



PRESS RELEASE



Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines

NEW YORK

PRESS RELEASE

PR-CSC- 041 - 2019

4 June 2019

Art Exhibition of Artist Fernando Kabigting Featured at the 121st Philippine Independence Day Celebration



Consul General Claro S. Cristobal (2nd from R) and Charge d'Affairs Kira Danganan-Azucena (1st from R), and Mr. Henry Howard, long time supporter of the works of Mr. Kabigting (2nd from L), together with Mr. and Mrs. Fernando Q. Kabigting and their daughter Karina Tenaillon cut the ribbon and officially opened the exhibit *Milestones: A Celebration of Art and Life* on 31 May 2019 at the Lobby Gallery of the Philippine Center.

3 June 2019, New York - More than 30 art pieces by renowned artist Fernando Q. Kabigting are featured in the exhibit titled *"Milestones: A Celebration of Art and Life"*. The exhibit's opening was held 31 May 2019 at the Philippine Center in New York.

A prelude to the celebration of the 121st Anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence, the exhibit showcases a celebration of art and life through Kabigting's work, which consists of paintings on ancient wooden "batya" and old wood reclaimed from train tracks.

Consul General Claro S. Cristobal applauded Mr. Kabigting as the artist marks various turning points in his life, emphasizing that his art springs from resilience, from determination and hope.

"I could also say that our country was built by and through its people's resilience, determination and most of all hope. All these have come together to make works of beauty and grace" stated the Consul General.

A leader of the Fil-Am community and a friend of the Kabigtings, Ms. Vivian Talambiras Cruz expressed admiration for the artist's unique paintings, particularly his masterpieces painted after the paralyzing stroke he suffered twenty years ago.

Speaking on behalf of the artist, Karina Tenaillon, Mr. Kabigting's oldest daughter, said milestones are worth celebrating, enumerating her father's trifecta of life experiences as he celebrates his eighty (80) fruitful birthdays, sixty years (60) of being a professional artist and twenty (20) years since he had a debilitating stroke.

The event was attended by the Filipino-American community, art enthusiasts, and family and friends some of who flew from different states to attend the occasion.

The Philippine Center's Lobby Gallery is very important to Mr. Kabigting as his first one-man show was held at this venue in 1988 and was followed by another exhibit entitled *"Seeing Beyond: An Artist's Journey"* in 2015. He had numerous one-man exhibits in places like the United Nations Headquarters in New York in 2009, at the Italia Gallery in Bacolod City in 2012, and at the Ayala Museum in 2014.

ART

IN PHOTOS: Fernando 'Didi' Kabigting's farewell exhibit in New York

After the New York exhibit, Kabigting plans to live permanently in the Philippines

Rappler.com

Published 12:47 PM, June 06, 2019
Updated 12:47 PM, June 06, 2019

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Reddit](#)

[Email](#)



FAREWELL. Fernando Kabigting in New York. Photo by Martin Romero/Rappler

It's been twenty years since Fernando "Didi" Kabigting suffered a stroke that left him half paralyzed and weakened his right painting hand. The incident forced him to shift to his left hand and enabled him to grow and transform his art to what it is now known today.

Kabigting's signature paintings on reclaimed and antique wood (particularly the batya) brought him critical acclaim and cemented his name in the art scene.



Photos by Martin Romero/Rappler



Photos by Martin Romero/Rappler



Fernando Q. Kabigting

Seeing Beyond

An Artist's Journey

Consul General Mario L. De Leon Jr. (R) and Mrs. Eleanor De Leon (2nd from L), together with Mr. Fernando Kabigting, Mrs. Meecha Kabigting, their daughter Patricia (3rd from R) and Kabigting family friend Mrs. Vivian Talambois (1) cut the ribbon that officially opened the exhibit "Seeing Beyond: An Artist's Journey" on June 10 at the Philippine Center New York Gallery. The exhibit runs from June 10 through 25. Photos courtesy of Vice Consul Khryz Corpus. Artwork by Sonya Kastria.

