

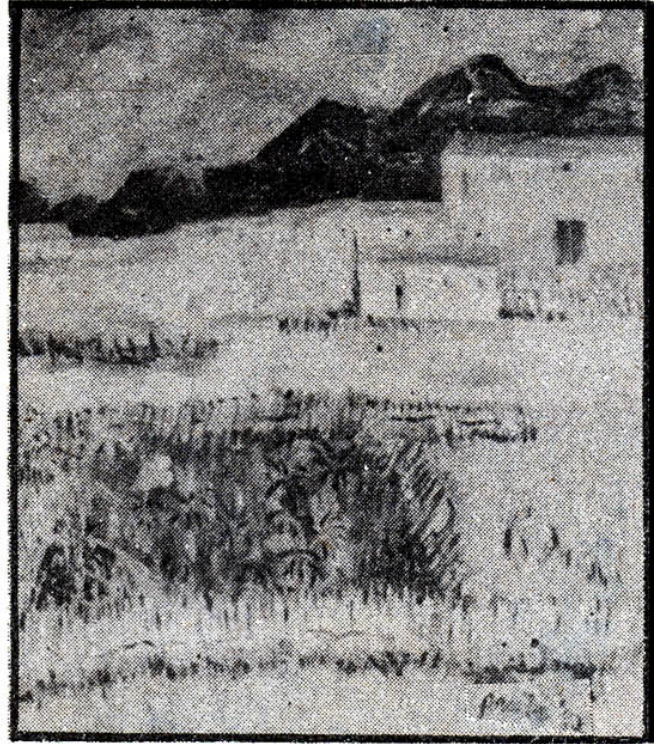
Pacita Abad presents 'Scenes from Batanes' at CCP Small Gallery

IF INTERNATIONAL expressionist painter Pacita Abad has been holding herself up in Batanes, it is only to trace her roots and to piece together fragments of a cherished childhood. Pacita Abad brings a whiff of Batanes' lush green countryside to Manila in her 17th one-woman show now going on at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Small Gallery.

Fact is, Abad's CCP show — her fifth in the Philippines — is woven around Batanes' homespun beauties: the rolling green pasture lands dotted with staid farmhouses, postcard-pretty rocky coasts, fishing villages snuggled at the foot of volcanic peaks. The hearty and hardy inhabitants of Batanes, the Ivatans, also leap out of Abad's *Scenes from Batanes* as they go about their daily humdrum.

Having exhibited and lived in many parts of the world, Pacita Abad now dips her paintbrushes into a series of social commentary paintings on the Philippines which she is also currently showing at the Pinaglaban Gallery.

A colorful year lies ahead for Pacita Abad whose primitive trapunto paintings have been chosen to represent the Philippines in the forthcoming art exhibition in Munich and Stuttgart, Germany from May to September this year.



House of Rey Cardeño, oil on canvas by Pacita Abad