

# Ningas-Cogon

60 Cents

VOL. 7, NO. 8

Brush-Fire

## PACITA ABAD, PAINTER

There are few women artists in the Philippines—and fewer yet among the expatriates in America. Not one woman was represented in the recent exhibition in New York, *Insights into Philippine Contemporary Art.* But there is one worth watching—Pacita Abad.

Pacita lived her first seventeen years on Batanes, a small island in the North China Sea. Influenced by her parents, who were active in politics, she enrolled at the University of the Philippines where she majored in political science.

Following her graduation, Pacita quickly became embroiled in Philippine politics, as the director of her father's controversial Congressional campaign. After a supervised reelection, which her father won, she came to the United States to complete her graduate work.

It was in San Francisco in 1970 that Pacita began to paint as well as study. She soon became the art coordinator for Lone Mountain College and during her four years on the West Coast she exhibited in group shows in San Francisco and Mexico City.

In 1974 Pacita returned to Asia to visit her family and then began a one-year overland journey through Laos, Thailand, Burma, India, and the Middle East. She eventually settled in France, where she studied painting for a year before returning to America.

In Washington, D.C., Pacita studied painting at the Corcoran School of Art with Berthold Schmutzhart and Blain Larson. She participated in a group show at the Washington Women's Art Center, and in May 1977 had a successful one-woman show exhibiting sixty paintings.

Pacita studied under John Heliker and Robert Beverly Hale at the Art Students League in New York City, where she exhibited in group shows.

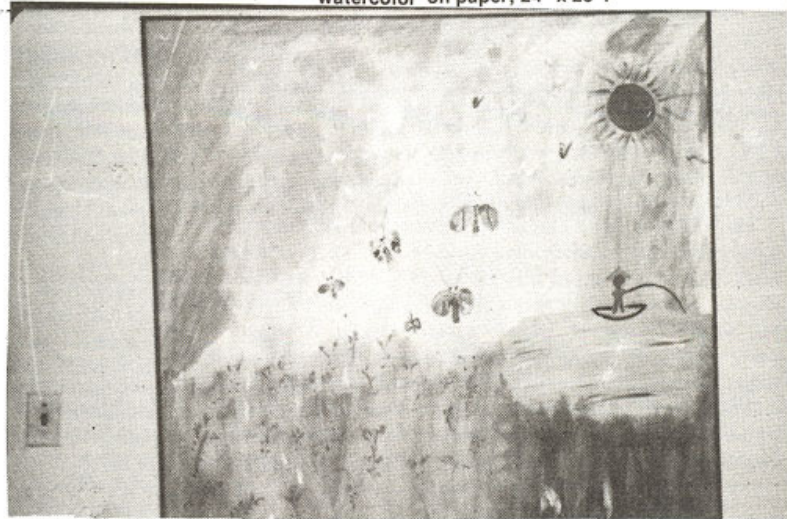
Reminiscent of the works of Chagall, Pacita's paintings express her love of color, her free spirit and her constant smile. The emphasis is on color. It can be gentle, primitive, or agitated, all influenced by her feelings of time and place. Her oriental background is evident in her use of red, blue, orange and yellow to create bright and energetic paintings.



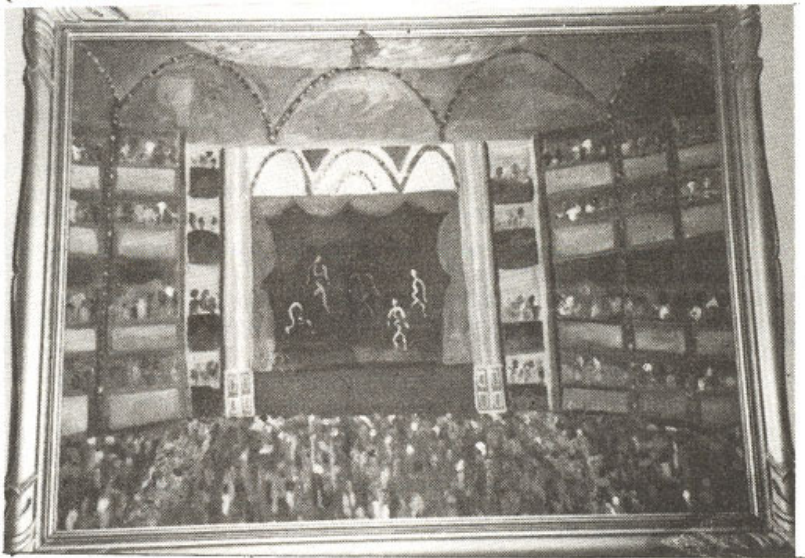
Pacita Abad, Painter



Drinking champagne overlooking San Francisco, watercolor on paper, 24" x 28".



Fishing, oil on canvas, 40" x 46".



Children of Paradise, oil, 30" x 36".