

PACITA ABAD: PHILIPPINE PAINTER

Clarissa Chikiamco
Curator, National Gallery Singapore

21 November 2025
STPI

Pacita Sailing
1983
Acrylic paint, rick rack
ribbons, painted cloth on
stitched and padded canvas
270 x 140 cm
Private Collection





Common Ground
STPI Exhibition
2025

Vivid Colors Katingkaran

"I am a colorist more than anything else, and an impressionist!"
"Mga ayusang kulay, hayag at walang katapusan!"

In 1918, the first American museum, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, in Washington, DC, where the largest collection of the Corcoran School of Art, by the artist's paintings, paintings and paintings collection. While the artist's collection is not a representative figure with specific subjects, the artist's art is representative of the artist's style.

In 1921, the artist's work was shown at the Art Students League, which was the first time that the artist's work was shown in a gallery. The artist's work was shown in a gallery, which was the first time that the artist's work was shown in a gallery. The artist's work was shown in a gallery, which was the first time that the artist's work was shown in a gallery.



Metropolitan Museum of Manila
28 November 2024 – 30 March 2025

Philippine Painter

- Born in Batanes, the Philippines' northernmost province in 1946, Pacita left the country in 1970, resided in 14 cities, and traveled to over 60 countries, living a peripatetic life. She acknowledged the important influence travel had on her work yet also remarked in an interview in 1985, “**But I’d rather be known as a Filipino painter, wherever I am.**” While she eventually became a United States citizen in 1994, Pacita retained her dual citizenship and repeatedly referred to her background in the Philippines as a source of her work, attributing it to her love for nature and people as subjects of her art.

- This exhibition focused on the first ten years of Pacita's artistic practice, from 1976, the year she began her formal art studies at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C., to 1986, the last year she was based in Manila after returning to the Philippines in 1982. Drawing entirely from Philippine collections, the show traced Pacita's growing confidence and motivations as a Philippine painter active at home and overseas.

VIVID COLORS

“I am a colorist more than anything else, and an expressionist.”



Pacita with her paintings in
Washington, DC, circa 1977

Image courtesy of
Pacita Abad Art Estate



Batanes

1976

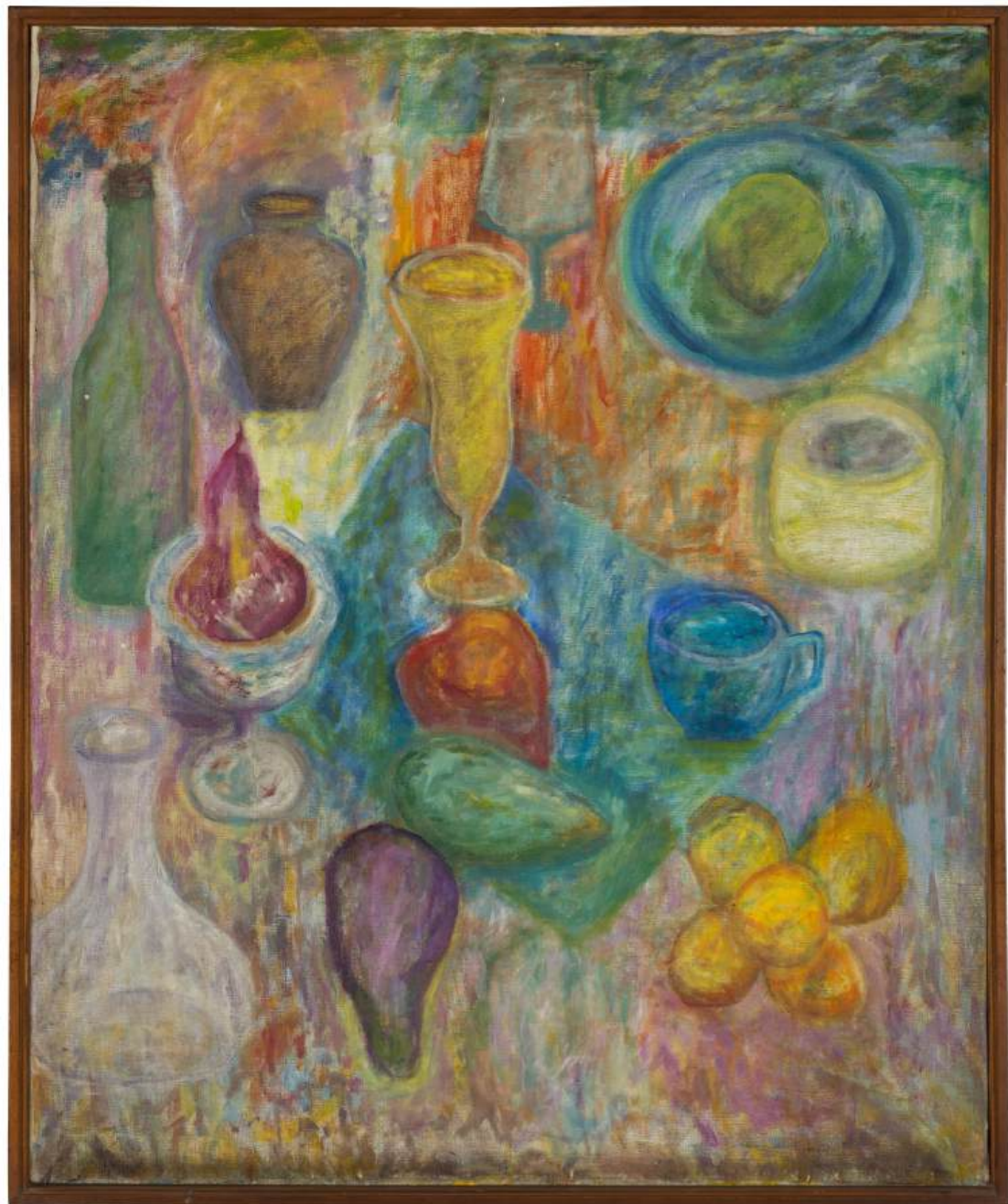
Oil on canvas

172.8 x 226.3 cm

Private Collection



Still Life VI
1978
Oil on canvas
99.8 x 75 cm
Private Collection



Catholic Still Life
1978
Oil on canvas
90 x 75 cm
Private Collection



Still Life VIII
1978
Oil on canvas
75.5 x 62.3 cm
Private Collection



Heart-shaped Still Life
1978
Oil on canvas
65.3 x 85.4 cm
Private Collection



Still Life III
1978
Oil on canvas
70.3 x 90.1 cm
Private Collection



Mexican Still Life
1978
Oil on canvas
74.7 x 89 cm
Private Collection



Still Life VII

1978

Oil on canvas

60.4 x 50.2 cm

Private Collection

A PHILIPPINE PAINTER LOOKS AT THE WORLD

“Travel gives imagination. You are free of academic constraints;
you just paint what you see.”



