



KALINAWA ART FOUNDATION

Media Release

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' VISUAL ART SHOW in ZAMBOANGA CITY

From February 22 to March 02, a fifth Indigenous Peoples' visual art exhibition, competition and internet auction organized by the *Kalinawa Art Foundation* was held at the Social Hall of Western Mindanao State University (WMSU) in Zamboanga City. Fifty artists participated and provided 128 pieces of art, which included acrylic paintings, Oil on Canvas, weaving, sculpture in wood, cross stitch and other mixed media. Many of the participants were youth from Tetuan Central School.

Also occurring during the exhibition was a technical display of weaving led by Salma Ballati of the Yakan people, who also entered some pieces in the competition. The exhibit was curated by Mr. Don Gurrea, President Zamboanga del Norte Federation of Visual Artists (ZANFEVA) and regional representative on the visual arts committee of National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA). There was also a presentation at the Maria Clara Gallery on traditional carving by Mr. Willie Arseña, a respected artist in Zamboanga and former owner of Recuerdos Art Gallery. As well, there was an open forum at the exhibition in the WMSU Social Hall where a variety of issues, including how artists should price their work, were discussed.

The formal opening ceremony on the evening of February 24th began with a ribbon cutting by Mr. David Gilinsky, Founder of Kalinawa Art Foundation; Father William H. Kreutz S.J., President of Ateneo de Zamboanga and Dr. Roberto Torres, Director Office of Culture and the Arts. The three guest speakers included Monsignor Romulo G. Valles, Archbishop Archdiocese of Zamboanga, who provided the invocation. Mr. Gilinsky acknowledged the partners and the work of other people who helped in organizing this event, and noted that this is one means by which to build greater appreciation and understanding of the Indigenous Peoples' Cultures. Father Kreutz expressed his gratitude that the *Foundation* was able to bring its mission to the Indigenous People in Zamboanga. The WMSU Chorale serenaded the guests and the Jambagan Dance Troupe performed traditional dances.

The awards ceremony on the 28th of February began with an invocation led by Prof. Alih T. Yacub. He lifted up to the Maker the hope that the *Foundation's* mission of promoting Indigenous Peoples' Cultures would continue. Mr. Gilinsky and Mr. Anthony Barandino, Visual Arts Coach/Coordinator CADD Operator & Graphic Artist of WMSU, presented the awards and certificates of appreciation to the participants and volunteers. On behalf

of the Yakan weavers, Madilyn Capin presented Mr. Gilinsky with a special weaving within which the letter “K” was imbedded in the traditional patterns.

As has been the case with other Kalinawa Art Foundation events, the role of volunteers was of crucial importance to having a successful event and involving the community. They helped with the registration of the art and artists for the event, the organization of the ceremonies and provided invaluable assistance in establishing the display. The volunteers are: Jason G. Bitun Irish L. Francisco, Elizabeth Marcos, Sandra Alfaro, Anthony Barandino, Edgardo Perez, Joash Dave Nadua, ErikVon Velasco, Seraida Baidin, Girlie E. Cortez, Ryan Tangillin and Robert Lee, Lorna Fernandez, Edwin Jumalon, Romel Racho, Nicasio Lacno Jr., and Jupiter Pollisco,

All of the artists received certificates of participation. The first prize winners for each category are:

Teofilo L. De Castro - “People of Zambonga” in the youth category
Raul Bendanillo - “Bella” in the two dimensional category
Lorna Fernandez - “Fingers of Time” in the three dimensional category
Salma Ballati - “Sinaluan Tinon” in the traditional category

Additional winners, as well as further information on all of the artists and their art can be found on the Kalinawa Art *Foundation* information website at: www.Kalinawa.com.

Mr. Anthony B. Barandino; Arch. Ildelfonso S. Torres Jr., Visual Arts Instructor Museum Coordinator College of Architecture WMSU; Ms. Estellita J. Vicente, Director, Center for Performing and Visual Arts, Ateneo de Zamboanga City; Don Gurrea; and Mr. Rodolfo Reviche, Artistic Director Treatocon Secretary National Executive Committee on Dramatic Arts were the judges for the competition. The College Of Education, represented by their Officer In-Charge Mrs. Avelina Pelayo was given a special community award by Mr. Gilinsky as acknowledgement of the technical, moral and human resource support given by them to the event.

During the days the event was open to the public, over seven hundred attended the exhibition. As he was departing Zamboanga, Mr. Gilinsky noted that having the Indigenous Peoples visual art exhibition at a prestigious and historic WSMU Social Hall had been a wonderful opportunity. Not only did the event provide an opportunity for people to appreciate Indigenous Peoples visual art in a non-traditional venue, but also to build greater understanding.

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