Latest Works of Filipino Artist Fernando Q. Kabigting Take Center Stage at PHL Consulate General New York's 2015 Philippine Independence Day Celebration

NEW YORK, 10 June 2015 — Diplomats, artists and members of the Filipino-American community in New York City greeted the opening of the latest works of renowned artist Fernando Kabigting titled "Seeing Beyond: An Artist's Journey" at the Philippine Center New York Gallery last June 10.

Guests were treated to a first look of over 30 of Mr. Kabigting's newest and never-before-seen art pieces that depicted Philippine landscapes and popular landmarks painted mostly on old wood and as train tracks sourced from various places in the Philippines.

In his opening remarks, Consul General Mario L. De Leon Jr. related how he was first introduced to the latest works of Mr. Kabigting in 2014 when he met with Mrs. Meecha Kabigting. He further said he was deeply moved and inspired by how Mr. Kabigting rose above a formidable trial that left him with a permanent physical infirmity, and how, instead of allowing this trial to stop him, he has used this to become an even greater artist.

"Mr. Kabigting's works that we exhibit today reflect his fortitude, dedication to his craft, and a passion to create beauty," added the Consul General.

Speaking on behalf of the artist, Mrs. Meecha Kabigting recounted how her husband suffered a debilitating stroke in 1999 that left his right hand, the hand that he used to paint, completely paralyzed and

his left eye blind. Determined to continue with his craft despite the daunting physical infirmity, the artist trained his left hand to paint. The challenges to his vision also led him to venture to water color from his previous oil and charcoal media, which resulted in dramatic and striking color palettes.

"But to God, as he is called, is synonymous to life, to breathing and to praying," said Mrs. Kabigting. She disclosed his art led him to a new horizon and to a freer level in expressing his ideas and feelings with a tone and style that reveal a complete transformation in Fernando Kabigting.

Mrs. Kabigting echoed her husband's appreciation to the many guests that attended the exhibit opening, making special mention of the friends that helped them overcome the difficulties that the family faced as a result of the stroke. She added that this may be the last one-man exhibit that Mr. Kabigting may mount.

Mr. Kabigting's last exhibit at the Philippine Center New York, which happened to be his first one-man show, was in 1988, when he brought his signature paintings done on "bark" or wooden boards. Since then, he had numerous one-man exhibits at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in 2009, at the Iloilo Gallery in Bacolod City in 2012, and at the Ayala Museum in 2014.

Mr. Kabigting is now based in

This tonight is not just the opening of his exhibit, it is a **CELEBRATION HONORING THE GOODNESS OF GOD, OF PEOPLE AND OF SPECIAL GIFTS AND TALENTS. A NIGHT GIVING LIFE ALSO TO AN IMPORTANT TAINT IN OUR FAITH AND CULTURAL HERITAGE. THAT OF "JOYFUL SERVICE!"**

-Mrs. Meecha Kabigting



The Philippine Consulate General opened the exhibit of the works of Mr. Fernando Kabigting (left), accompanied by his wife, Meecha Kabigting, (standing) titled "Seeing Beyond: An Artist's Journey" on 10 June 2015 at the Philippine Center New York Gallery, where its window display features some of his pieces depicting Holy Church and Mt. Ateas.

Bolis, the hometown of his wife, where he continues to paint.

"Seeing Beyond: An Artist's Journey" is the centerpiece cultural presentation of the Philippine Consulate General in New York for the 2015 celebration of Philippine Independence Day. The exhibit will run until 25 June 2015.



Among the paintings featured at the exhibit "Seeing Beyond: An Artist's Journey": (clockwise) Bird of Paradise, Sunflower, Antipolo Bellis, A Meadow's Treasure, Hope Springs, Maria's Hat, Inside Looking Out, Floral Spray, The Old House Church Bellis and Pink Passion.



Also featured are: (clockwise) Coleca Church, Kullatang, Molo Church, Iloilo, Bellis on the Hill, Mother and Child and San Jose Church in Iloilo.



**PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL NEW YORK
PRESS RELEASE**

PR-MDL-057-2015

**Latest Works of Filipino Artist Fernando Kabigting Take Center Stage
at PHL Consulate General New York's 2015 Philippine Independence Day Celebration**



The Philippine Consulate General opened the exhibit of the works of Mr. Fernando Kabigting (seated, accompanied by his wife, Menchu Kabigting, standing) titled "Seeing Beyond: An Artist's Journey" on 10 June 2015 at the Philippine Center New York Gallery, where its window display featured two of his pieces depicting Paoay Church and Mt. Mayon. The exhibit was the cultural centerpiece of the Consulate General's 2015 commemoration of Philippine Independence Day. The exhibit runs from June 10 through 25.

New York, 10 June 2015 – Diplomats, artists and members of the Filipino-American community in New York City graced the opening of the latest works of renowned artist Fernando Kabigting titled "Seeing Beyond: An Artist's Journey" at the Philippine Center New York Gallery last June 10.

Guests were treated to a first look of over 30 of Mr. Kabigting's newest and never-before-seen art pieces that depicted Philippine landscapes and popular landmarks painted mostly on old wood used as train tracks sourced from various places in the Philippines

In his opening remarks, Consul General Mario de Leon Jr. related how he was first introduced to the latest works of Mr. Kabigting in 2014 when he met with Mrs. Menchu Kabigting. He further said he was deeply moved and inspired by how Mr. Kabigting rose above a formidable trial that left him with a permanent physical infirmity, and how, instead of allowing this trial to stop him, he has used this to become an even greater artist.

"Mr. Kabigting's works that we exhibit today reflect his fortitude, dedication to his craft, and a passion to create beauty," added the Consul General.

Speaking on behalf of the artist, Mrs. Menchu Kabigting recounted how her husband suffered a debilitating stroke in 1999 that left his right hand, the hand that he used to paint, completely paralyzed and his left eye blind. Determined to continue with his craft despite the daunting physical infirmity, the artist trained his left hand to paint. The challenges to his vision also led him to venture to water color from his previous oil and charcoal media, which resulted in dramatic and striking color palettes.

"Art to Didi, as he is called, is synonymous to life, to breathing and to praying," said Mrs. Kabigting. She disclosed his art led him to a new horizon and to a freer level in expressing his ideas and feelings with a tone and style that reveal a complete transformation in Fernando Kabigting.



Consul General Mario L. de Leon Jr. (R) and Mrs. Eleanor de Leon (2nd from L), together with Mr. Kabigting, Mrs. Kabigting, their daughter Katrina (3rd from R) and Kabigting family friend Ms. Vivian Talambiras (L) cut the ribbon that officially opened the exhibit "Seeing Beyond: An Artist's Journey" on June 10 at the Philippine Center New York Gallery. The exhibit runs from June 10 through 25.

Mrs. Kabigting echoed her husband's appreciation to the many guests that attended the exhibit opening, making special mention of the friends that helped them overcome the difficulties that the family faced as a result of the stroke. She added that this may be the last one-man exhibit that Mr. Kabigting may mount.

Mr. Kabigting's last exhibit at the Philippine Center New York, which happened to be his first one-man show, was in 1988, when he brought his signature paintings done on "batya" or wooden basin. Since then, he had numerous one-man exhibits at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in 2009, at the Italia Gallery in Bacolod City in 2012, and at the Ayala Museum in 2014.

Mr. Kabigting is now based in Iloilo, the hometown of his wife, where he continues to paint.

"Seeing Beyond: An Artist's Journey" is the centerpiece cultural presentation of the Philippine Consulate General in New York for the 2015 celebration of Philippine Independence Day. The exhibit will run until 25 June 2015.



Also featured are: (clockwise) Calaca Church, Kulintang, Molo Church, Iloilo, Bells on the Hill, Mother and Child and San Jose Church in Iloilo.



Among the paintings featured at the exhibit "Seeing Beyond: An Artist's Journey": (clockwise) Bird of Paradise, Sunflower, Antipolo Bells, A Meadow's Treasure, Hope Springs, Nana's Hut, Inside Looking Out, Floral Spray, The Old House Church Bells and Pink Parasol.