Pacita painting in Bangkok
1979

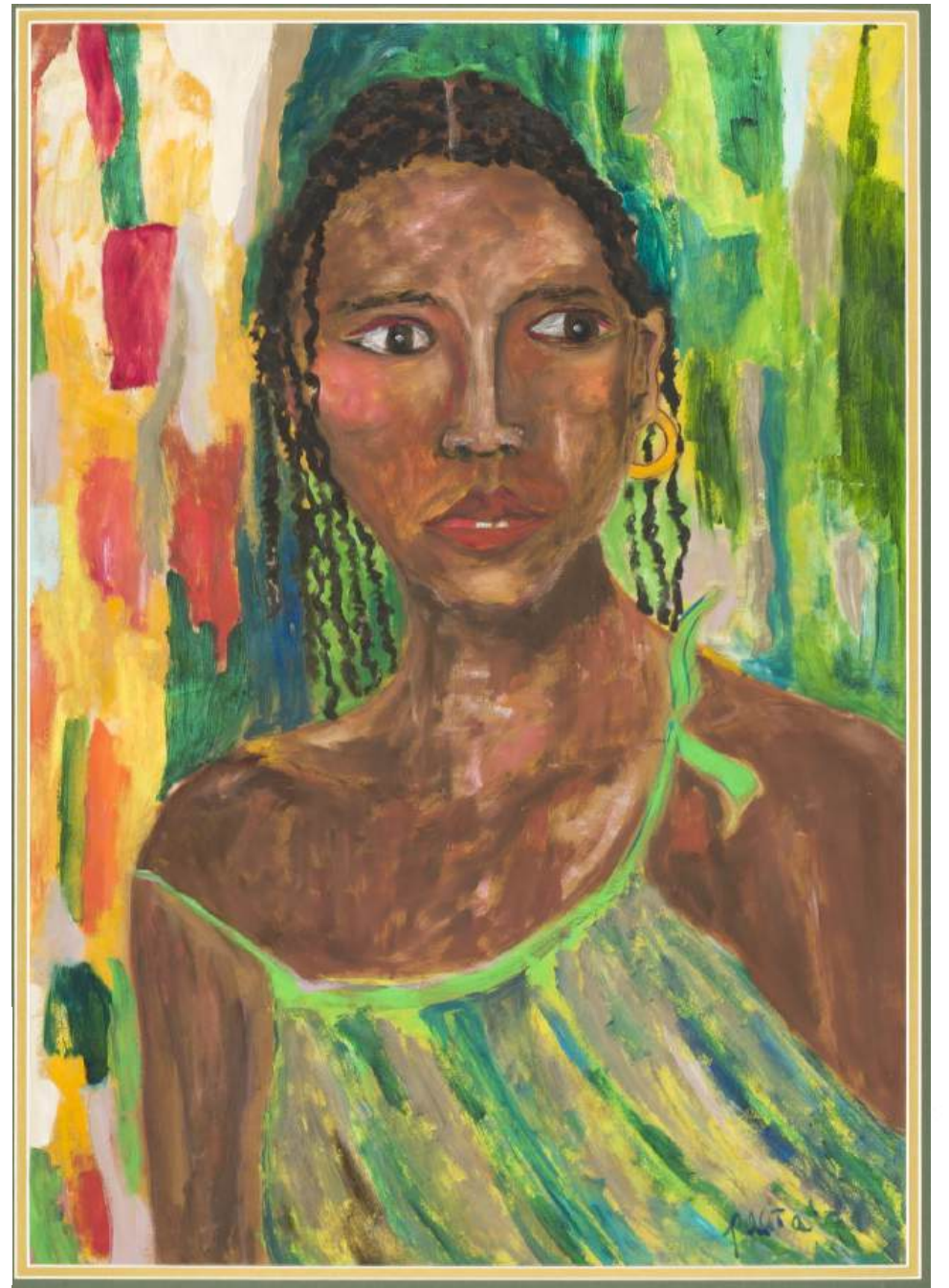
Image courtesy of
Pacita Abad Art Estate



Surma Bridge (Study)
1978
Watercolour on paper
55.4 x 88.1 cm
Private Collection



Girl in Yellow Dress
1981
Oil on paper
60.5 x 44.4 cm
Private Collection



Madia
1981
Oil on paper
69 x 48.5 cm
Collection of
Paulino and Hetty Que



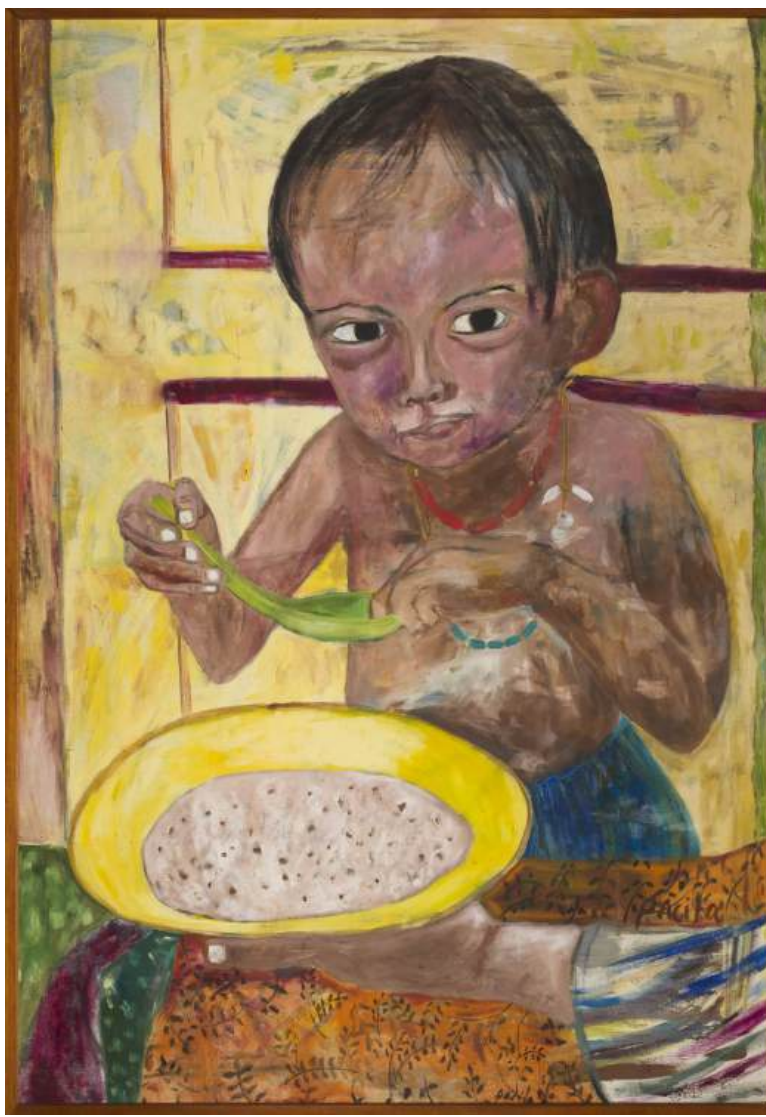
Two Orphans (Portraits of Cambodia)

