



March 27 2008

Media Release

2nd Annual Socsargen Indigenous Peoples' Visual Art Show in General Santos City

From Sunday, 24 February 2008 through Monday, 3 March 2008, the *KALINAWA ART FOUNDATION* in partnership with Notre Dame of Dadiangas University, BEAM PMU General Santos City Cotobato Annex Office and the Kalimudan Culture and Arts Center, held the Second Annual Indigenous Peoples' Visual Art Exhibition in General Santos City.

Sixty five artists provided 167 art works ranging from contemporary painting to the more traditional arts of weaving and embroidery. This includes the kalakat (bamboo weaving), tinalak (deep brown abaca cloth tie dye with intricate red and beige designs), and malong (tube dress), tabih (traditional B'laan cloth with colorful designs), nito (vine, twining for basket weaving), and rattan (palm tree used in making furniture). Also included were examples of brass casting a metal-forming process whereby molten metal is poured into a cavity or mold. The winners for the following categories are as follows:

Open 3 Dimensional: First Prize – Ronald Tamfalan - Shy
Open 2 Dimensional: First Prize – Antonio Altheo Talon – Mothers Lullaby
Youth Category: First Prize – Amerjan Aguilar – Singing T'boli
Traditional Category: First Prize – Rosalinda Bantilan – Kalfi

More information about the prize winners, as well as the artwork and the other artists who took part, can be found at www.kalinawa.com

The judges who made the difficult decisions in selecting winners of the awards from among the many excellent nominations, are Prof. Estelita Aquino, Ms. Jessica Gepte, Prof. Edgar Mabad, Prof. Bayani Nadua and Ms. Emelie Jontilano. The concept of the exhibit is dialogues which refers to the cross-influences of the historical, physical, mythical and psychological realms, and how an individual experience can define their interplay between time and form. Mr. Bing Cariño, artist, writer and interior designer as well as a regional representative on the committee on visual arts for the NCCA Board of Directors, and Ms. May Guinid, writer and interior designer, co-curated the exhibit. The opening ceremony was hosted by Alma Celestia Dumalag-Aguja, secretary of KALIMUDAN Culture and Arts Center. As a prelude to the formal opening, a welcome ceremony was performed by the Tagakaolo Group from Sarangani Province which was followed by prayer led by Bro. Robert M. Govern, FMS. Then Mrs. Mercy Uwek from the T'boli tribe gave an instrumental performance using the Kubing or Jaw Harp and Ms. Cherry Albores led the National anthem.

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The formal opening was accomplished with the ribbon cutting by Bro. John Y. Tan, FMS, President of NDDU, Ms. BeBe Gonzales, representative of Congressional Officer Ms. Darlene Antonino Custodio, and Mrs. Leticia E. Cabang, Head of BEAM PMU General Santos City and Mr. David Gilinsky, founder of *Kalinawa Art Foundation*.

Over the course of the evening, the T'boli of Lake Sebu and Tagakaolo Group of Sarangani Province provided more performances of traditional dances. Governor Miguel Rene A. Dominguez of Sarangani Province was present during the opening ceremony.

There was also a forum on Financial Literacy conducted by Mr. Romeo Crow Chief, (Alberta President/Executive Director of the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association) and a workshop on soil painting by Mr. Ronald Tamfalan and a workshop on painting by Mr. Junell Toribio.

The awarding ceremony held on March 01, was hosted by Mr. Jun Jamero, Tagum City Project Director of the Dibaonon Youth Tourism Council, and Artistic Director of the Provincial Tourism office of Davao del Norte.) It started with the dance performance by Tagakaolo Group called "Edel" which was followed with an invocation by Rev. Efren C. Reyes, Head Pastor, Bread of Life Ministries in General Santos City and with the B'laan Doxology by Malou Cungan. The National Anthem was performed by Maria Theresa Garcia and Sonny Vic Dorado. Councilor Jose Orlando Atcharon, representative of Mayor Atcharon of General Santos City, gave an inspirational speech. The celebration continued with giving out certificates to the participants, winners, volunteers, performers and hosting partners.

The volunteers who worked hard to ensure a successful event by donating their time and energy are Rubeliza Del Carmen, Erwin Quimco, Jason Muntales, Mark Oliver Gregorio, Junell Toribio, Rolan Pagaran and Crisson Ray Gangoso. A young group of violinists from Likas Teatro of NDDU gave an impromptu performance and with this group through Ms. Rochelle Podigo (NNDU Artistic Director) celebrate the awarding ceremony in a dialogue of performance as she brought traditional to contemporary in the realism of unitive and integral where performers showed the manifestation of unifying and integrating the time, form and spirit of human experience in the perspective of life and made possible by musicians from three tribes, the Tagakaolo, the T'boli and the B'laans through four violins, two gongs, a kulintang and an electric guitar. Following on this event in General Santos City, the *Kalinawa Art Foundation* will participate with other institutions in Bukidnon, Malabalay to bring Indigenous Peoples' visual art to the public eye on April 08 to April 13 2008.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' VISUAL ART SHOW in GENERAL SANTOS CITY

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