



KALINAWA ART FOUNDATION

Indigenous Peoples' Visual Art Show in Davao City: the peoples' experience

A crucial element for the *Kalinawa Art Foundation's* program is to enlist a local partner at each venue willing to work on developing the Indigenous Peoples' visual arts. Despite some early difficulties, the *Foundation* was fortunate to have not one, but two local partners and several other individuals interested in working on making the event in Davao City a success. This is important, as it not only allowed the *Foundation* to extend the range of establishing relationships, but also to broaden and deepen the content of the event.

The Institute for Indigenous Peoples' Education, a consortium of eight institutions working to provide Indigenous Peoples with culturally-sensitive, appropriate and holistic education was approached by the *Kalinawa* representative to co-host the Davao event. The director of the Institute, Ms. Norma M. Gonos was impressed with the mission of the *Foundation* because it coincides with theirs. She requested 48 hours to consult with their advisers prior to IIPE's final response to accept the partnership.

While waiting for IIPE's decision, another meeting with the same objective was arranged with Magtanggol Esteban V. Cadayona, head of the Fine Arts Department of the Ford Academy of the Arts. A Davao-born and Makati-based artist, Arthur de la Cruz introduced Cadayona to the *Kalinawa* representative.

After being informed of the *Kalinawa* background and the purpose of the visit, Cadayona committed the Panan-aw Art Group of the Ford Academy of the Arts to be a Hosting Partner. The agreement was sealed in another meeting with the Panan aw Art Group members and its president, Eva Blesselda Cabor. The group also agreed to co-partner with IIPE with Cadayona commenting that "Art should be a unifying factor".

Before the day ended, Ms. Norma Gonos, IIPE Director, requested a meeting that included the *Kalinawa Art Foundation*, the IIPE and the Philippine -Australia Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao adviser, Ramon Bobier. The *Kalinawa* mission and the invitation to participate were expressed in this meeting.

In addition to their magnanimous welcome of the Panan aw Art Group as co-hosting partner, the Institute for Indigenous Peoples' Education offered the use of the IIPE facility for the duration of the exhibit, an offer *Kalinawa* gladly accepted. From November 27 to December 4, the Institute for Indigenous Peoples' Education (IIPE), the Panan-aw Art Group of the Ford Academy of the Arts and the *Kalinawa Art Foundation* partnered to bring the Indigenous Peoples' visual fine art of Davao City to the world. An open art show, an internet auction and a competition in Traditional, Youth, Open Two Dimensional and Open Three Dimensional categories were held at the Institute for Indigenous Peoples' Education facility near the Davao City National High School Compound, Mabini Street, Davao City.

The pre-registration of the artists and their art on the 27th began with the efforts of the *Kalinawa* staff and the volunteers who were earlier briefed on the flow of the registration process by a *Kalinawa* staff. The *Kalinawa* staff decided to begin early at 1:00 p.m. as the artists and the volunteers were also eager to begin having arrived at the venue hours before the scheduled and posted start time for registration. Registration continued the next day and a few late registrants came in on November 29th as well.

The event formally began with an opening ceremony on the evening of November 28th. The invocation was led by a Tagabawa-Manobo Elder, Eduardo 'Adawan' Anog. Manobo Elders, Makalaya'ng Anak Ensemble and the MindanaWon Scholars performed traditional songs and dances for the guests. Special guest and speaker, Canadian Ambassador Peter Sutherland acknowledged the three hosting organizations for their appreciation of the Indigenous cultures and noted the importance of Indigenous Peoples' cultures in Canada. The Ambassador was in Davao to provide support for the "Capacity Building, Sharing Knowledge and Benefits Sustainability" workshops. These were organized by the Trade Section at the Canadian Embassy, which brought Canadian and Australian aboriginal technical expertise and experience to Indigenous Peoples at several different locations in the Philippines.

Other special guests and speakers included: Mabel Sunga-Acosta, First Councilor, Davao City; Dr. Ian D'Arcy Walsh, Australia Project Director of the Philippines-Australia Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao (P.A.B.E.A.M.); Ms. Susana Teresa B. Estigoy, Assistant Regional Director Department of Education Regional Office XI; Mrs. Aida Rivera Ford, President of the Ford Academy of the Arts; Davao artist, Kublai Millan with his family; officers and members of the Davao Artists Foundation, Inc. and the delegation accompanying the Ambassador: Mr. Don Clarke, Chief of Political Staff, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs; Mr. John B. Zoe, Executive Director Tlicho Group of Companies from the Tlicho Nation, Northwest Territories; Mr. Romeo Crow Chief, President and Executive Director, Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada and Mr. Ron Morony, General Manager, Indigenous Business Australia, Ellen Ruth Zeisler, Counsellor (Commercial) – Government of Canada and Mon Yazon, Trade Commissioner.

Despite the threat of rain, the award ceremony and dinner proceeded on December 2. The event opened with an invocation by Fr. Bert Alejo, S.J., followed by speeches interspersed with performances by the Manobo Elders, Makalaya'ng Anak Ensemble and the MindanaWon Scholars. Speakers included Ms. Norma M. Gonos, Director of the Institute for Indigenous Peoples' Education; Mr. Ramon C. Bobier, Community Development Advisor Philippines-Australia Basic Education Assistance in Mindanao; Mr. David Gilinsky, founder of the *Kalinawa Art Foundation*; and Mr. Magtanggol Cadayona, Head of Fine Arts Department at the Ford Academy of the Arts.

Mr. Gilinsky and Dr. Walsh presented the awards and certificates of appreciation to the participants and supporters of the event. Strong recognition was given to the work of the volunteers: Sharon de los Santos, Carina Mercurio, Ray Tajolosa, Angelo Delgado, Hanna E. Tuanquin, Eva Blesselda C. Cabor, Louiza Jayne O. Resuta, Nichol Francis Andamon, Adan Paul Y. Suarin, Alvin Regulacion, Arthur John Harrow, Paul Batal, Desiderio Satorre, Jr. and Danny Chua.

