

**Enduring Commitment: New Acquisitions (2009-2011)
The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Art Collection**

June 21-December 15, 2012

Galeriya Bangko Sentral

PRESS RELEASE

New Works at the BSP Art Collection

The Metropolitan Museum of Manila, in partnership with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, is pleased to present the newest addition to the BSP art collection through the exhibit, **Enduring Commitment: New Acquisitions (2009-2011)the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Art Collection**, which opens to the public on June 21, 2012. Consisting of 38 paintings and sculptures, the exhibit is a fine assembly of contemporary expressions of established as well as emerging artists. The works, comprising of conceptual, figurative, abstract, and hyper-realist art, is a fascinating exposition of the mental workings and motivation of the Filipino artist.

The BSP started collecting art in the 70s during the term of BSP Governor Gregorio Licaros. The collection grew dramatically when the succeeding Governor, Jaime Laya, acquired more works in the 80s. He strengthened the art collection as he broadened it to include pre-Hispanic and colonial religious artifacts. For the BSP, their collection of Philippine art, including its care and exhibition, cannot be underestimated for reasons symbolic and practical. Its art collection serves as a vigorous body of works that represents a nation's rich history, heritage and artistry; a visual documentation of myriad voices that span at least 200 years.

The newest addition to the BSP art collection is an engaging mix of eclectic expressions coming from both established and emerging artists. The forms may be disparate but the notion of "Filipino-ness" is apparent. Nunelucio Alvarado's *Carinderia* (2009) is an intensely vibrant scene at a local eatery, a tableau repeated daily in the neighborhood in the different parts of the Philippines. Phyllis Zaballero's *Handaan* (2011), on the other hand, amplifies Alvarado's take on the Filipino's eating culture with a more sumptuous display of festive treats, local celebratory dishes such as *pancit* and *lechon* that overflow the circular table. Philippine folk tales are also represented with Rodell Tapaya's *The Miracles of Lumawig*, an earth-toned interpretation of the works of one of the more enduring characters in indigenous creation myths, Lumawig of Bontoc.

Enduring Commitment : New Acquisitions (2009-2011) serves as a showcase of the winning works in the first Tanaw BSP Art Competition. The top three winners of Tanaw-- *The Rebuilders* (Gary Custodio), *Unresolved* (Melvin Culaba), *Pagsabay sa Paghakbang ng Ating Mga Pangarap* (Brave Singh)-- are exhibited jointly for the second time, this time at the BSP Gallery. These winning works are joined by another Tanaw finalist --Rodell Cerda's *Balik Tanaw*, a very real-like scene of a young artist in front of Fabian dela Rosa's painting of peasants planting rice. *Balik Tanaw* magnificently captures a moment in a life of an emerging

Enduring Commitment: New Acquisitions (2009-2011)
The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Art Collection

June 21-December 15, 2012

Galeriya Bangko Sentral

artist. It also wittingly displays the flexibility of the artist as it showcases his skill for classicist and contemporary styles.

The exhibit also features works by National Artists Arturo Luz and Ben Cabrera, Jerry Elizalde Navarro, conceptual pieces by Roberto Chabet, the text-based art of father and daughter tandem Cesare and Maxine Syjuco, and the sculptural pieces of Anastacio Caedo and Luis Yee Jr.

Today, the BSP art collection stands as the one of the most important compendium of Philippine art here and abroad. It covers two centuries of art-making that includes paintings, prints, drawings, sculpture, and reliefs. With its latest works, the BSP fills in the gaps in the collection, representing a more well thought and comprehensive body of works.

Enduring Commitment: New Acquisitions (2009-2011) opens on June 21 and will run until December 15, 2012 at the Galeriya Bangko Sentral. The Metropolitan Museum of Manila is located at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. Museum hours are from 9am – 6pm, Monday to Saturday; closed on Sundays and first Mondays of the month and on holidays. For details on the exhibit, please call 708-7829 or email at info@metmuseum.ph. You may also follow us at FB:metmuseum.manila.

For inquiries about this press release, please call Fralynn Manalo at 708-7829.