pacita's underwater experiences with the Philippine Sub Aqua Club; of her impressions, the artist said, "You have never seen colours so vivid as the coral around Sombrero Island, nor the blues so

blue as Dumaguete's Apo Reef!"

Later, sipping a glass of well chilled champagne everyone discussed this wonderfully talented young woman. A 1984 TOYM awardee for the arts, Pacita has had five one-woman shows in Manila.

Recently, one of her trapunto paintings, exhibited at the 2nd Annual Asian Art Show in Japan, was purchased by the Fukuoka Arts Museum.