1980

Oil on canvas

126.8 x 88 cm

Collection of Cultural Center of the Philippines



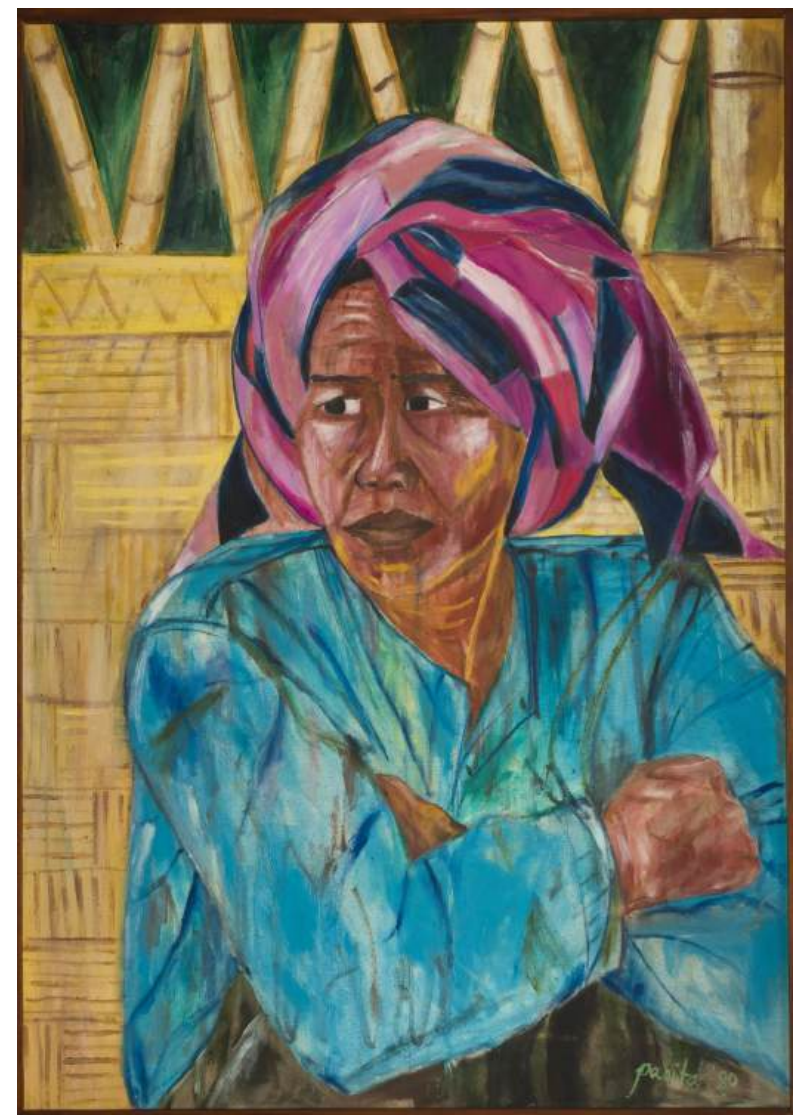
Daily Ration (Portraits of Cambodia)

1980

Oil on canvas

126 x 87.1 cm

Private Collection



Woman of the World (Portraits of Cambodia)

1980

Oil on canvas

125.1 x 87.6 cm

Private Collection



Evil Eye
1983
Oil on canvas
88.3 x 126.4 cm
Collection of
Paulino and Hetty Que

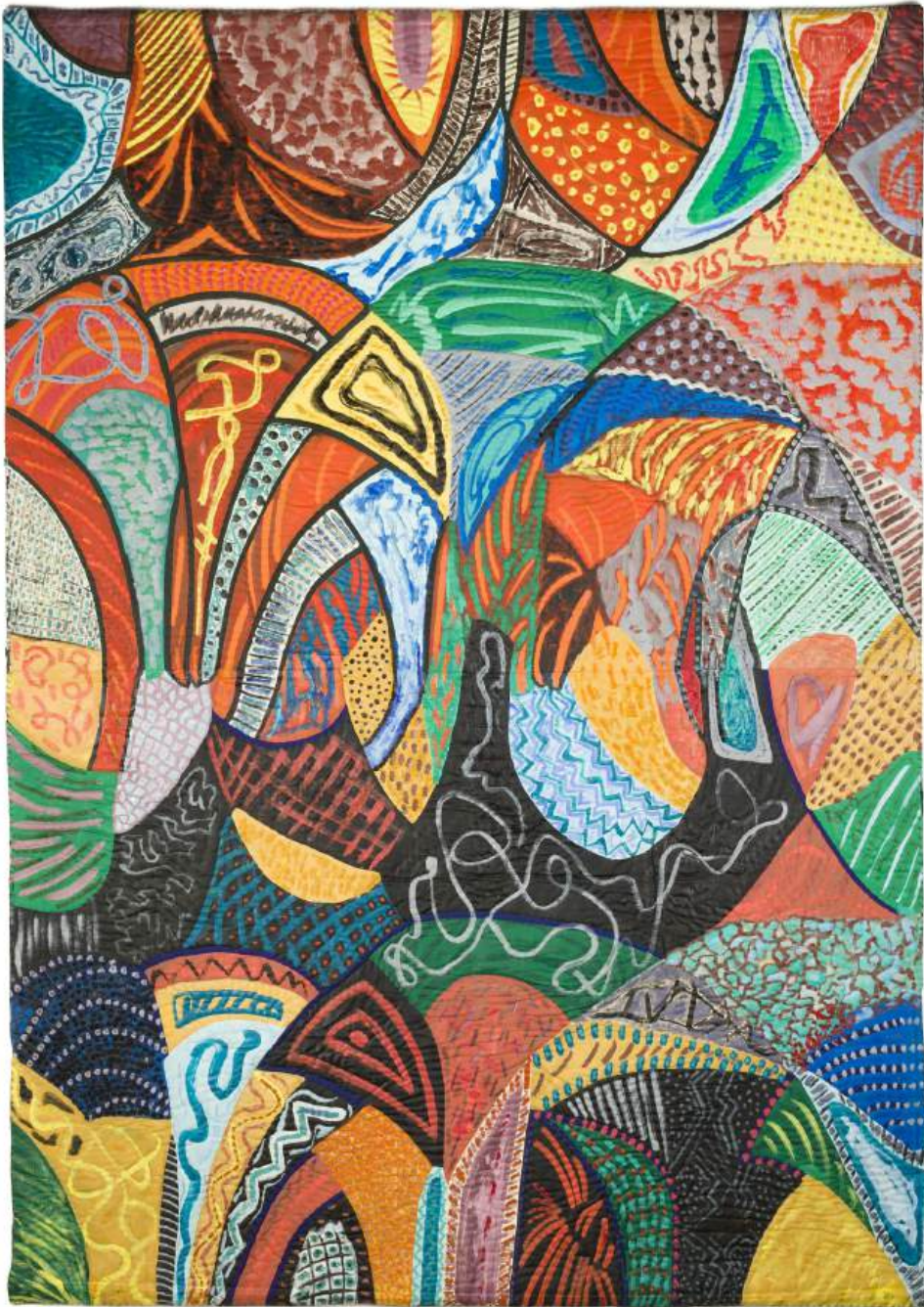


Evil Eye, 1983

Acrylic, plastic buttons and ribbons on stitched and padded canvas
133.0 x 255.0 cm, Gift of Jack and Kristiyani Garrity
Collection of National Gallery Singapore
Not in the exhibition

TO SEE MY COUNTRY THROUGH THE EYES OF A PAINTER

“Thus, now that I have come home to live in the Philippines after a twelve-year absence, I am happy to see my country through the eyes of a painter instead of a politician.”



