

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Ayala Museum, one of the leading private museums in the Philippines, affirmed the importance of partnerships in ensuring the success of its programs and in reaching a bigger audience. The museum paid homage to Filipino artists and heroes; launched an exhibition of rare objects that reflect the country's rich precolonial past; hosted a region-wide curators' conference; and conducted outreach and education programs to promote greater appreciation of Philippine art.

CROSSROADS OF CIVILIZATIONS

In May, Ayala Museum inaugurated Crossroads of Civilizations, an exhibition of precolonial artifacts, which are on long-term display at the museum's fourth-floor galleries. The exhibition is divided into three parts—Gold of Ancestors: Precolonial Treasures in the Philippines; Embroidered Multiples: 18th- to 19th-Century Philippine Costumes; and A Millennium of Contact: Chinese and Southeast Asian Trade Ceramics in the Philippines.

Gold of Ancestors, an exhibition of 1,059 gold objects dating to the 10th through 13th centuries, celebrates the sophisticated cultures that flourished in the country before western colonization in the 16th century. Many objects in the exhibition have never been seen in public before.

Meanwhile, Embroidered Multiples features selections from the Leiden National Museum of Ethnology's collection of 18th–19th-century Philippine costumes and the Rina Ortiz collection. The French diplomat Bréjard, who was assigned to Manila from 1881 to 1886, originally owned the costumes.

Last, A Millennium of Contact displays more than 500 ceramics on long-term loan from the Roberto Villanueva Foundation. It provides one of the most comprehensive surveys, spanning a thousand years, of Chinese and Southeast Asian trade wares found in the Philippines.



OTHER EXHIBITIONS

In February, Ayala Museum presented the homecoming exhibition of Philippine works featured in the 22nd Asian International Art Exhibition held in Bandung, Indonesia, in December 2007. Featured were the works of Pandy Aviado, Bencab, Susan Fetalvero-Roces, Ramon Orlina, Sid Gomez Hildawa, Abdul Mari Imao, Amble Abano, Popo San Pascual, Sam Penaso, and Kawayan de Guia.

In March, the works of a 19th-century Filipino master were shown in the exhibition, Simon de la Rosa Flores. Flores was the first Filipino artist to receive an international award; in 1876, his work, *La Música del Pueblo*, won the silver medal at the Philadelphia Universal Exposition.

To celebrate French Spring in Manila, the Embassy of France, Alliance Française de Manille, and Ayala Museum opened 100 x France, an exhibition of works by famous French photographers. The museum also joined the Delegation of the European Commission in celebration of the European Year for Intercultural Dialogue with the exhibition Europa sa Maynila, which featured the works of European painters.

In May, the museum partnered with Filipino Heritage Festival Inc., the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the Department of Tourism, and the Provincial Government of Bohol to celebrate National Heritage Month. The group presented *Kisame: Visions of Heaven on Earth*, an exhibition of photographs of ceiling paintings from Bohol's colonial churches. The exhibition aimed to generate greater awareness of the historical and cultural significance of Bohol's church murals and ceiling paintings.

The museum also paid tribute to a great artist and patriot by showcasing some of his rare works in an exhibition entitled *Juan Luna: Selections from the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) Collection*. The collection was opened to the public for the first time on the occasion of BPI Foundation's 30th anniversary.



Art Matters, a fundraiser and an exhibition of the works of 19 Filipino artists, was held in July. This special show aimed to augment funds for the museum's continuing education projects and outreach programs.

Radiance: New Works by Nestor Olarte Vinluan showcased the works of one of the leading names in contemporary Philippine art in his 20th solo exhibition and second show at Ayala Museum. Held from August to September, the exhibition consisted of large-scale paintings, spheres, and installation works.

Also in August, Ayala Museum commemorated the 25th anniversary of the martyrdom of Benigno S. Aquino Jr. with I Am Ninoy, a specially designed exhibition featuring photos and text that reflect on heroism, leadership, and social consciousness.

In September, Ayala Museum also focused on "nature's art" with Images in Stone: Art in Fossils from the Larry Gotuaco Collection. Composed of actual fossils, the exhibition magnified the patterns found on the surfaces of these natural artifacts to give visitors a better view of the "artwork" of natural forces.

In October, the museum featured the works of the finalists and winners of the Shell National Students' Art Competition. Now on its 41st year, the competition is known for boosting the careers of many Filipino artists.

In line with its goals of "re-collecting the past" and "re-presenting the future," the museum brought home, for the first time, the body of work of a renowned, New York-based Filipino scenographer in From Inspiration to Illusion: The Scenographic Works of Eduardo Sicangco. The exhibition of Sicangco's drawings, scale models of stage designs and costume plates, and actual stage costumes paid tribute to a Filipino who has reached a high level of artistic excellence and recognition in the field of scenography.

Ayala Museum joined six other museums in the four-month Fernando Amorsolo retrospective entitled His Art, Our Heart. The museum's contribution to the retrospective was called Amorsolo's Women: Concealed and Revealed, surveying the great artist's rendering of female subjects.



68,363

people visited the museum

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

To promote a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the exhibitions, five curators' lectures, entitled Conversations in Art, were held, with Dr. Florina Capistrano-Baker, Dr. Warren Peterson, and Dr. John Miksic on Gold of Ancestors; Fr. Milan Ted Torralba on Kisame: Visions of Heaven on Earth; Ambeth Ocampo on Juan Luna; Larry Gotuaco on Images in Stone; and Purissima Benitez-Johannot on Amorsolo's Women.

Featured artists, including Bencab, Ramon Orlina, Nestor Olarte Vinluan, and Eduardo Sicangco also shared stories behind their works and their creative process with museum audiences. Other individuals who discussed their art were Bobby Wong Jr., who spoke about macrophotography, and a number of Juilliard students, who spoke about dance.

The museum held art-related programs for children such as the annual Summer Art Workshops. Kids were also introduced to the amazing world of nature's art in Fun with Fossils, featuring a gallery tour and drawing activity for kids. This was held in connection with the Images in Stone exhibition.

The museum also published the following supplementary education materials—a catalogue for Kisame, as well as exhibition guides for Simon de la Rosa Flores, Juan Luna, Radiance, Amorsolo's Women, and Images in Stone. Through the museum, the following publications were also released: *Shell Art Awards and Exhibition*, *Fernando Amorsolo: Seven-Museum Exhibition*, *Jurassic Fossils*, and *From Inspiration to Illusion*.



To reach audiences outside Metro Manila, Museum-in-a-Box, Ayala Museum's traveling exhibition, was brought to La Consolacion College in Bacolod City and to the University of the Philippines Visayas in Iloilo City. Reproductions of select paintings from Pioneers of Philippine Art: Luna, Amorsolo, Zobel were brought to these schools. Lectures on art were also held.

Ayala Museum also brought the world of art closer to the corporate community through eight workshops for Accenture. Partnerships with corporate entities such as Shell Philippines, Pacific Paint (Boysen) Philippines Inc., Northwest Airlines, Philips Electronics & Lighting Inc., and Hewlett-Packard gave some of the employees of these companies the privilege to view select shows for free.

Almost 100 teachers and 40,000 students visited the museum in 2008, and close to 260 field trips were conducted. In addition, almost 900 attended the teachers' tours under the auspices of the League of Corporate Foundations, over 160 participated in the regular Museo Aralan, and nearly 600 benefited from the Lakbay Aral programs.

For its international programs, the museum hosted the Third Asian Museum Curators Conference in March. A total of 14 curators from China, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, and Japan participated in the conference.



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