

“CHANGES & EXCHANGES”

To understand better the culture of a tribe or groups of people, one of the best ways is through the arts . Visual arts just like music, are powerful medium of people’s cultural identity and people’s history. Most of the time, cultural exchanges serve better to create understanding between two different societies and cultures.

Kalinawa Art Foundation presents “Changes and Exchanges: the 3rd Annual Visual Art Exhibit for the Indigenous Peoples of the Philippines in Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte in partnership with Ta Glibon Ini Lady Art Collective, Inc. and in cooperation with the City Government of Dipolog to celebrate and share the diverse cultures and societies with the theme: “Art Heritage, Metaphor of Life.” **Leo Marquiala’s “Mother Earth”** and **Subanen Wine “Pangasi”** open the exhibition with the past changes and exchanges.

In this presentation a partnership between past and present, old and new, traditional and contemporary oftentimes loses boundaries between them blurs thru visually complex paintings that cultural identity like history is fluid and changing, **Junie Grapa’s SAG-OB (bamboo water container)** turned into a totem pole carved with intricate designs and arranged in ascending order in the elements of nature.

This exhibit features 63 artists mostly Subanens and with Subanen ancestry – 49 paintings in oil, acrylic, pen and ink medium of different sizes. There are 42 sculptures in wood, stone and assemblages and 39 traditional arts mounted, while the youth’s pieces are presented in 19 paintings in acrylic mostly a product of a workshops. Much of the work in this exhibit comes from a wide representation of visual artists who are self-taught. The exhibit carried on contemporary and traditional arts – everyday occurrences, tools and basketry stand out in a corner displayed for traditional works. The art pieces were fashioned out of bamboo strips (*batakan*), *nito* and *sig-id (string vines)*. These artworks show tribute to respected elders to the preservation and contribution of an art form.

Some masterpieces show struggle for artistic and political freedom. Other works present visions of the world others depict personal yet universally accessible message. This exhibition is built around a competition and sales of the art. The competition is in four categories – 2 dimensional or paintings and tapestry in any medium, 3 dimensional or sculptures in stone or wood and assemblages, traditional and youth category in painting.

Artworks are judged by selected and competent juries from the community and monetary prizes are given to the winners at the end of the exhibit period. Collateral activities like art forum & lectures, artists’ interaction and soil painting workshop and a demonstration of basket weaving by the Jose Dalman Subanen artists are part of this event.

The exhibit runs until October 2, 2008.

By: EMMA PRIMA – Exhibition Curator
September 27, 2008