*To Fall and Rise Again
(aka Tipaklong)*

1985

Acrylic, oil, plastic buttons on
silk screened, stitched and
padded canvas

295 x 205 cm

Collection of
Bank of the Philippine Islands
(BPI) Foundation



Red Roofs

1984

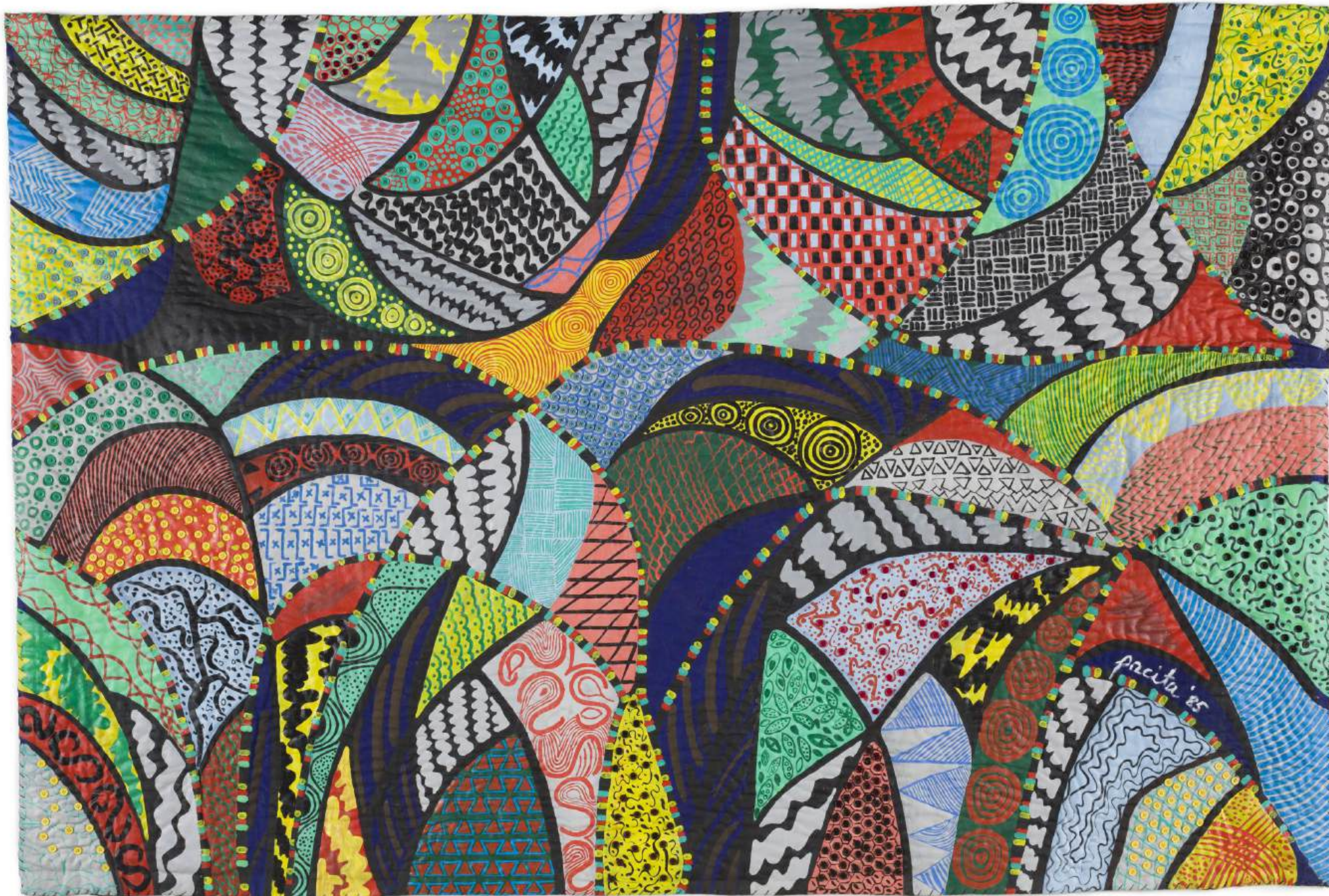
Acrylic and blank ink on
handmade paper

30.6 x 63 cm