Diplomats, artists and members of the Filipino-American community in New York graced the opening of the exhibit "Seeing Beyond: An Artist Journey" at the Philippine Center, New York.

Iloilo's artists unite, raise funds for face masks

Arts

1 Jun 2020 By TARA YAP



ILONGGO ARTISTS AGAINST COVID-19 Mayor Jerry Treñas of Iloilo City receives a painting from Fernando Kabigting, the renowned artist who suffered a stroke but continues to paint

Visual artists may not be in the frontline as the world continues to battle an unseen enemy, but they do embrace humanity. To say the least, this is not easy when artists also bear the brunt of the (Covid-19.) In Iloilo, artists are no exception

to humanity's reawakening as they step up to do their share in crisis.

Artists from the city and province of Iloilo have auctioned o

their works online (ilonggo-artistsagainst-covid-19.myshopify.com/) to fund production of face masks to be given free to the public.

Artist Rock Drilon explains the

art-for-a-cause is the brainchild of Mayor Jerry Treñas, an art aficionado who wants to bolster Iloilo City's public-private partnership (PPP) in battling Covid-19.

"We just responded to his call and collaborated," Rock tells Manila Bulletin Lifestyle.

The paintings and mixed media works have raised more than R1.5 million when the initial target is only R1 million for 100,000 face masks.

It is the brainchild of Mayor Jerry Treñas, an art aficionado who wants to bolster Iloilo City's public-private partnership (PPP) in battling Covid-19.

More works are expected to be auctioned o when the target is now R2 million for 200,000 face masks.

Young and old artists have auctioned o their works, among them Ed Defensor, PG Zoluaga, Allain Hablo, Ronnie Granja, Momo Dalisay, Eric Tacorda, Vic Fario, Vic Nabor, Carlo Juntado, Fernando Kabigting, Cezar Arro, Arel Zambarrano, Melvin Guirhem, Kristoffer Brasileño, Alex Ordoyo, Jeanroll Ejar, Marz Capanang, Daryl Dalipe, Nil Capinanes, Christine Acedera, Ningnong Acedera, Norman Vincent Acedera, John Ermie Acedera, Jzy Tilos, Jun Orland

Espinosa, Sonny Tolentino III, Marvin Dalisay, Margaux Blas, Bea Guizon, Jonathan Arro, Nick Lanes, Rommel Garde, Norman Garibay, Joebert Gayoma, Mark Nativo, Anthony Geduspan, Althea Villanueva, Madhu Liebscher, Gerundio Buendia Jr., Philip Ian Zaldivar, Gilbert Labordo, Paul Fortunado, Ivy Katague, Richard Dela Cruz, Bryan Arroyo, Bal Cerbo, Christian Policarpio, Althea Villanueva, Michael Pamonag, Jonathan Jaleco, Cyra Cordova, El Dosado, Shalom Omriel Garibay, Roland Llarena, Erick Donesa Magbanua, Angelo Sobrepeña, Brando Banga, Jounin Sumile, Rodel Fundal, Renwil Jake Portodo, John Michael Catigan, Shiela Molato, and Drilon.

Behind the scene is Raisa Treñas, the mayor's daughter, who facilitates the auction with the artists.

The artists have the option to donate 100 percent of the proceeds or they can take a certain percentage, which can also help them in these difficult times.

"With our local art community constantly seeking creative ways to keep people connected, cope in dark times, and offer hope amid the crisis, then we will overcome all challenges," the mayor says.

