

NARRATIVE REPORT OF THE ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE FOR THE AMAUAN WORKSHOP

Amauan, a multi-media workshop, which has its initial goals to encourage and provide opportunities for Filipino as well as American local artists to work in their media, has invited Pacita Abad, an international multi-media artist to be their artist-in-residence. A contemporary artist, Ms. Abad was recently chosen to represent the Philippines to the Olympiad of Art held in conjunction with the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, Korea.

Ms. Abad has been working for more than fifteen years as a painter and it was five years ago that she developed "trapunto painting", a medium of her own invention. Born in the Philippines, Ms. Abad got her B.A. degree from the University of the Philippines and her M.A. degree from the University of San Francisco. She lives in Washington, D.C. and is represented by Franz Bader Gallery. A recent recipient of the GIA grant from the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Ms. Abad is a finalist for the Mayor's Art Award in Washington for her "Excellence in Artistic Discipline."

For her "trapunto painting" Ms. Abad uses a technique of stitching and stuffing fabric and unstretched canvas. She combines acrylic or oil paints on canvas creating bold designs, elaborating primitive and oriental themes; applying trapunto, embroidery, quilting, silkscreen, and applique. Details are frequently drawn from colored yarns from Peru, mirror embroidery from India, beads from Nepal, batik from Indonesia, shells from Africa and gold thread and sequins from Burma. Ms. Abad has traveled and exhibited in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and the United States. It is her travels that provide motifs and materials for her work.

During her residency with Amauan, Ms. Abad worked with directors and students in the theater program to develop and execute designs for stage settings and costumes utilizing the collage and multi-media techniques she has developed. She designed a poster for the Filipino play.. Using her knowledge of the traditional and indigenous materials of a wide range of cultures, she has created and developed costumes using method of trapunto, collage and painting for Amauan's theater group-Bahay-Bahayan .

Repertory Theater. These costumes were used by the theater artists in their multi-media production called "Lola Ita's Tales of Enchantment," which was staged from December 1-11, 1988 at the Apple Corps Theater at 336 West 20th Street. New York. (Enclosed are the copies of invitation, press clippings published in the local community papers, and photos of the costumes).

Ms. Abad has also developed a comprehensive resource file documenting Filipino-American artists biodata with their resumes, slides and other materials pertinent to the artists' work.

The rest of her residency, Ms. Abad organized workshops for local Filipino artists living in New York to work on a collaboration using the techniques of trapunto painting. The artists were chosen from Amauan's resource file and some were recruited from Amauan's regular mailing lists and through the local community. The workshops were held all day Saturdays for four weeks but the artist-in-residence was available four days a week for consultations and meeting with the artists. As a result of this collaborative effort, the artists made a large scale trapunto painting with dimensions: 100 x 120 inches. During this period, Ms. Abad familiarize herself with Amauan's operations, the assigned work space and local community. She made arrangements with local artists and other necessary preparations for the workshop; like procuring the materials and art supplies. She gave a lecture of the trapunto technique and presented samples of her work.

The goal of the workshop was to have a collaborative artwork created by the local artists using their respective medium and also for both artist and apprentice to learn the technical aspects of trapunto and painting side by side. (Photos enclosed of the artwork in progress and some of the participants in the workshop).

PARTICIPANTS IN THE TRAPUNTO PAINTING WORKSHOP CONDUCTED BY PACITA ABAD

Corazon de Jesus - paper mache artist

Tess Labrador - jewelry artist

Feliciano Gallardo - painter

Cesar Llanes - painter

Ditas Samson - apprentice

Purissima Benitez - apprentice

David Rodriguez - multi media artist

Mario Fernandez - painter