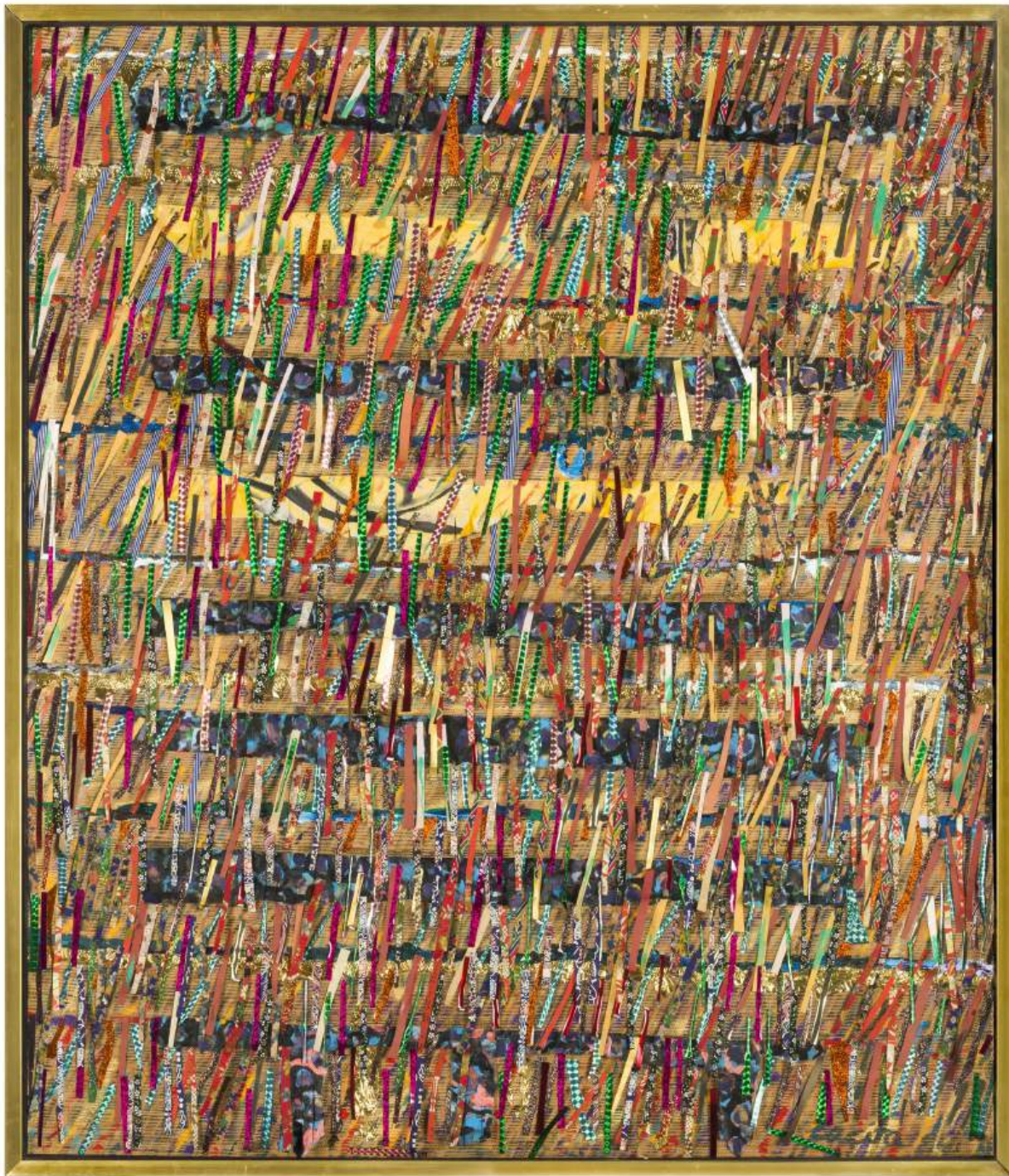
Private Collection



Butterfly
1976
Oil on canvas
58.5 x 36 cm
Private Collection



Butterfly
1985
Mixed media on oil and
fabric
147 x 218.8 cm
Private Collection



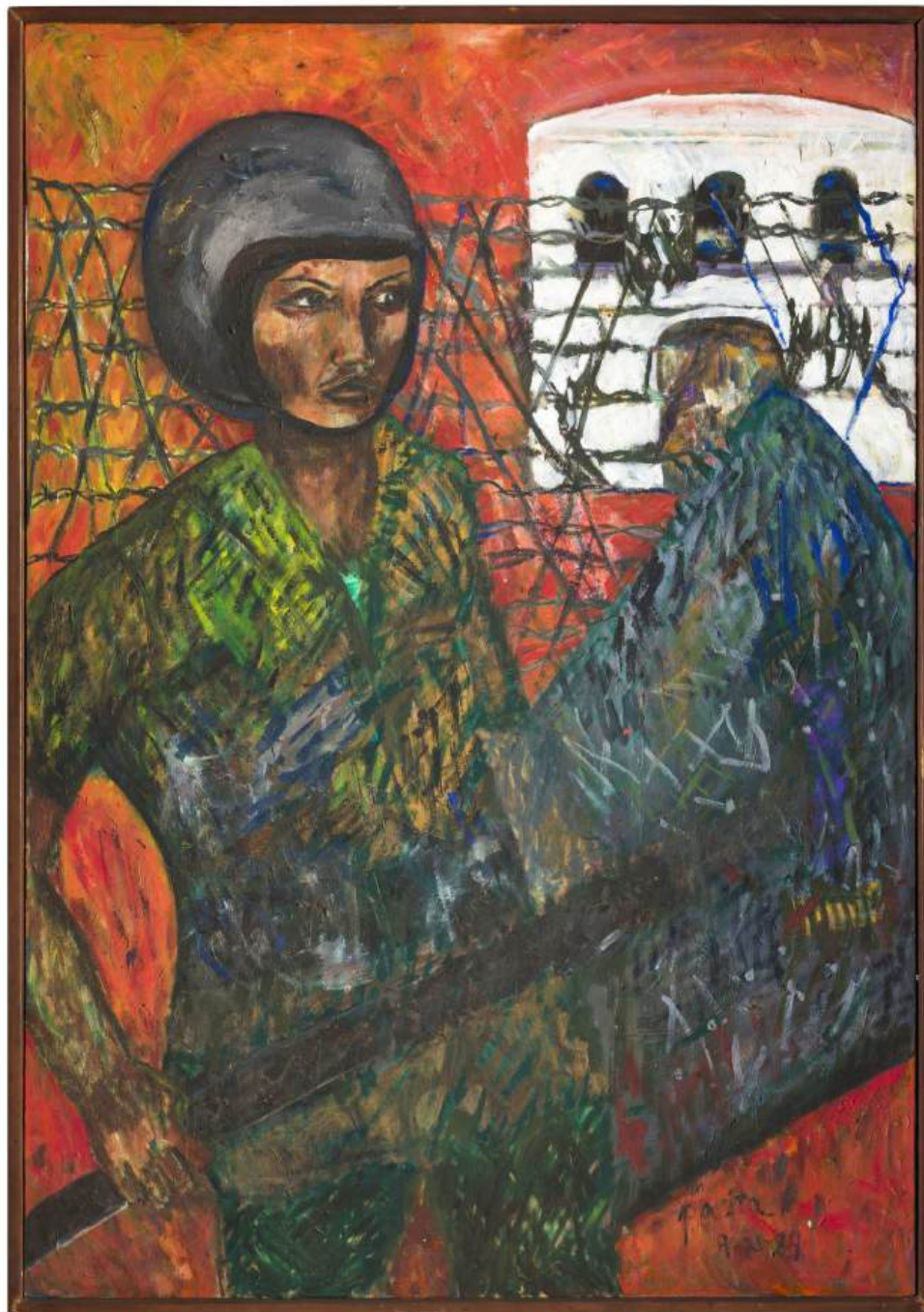
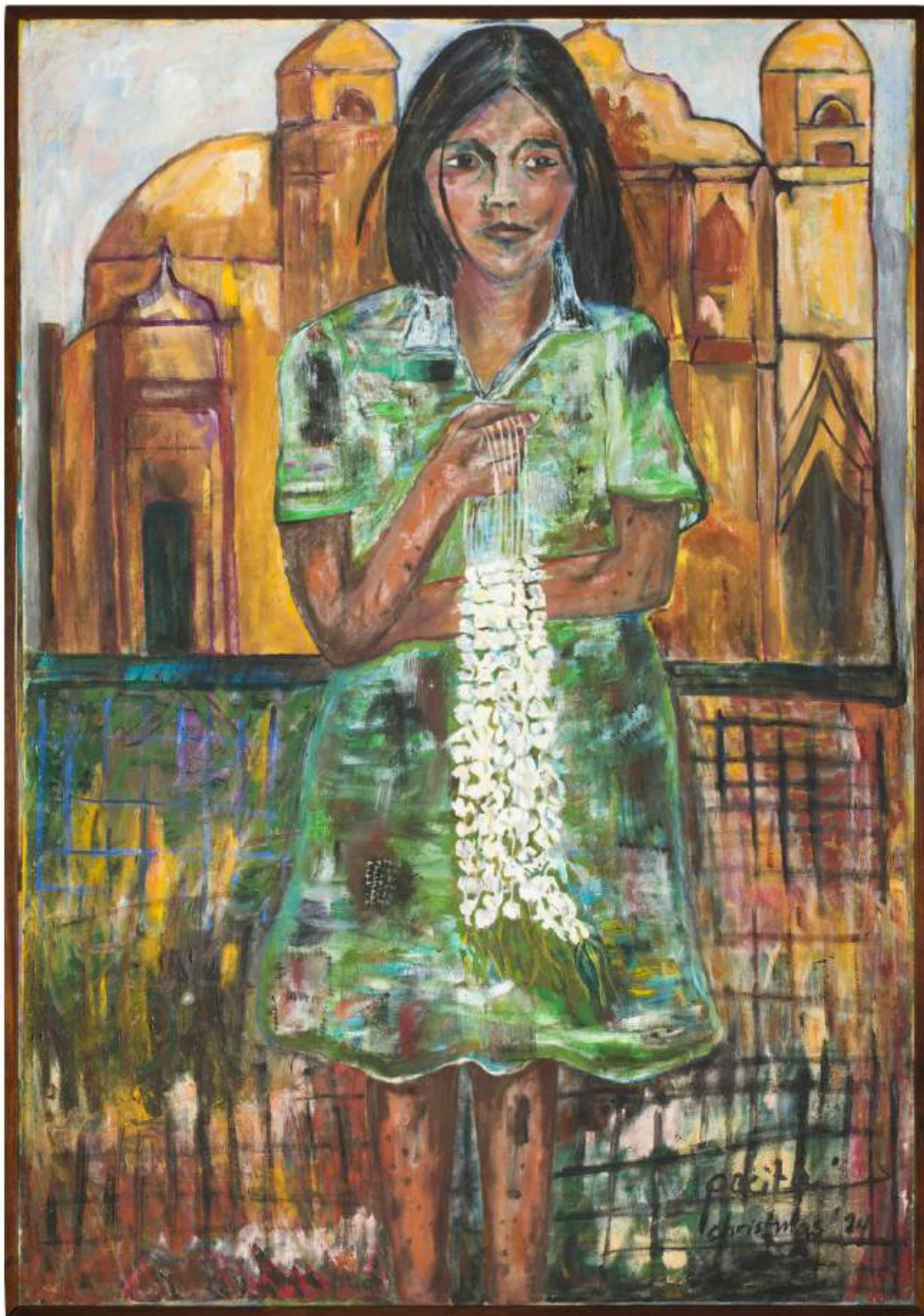
Fukuoka Days