KABIGTING ART AS LANDMARK IN ILOILO CITY

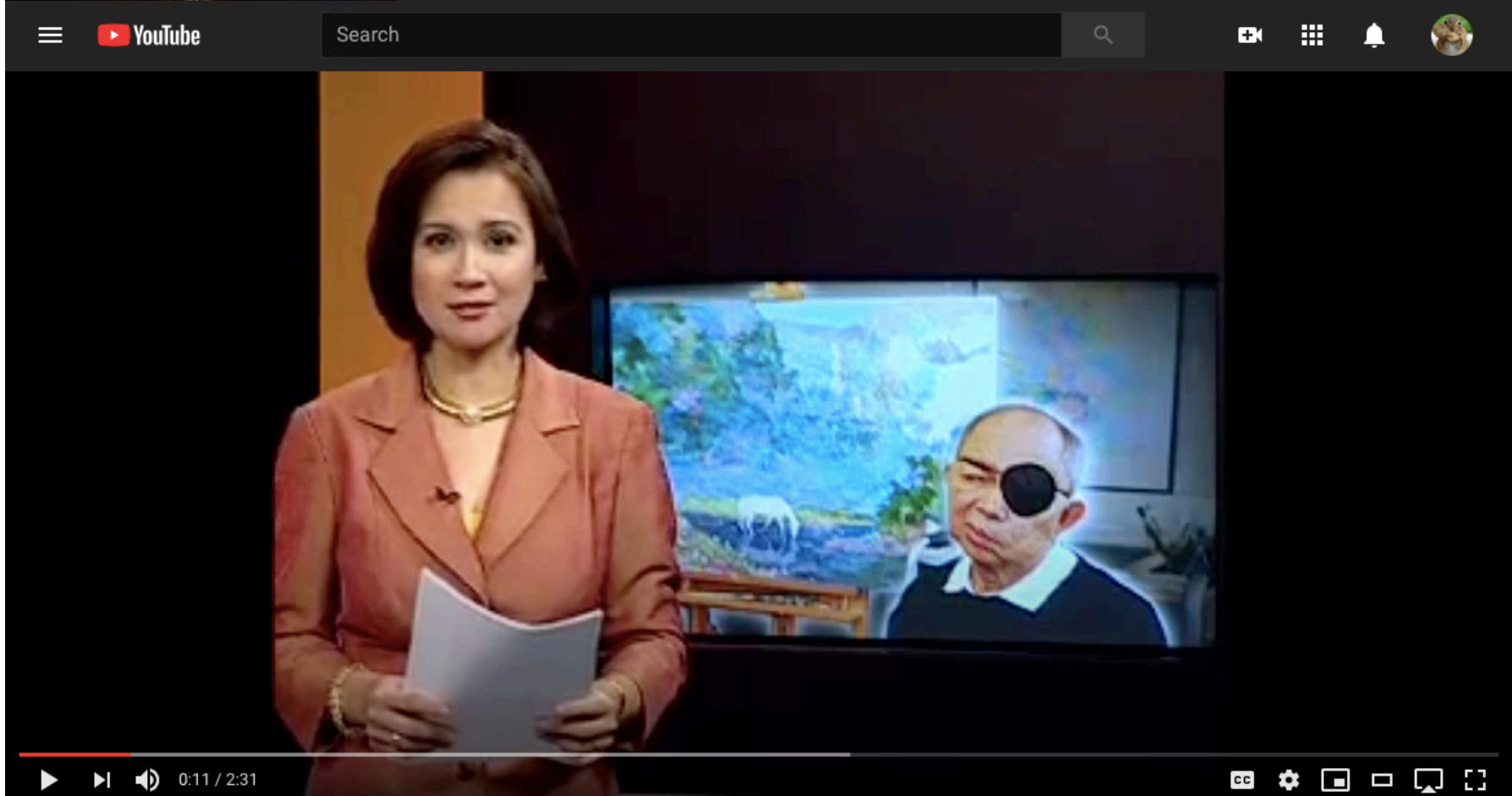


The unveiling of Our Lady of Esplanade Landmark was done on December 8, 2015, with its donor Mr. & Mrs. Fernando Kabigting present. The landmark was erected through the efforts of Mr. Alfonso Tan, contractor of Iloilo Esplanade. The image of Mother Mary is painted off a salvaged boat plank.(Located in Iloilo Esplanade 2, Mandurriao, Iloilo City, Philippines).

Text as appears on Iloilo City Tourism page <https://iloilocity.gov.ph/main/attractions/>



BALITANG AMERICA TFC FEATURE ON ARTIST FERNANDO Q. KABIGTING (2009)



CLICK HERE FOR FULL VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/wvadQfw6PK8>