



# Art Outreach

art education for our community  
by our community



## **ART FUNDAMENTALS II – THE PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN**

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## PACITA ABAD and VARIETY



**Burnt by the Sun (2003)**  
**Mixed media on Hand-made paper**  
**W118 X H 83 cm**

### Key Points:

**Variety** refers to the differences within a work of art that increase visual interest, such as using diverse colours, shapes, lines or textures. He or she may also achieve this by contrasting or elaborating elements in a composition.

This artwork exemplifies the principle of **variety** in its vibrant use of colours, textures and materials. Although it has a repeated circular motif, they are of several sizes; each circle is different, creating a richly diverse and visually exciting artwork.

### About the Artist:

Born in the Philippines in 1946, Pacita Abad holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of the Philippines and a Master of Arts degree from the University of San Francisco, California. She studied painting at the Corcoran School of Art, Washington D.C. and The Art Students League in New York City.

Abad considers herself an “artist, traveler and social activist”. Having traveled widely throughout her life, Pacita infuses her art with cultural and ethnic inspirations drawn from her journeys through the region and globally.

For the last 10 years Abad has been living in Indonesia and Singapore, but has been traveling widely around the region as well, discovering rural places from which she draws her inspiration. She was only the fourth artist to participate in Singapore Tyler Print Institute's (STPI) Visiting Artists Program, where she created 57 print and paper pulp pieces.

**She was also asked to paint the Alkaff Bridge, which spans the Singapore River.** She did this in her typically vibrant and colourful style. She says of the project: "I believe in public art and we should have more projects like this so more people can enjoy them."

Abad works mainly with paint and **mixed media**. She is known for painting a wide **variety** of subjects: nature scenes, works that she calls ‘social commentary’ – where she depicts people in poverty and unrest, and highly abstract work characterized by bright colours and dynamic shapes and patterns

*"Although I have done a tremendous amount of figurative, naturalistic and social commentary paintings", she says "all along I have been working on abstract works incorporating different influences, experimenting with techniques, colors, textures and surfaces"* Pacita Abad

This interest in experimentation, textures and surfaces can be seen in her work at STPI, where she became fascinated with the process of making the paper that could later be used to create art-works.

### **About the Artwork:**

Abad created *Burnt by the Sun* based on her public art project for the Alkaff Bridge. It's typical of Abad in its use of vibrant colours and bold shapes which reflect her personality, her jubilation and passion for life and it conveys a palpable sense of the artist's excitement at the diversity of life and cultures.

Circular shapes recur in the piece, but there are a **variety** of colours and patterns within the circles. Every circle in the work is different; each embellished with even more colours and abstracted shapes.

This **variety** is accentuated by the use of diverse materials such as glitter and mirrors to give a different level of texture and sensuality, and to create an impact that extends beyond a two-dimensional painting.

### **Questions:**

#### **Primary 2**

What is this artwork made of? Can you list the colours you can see? What else is there apart from colours? Would you agree that this picture has a great deal of **variety**? How does this that **variety** of colours and surfaces make you feel? Happy? Sad? Why? If it didn't have **variety** and all the circles were one colour, how would it change things?

#### **Primary 5**

Is there anything that **repeats**? If it didn't have **variety** and all the circles were one colour, how would it change things?

#### **Secondary 1**

Is this a painting? Or is it something else? (Can define for them **mixed media**) What mood or feelings does it create? How does it do that? Do you think **mixed media** is a good medium for creating **variety**? Why? (Getting them to discuss the use of texture and other kinds of surface in **mixed-media** works)

#### **Secondary 3**

Remember *untitled (Yellow)* by Om Mee Ai, which used **repetition**, what are the similarities and differences between these two artworks? Is there a relationship between **repetition** and **variety**? Can they exist in the same work? What kind of atmosphere or feeling does this picture convey? Does it tell you anything about the personality of the painter? How does her use of **variety** in the design suggest those feelings?



# NEWS

## BRIEF

### SINGAPORE

#### An Invitation To Art

On September 17, 2004 at the Four Seasons Hotel, Singapore, Art Outreach presents *Art Invitational*—a first-of-its-kind charity art auction and dinner featuring artwork donated by the Land Transit Authority and Singapore-based artists to raise money for widespread art education in Singapore.

More than 5,000 students a month will enjoy the benefits of free art appreciation lessons in 2005 with funds raised from the event.

Art Outreach has been in existence since April 2003. The primary objective is to develop an art literate society in Singapore. Art Outreach aims to provide young adults with the tools to discuss, appreciate, and encourage art, and provide a well-rounded education within the current system. Art Outreach was begun with the assistance of the American Express Foundation, Asian Art Options, and United World Collage SEA, but is seeking increased private and corporate donation to ensure it grows to reach every school in Singapore.

Christie's auction house will partner in this event, coordinating the sale of prominent



Eng Joo Heng, *Serangoon Station -Trains*, woodcut prints, Approx 111 x 71 cm

Singapore-based artists' works. All work sold will be featured in future teaching materials used by Art Outreach and, thus, be introduced to tens of thousands of local school students.

The Land Transit Authority has donated 17 original works of art from MRT stations along the Northeast Line *Art in Transit* program featuring Chua Ek Kay, Tan Swie Hian, Lim Poh Teck, Ian Woo, and Eng Joo Heng. All of these works will go on the block offering collectors a chance to own a piece of Singapore's history.

The auction will also feature an *Art Fundamentals II* sale, highlighting notable artists—Iskandar Jalil, Anthony Poon, Eric Chan, Om Mee Ai, and Chng Nai Wee, to illustrate basic art fundamentals of appreciation.

Funds raised from *Art Invitational* will be channeled to the development of additional teaching materials, including the recruitment and training of more volunteer teachers. At present, 3,000 students a month in 15 local schools are receiving the benefits of this program with the help of 65 volunteer teachers. Participants include: Fairfield Methodist Primary & Secondary School, Fuchun Primary School, Woodgrove Primary School, Anglo-Chinese Secondary School Independent, United World College and Anderson Primary School.

If you wish to bid on a work or attend the event in Singapore, please contact: Ms Aarti Hemnani (Art Outreach Co-ordinator) at Tel: (65) 6873 9505; MP (65) 9697 2950; [vc@artoutreachprogram.org](mailto:vc@artoutreachprogram.org) or [www.artoutreachprogram.org](http://www.artoutreachprogram.org)