1986

Paper strips, adhesive

105.9 x 91.1 cm

Private Collection

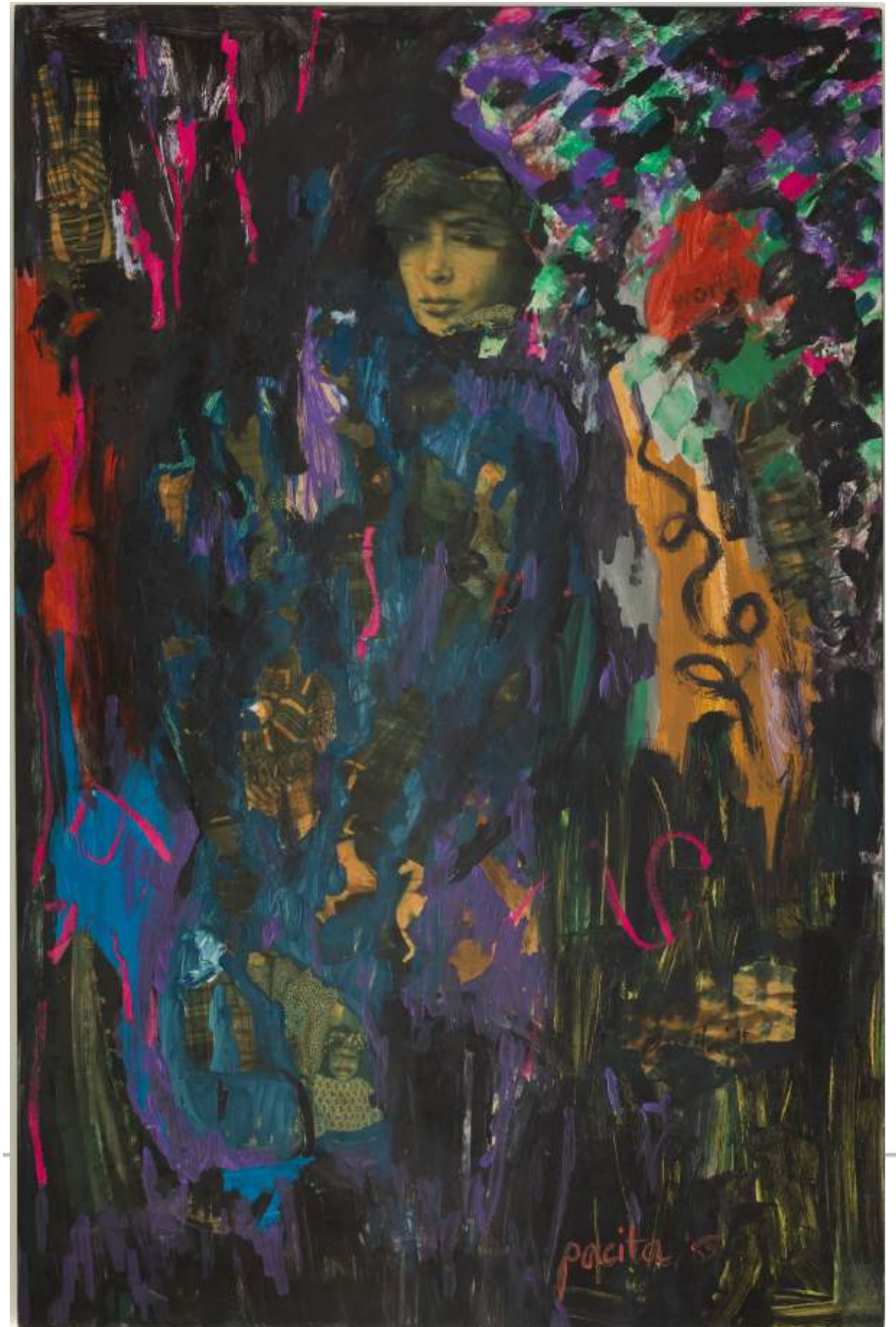


Sampaguita Girl
1984
Oil on canvas
126.5 x 89 cm
Collection of
Paulino and Hetty Que

Mendiola
1984
Oil on canvas
127 x 88 cm
Private Collection



Jerry After Negros
1985
Acrylic on paper
glued on board
157.3 x 91.7 cm
Private Collection