Judges recommended that in the future the categories be changed for judging purposes to: open two dimensions; open three dimensions, traditional open, traditional three dimensions and youth. This may be contrary to the size of the groups as the largest category was open two-dimensional with only a few in the others. Another possibility is to split open two dimensions into drawings, mixed media and paintings.

Forty-six artists participated in the Davao event. They represented the rich cultures of the Mandaya, Obo Manobo, Tagabawa, Bagobo, Maranao, Bagobo/Tagabawa, MaguindanaonGuimangan, Dabawenyo, Ata-Manobo, Surigaonon, Maguindanaon/Manobo, and Maranao. There were also entries from the artists who were children of non-indigenous and indigenous intermarriages, which added to the diversity and the ultimate success of the Davao City exhibit.

The artists provided 137 pieces of art, which included paintings of acrylic, oil on canvas, sculptures in wood and mixed media. Each of the 46 participating artists received a certificate of participation. The winners for each category are as follows:

- Traditional category - First prize for **Kinabo** by Felimon Dayas (Ata-Manobo)
- Youth category - First prize for **The Dilemma of Love** by Josie Ann Doble, (Non Indigenous)
- Open Two-Dimensional - First Prize for **Tri-People** by Desiderio A. Satorre, Jr. (Dabawenyo)
- Open Three-Dimensional - First prize to **Dalmacio** by Alejandro Elmago (Cebuano-Boholano)

Please see the attachment for the full list of winners.

The judges for the show were Father Albert Alejo S.J., Ateneo de Davao University and Chairman of the Board for MindaWon; Mr. Omar Luis Payumo, Architect; Mr. Desiderio A. Satorre Jr., Art Teacher at Ford Academy of the Arts; Mr. Roger Lloyd Saunders, Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao, and Mr. Magtanggol Esteban V. Cadayona, Head of the Fine Arts Department of the Ford Academy of the Arts.

The Institute for Indigenous Peoples' Education was presented with a community award by *Kalinawa Art Foundation* founder, Mr. Gilinsky in gratitude for the use of their facility for the event. Other awards included several publications for artists to use as resources to improve their skills and knowledge. These were presented to the Panan-aw Art Group of the Ford Academy of the Arts and the Institute for Indigenous Peoples' Education.

Archbishop Jimmy Afable of Digos City and Archbishop Juan de Dios Pueblos of Butuan City were among those who visited the exhibition during the public display. Both bishops showed indications of welcoming a similar event in their respective archdioceses.

One important innovation was the opportunity to build in other activities during the weeklong event. Mr. Kublai Millan, one of the leading artists and art educators in Davao, voluntarily held an open discussion at the Ponce Suites and Gallery, which was attended by many of the artists attending the Indigenous Peoples' Visual Art Show. The forum was held to elicit an idea for a project or a program, which it did, and it will later be made public.

From the beginning of its activities, the *Foundation* had been advised that a curator should be hired for the events. In Davao, the *Foundation* and its partners were fortunate to work with Mr. Nestor Horfilla, a seasoned curator who also has experience working with several of the Indigenous Peoples' communities in Mindanao. He stated, "The presentation of the artworks is akin to an excursion into the heartland of the Indigenous in the context of culture, diversity, complexity and change." Mr. Horfilla has an extremely strong ability to express himself with others. Beyond accomplishing the remarkable transformation of the space to present the art in an organized fashion in a very short period of time, Mr. Horfilla's other ideas are positive and useful contributions to the work of the *Foundation*. (Please see his report, Curating an Indigenous Peoples' Artwork Exhibition, Notes and Initial Lessons Learnt, at <http://www.kalinawa.com>)

There will be concerns and issues to be addressed, processes to be upgraded, obstacles to be overcome, old relationships to be consolidated and expanded and new relationships to be founded. However, as experienced and heard first hand, from the reactions of gratefulness and appreciation from the artists and the reception of the community as a whole and even the positive feedback from guests for the *Foundation's* work, the Davao event was indeed an overall success. Part of the *Foundation's* success is based on what it is able to learn and convey to others. We will continue to learn from our mistakes and to make improvements.

Indigenous Peoples' Visual Fine Art Show
November 27 – December 4, 2006
Davao City, Mindanao

Hosted by
The Panan-aw Art Group of the Ford Academy of the Arts
The Institute for Indigenous People's Education (IIFE)
Kalinawa Art Foundation

Traditional category

First prize for **Kinabo** by Felimon Dayas.
Second prize for **Liyang** by Elena Libayao.
Third prize for **Buwa (Duyan)** by Sanito Masumpad.
Jury selection for **Katutubong Parol 1** by Eduardo "Adawan" Anog.

Youth category

First prize for **The Dilemma** by Josie Ann Doble.
Second prize for **Co-Creator** by Louiza Jayne Resuta.
Third prize for **Total Comfort** by Josie Ann Doble.
Jury selection for **Anito Display** by Bien Patrick Pagarigan.

Open two-dimensional category

First prize for **Tri-People** by Desiderio A. Satorre, Jr.
Second prize for **Tree House 3** by Retchor Umpan.
Third prize for **Pinag-iwanan Panahon** by Apolinio Quirap, Jr.
Jury selection for **Tree House 4** by Retchor Umpan.

Open three-dimensional category

First prize for **Dalmacio** by Alejandro Elmago.
Second prize for **Chanting** by Desiderio A. Satorre, Jr.
Third prize for **Untitled** by Hanna Engracia Tuanquin.
Jury selection for **Panan-Aw** by Desiderio Satorre, Jr.