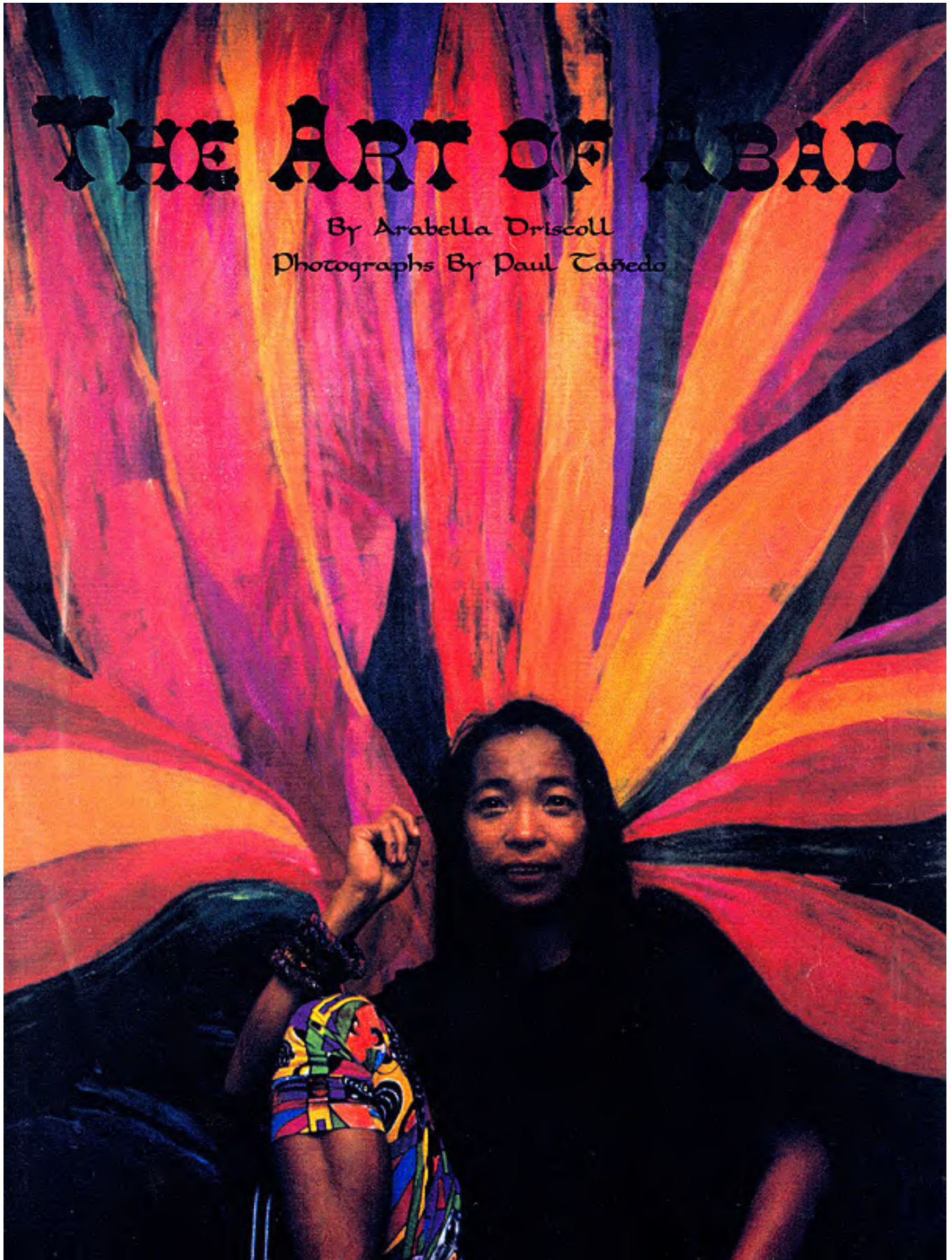


THE ART OF ABAD

By Arabella Driscoll
Photographs By Paul Tasedo



Pacita Abad looks like her art. Wild, joyous, crazy, exotic and never boring. Abad's artistry originates from the cultural traditions of Africa, the Far East, and South America: the use of mirrors in India; tie dying in Kenya, embroidery with gold thread in Burma; batik making in Indonesia; shells of Papua, New Guinea; sand painting in the Sudan, and the colors of Mexico and Guatemala. Add to these her own techniques of using beads, hair ribbons, tree bark, incorporated over oil paint, stuffed and stitched on canvas, and Trapunto Painting is created.

Abad has exhibited worldwide, and was the Philippine representative in the Olympiad of Art at the 24th Olympics in Seoul, Korea. In 1984, 12 years since her departure from the Philippines, the Batanes native broke convention by being the first woman to exhibit at the prestigious Museum of Philippine Art under the directorship of Arturo Luz. More shows followed, the most recent in 1991 at both the Ayala Museum and the Luz Gallery.

In America, Pacita's talents and creativity earned her the Grand Slam award from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council for the Arts, and the Washington, D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities in 1989 to 1990. She is also a member of the board of the Arlington Arts Center in Virginia, the Alternative Museum in New York, and the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington. ♦

Arabella Driscoll is a columnist for the Philippine Star in Washington, D.C.



KOREAN GROCER (ABOVE); LA INDEPENDENCE (BELOW)