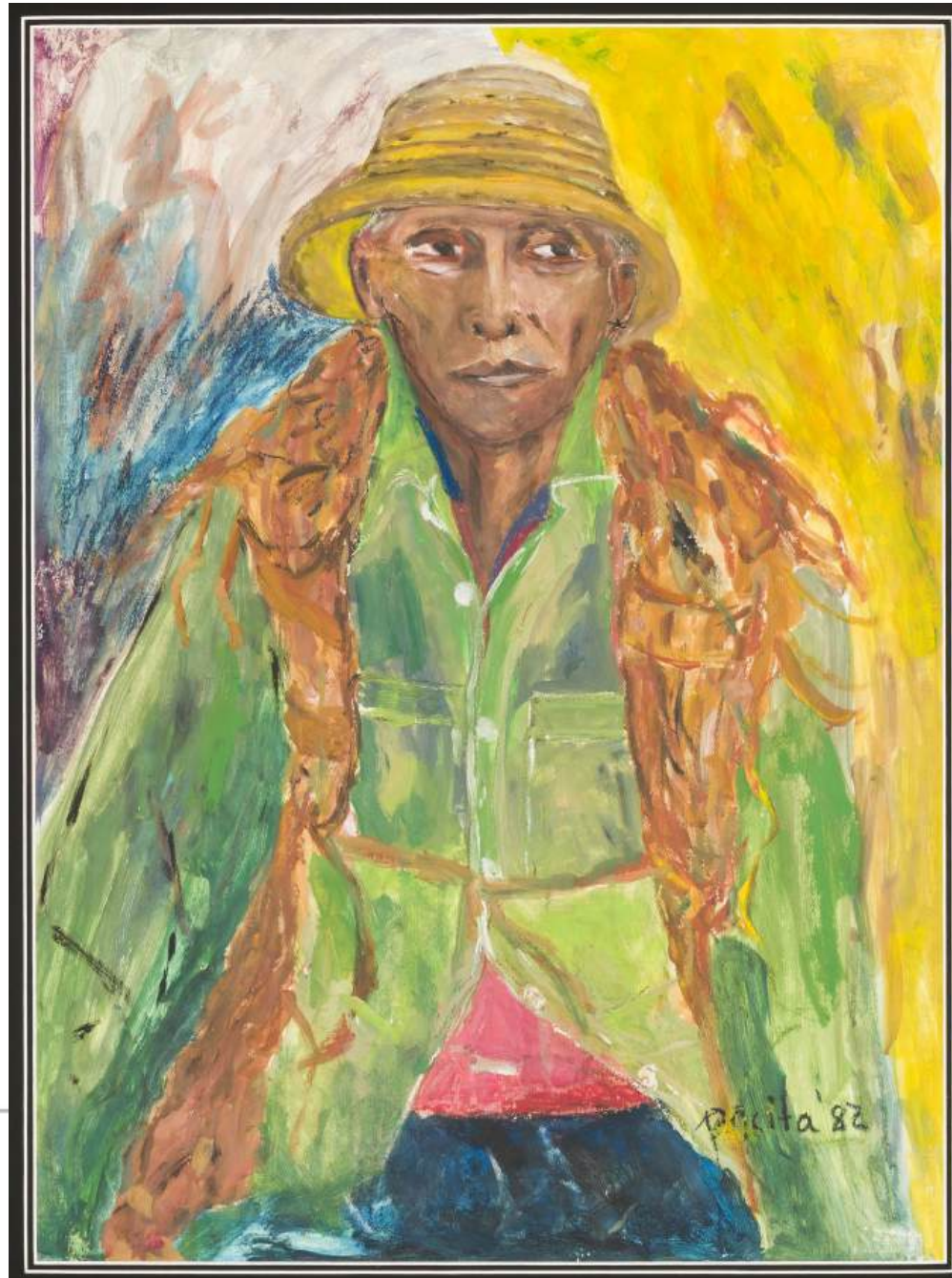


*Sandra's
Mysterious World*
1985
Oil and mixed
media on panel
139.5 x 91.5 cm
Private Collection



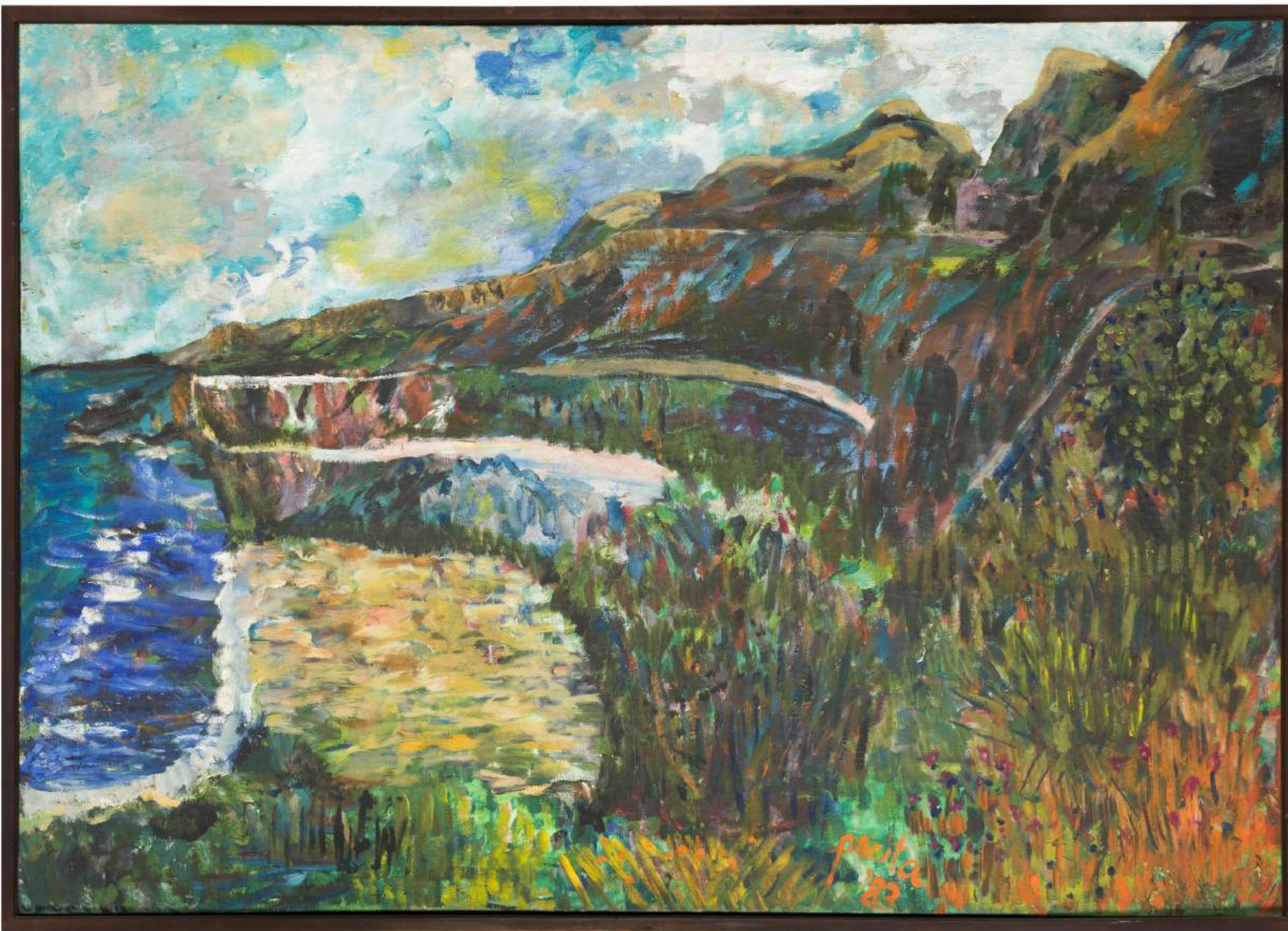
Pacita painting in Batanes
1985

Image courtesy of Pacita Abad Art
Estate



Ivatan Woman
1982
Oil pastel on paper
70 x 49.9 cm
Private Collection

Gustin
1982
Oil on paper
74 x 54 cm
Private Collection



Horseshoe Drive
1983

Oil on canvas

90 x 129 cm

Collection of
National Museum of the
Philippines



Panatayan
1982
Oil on canvas
85.2 x 67.5 cm
Private Collection

— *Sapuno*
1982
Oil on canvas
81 x 90.2 cm
Private Collection



Barrio Songsong
1982
Oil on paper
116 x 59.5 cm
Private Collection



Assaulting the Deep Sea

1986

Solo exhibition

Ayala Museum

Photo by Wig Tysmans



Ligpo Island

1986

Oil, acrylic, buttons on stitched
and padded canvas

335 x 335 cm

Private Collection



Sumilon Island

1978

Acrylic, oil, buttons,
mirrors, cotton cloth on
stitched and padded
canvas

239 x 175 cm

Private Collection



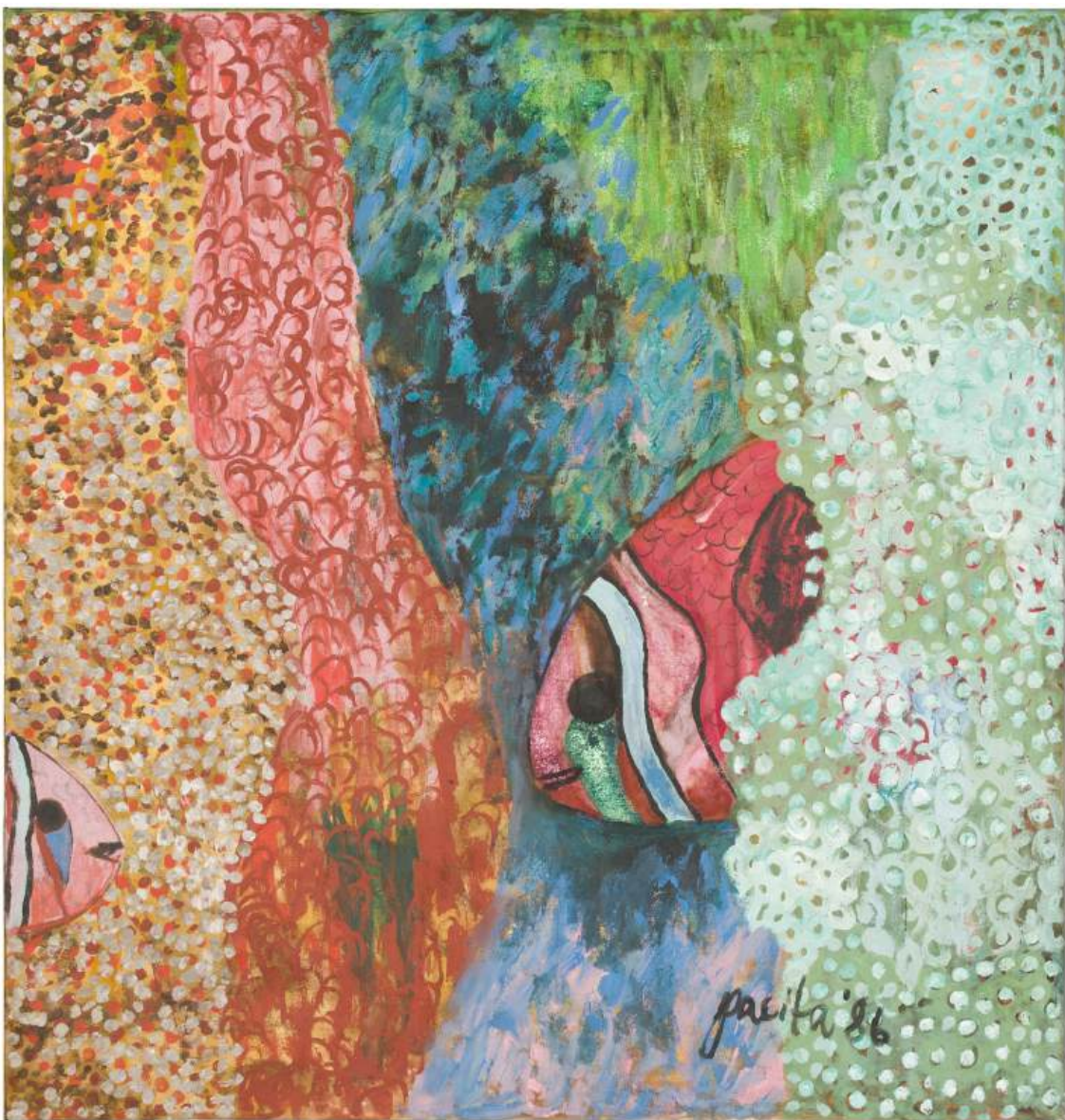
Yellow Polyps

1986

Acrylic, painted gouache
on canvas

180 x 48.2 cm

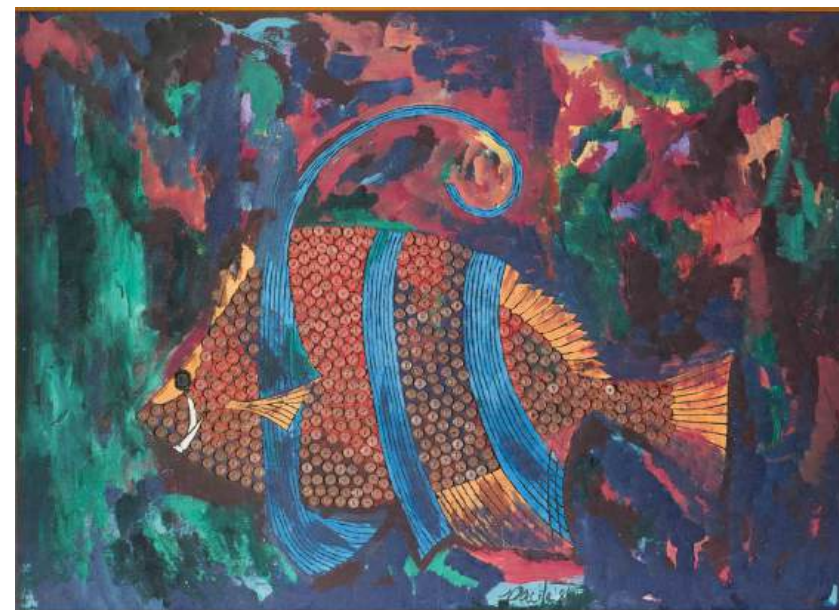
Private Collection



Untitled (Hungry Parrot II)
1986
Oil on canvas
96.5 x 91.5 cm
Private Collection



Untitled (Red Fish)
1986
Oil on canvas
88.9 x 76.2 cm
Private Collection



Untitled (Tosca Fish)
1986
Oil, buttons stitched on
canvas
64.5 x 90 cm
Private Collection



Self-portrait

1985

Serigraph on arches paper

71 x 50.5 cm

Collection of the

Metropolitan Museum of Manila

Thank You

Photos of all artworks by At Maculangan

Courtesy of Pacita Abad Art Estate

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