

PRESS RELEASE

RE/CURATING the Met Museum Collection on its Last Week

In 2010, the Metropolitan Museum of Manila mounted the exhibit "Re-Collect: Revisiting the Met Collection", the first time that the art collection of the Museum was brought out in its entirety for viewing. Composed of over a hundred art pieces (paintings, prints and sculptures) created by Filipino artists, it visually narrated Philippine concerns and circumstances and various victories from a particular period, the 1950s up to the 1990s.

The MET Museum opened in 1976 to present foreign art to the Filipino audience. In 1989, the MET started incorporating Philippine art in its programs to locate the creative process, aesthetics, art narratives and developing museological functions within a Filipino framework, sustained by standards for excellence and educative objectives.

'**RE/CURATING the MET Collection 1948-2011**' is the second presentation of the Met collection. It is an invitation to look back at the country's recent history through the same works but which have been organized to explore, first, use of material and techniques, themes, genres and finally using portions of it to usher engagement with new art forms.

Considered as the doyen of Filipino expatriate painters Venancio Igarta's 'Manong's in the Rockies' stirs images and conditions of Filipino artists and workers abroad in figuration but leaning towards impressionistic articulation. A creative dialogue between subject and material is seen on Roberto Feleo's 'Myth of Bukidnon Creation' as he recreates imagery of folk mythology using a mixture of glue, powdered egg shell and sawdust. Issues on urbanization are visually cramped in Pablo Baen Santos's 'Bum na Bum'. An abstractionist, Phyllis Zaballero's six scroll-like stretches of canvas describes a segmentation of life both nostalgic and tentative. National Artist Ben Cab's striking figuration of 'Flor Contemplacion' with heavy and dark strokes poses both as a tribute and a confrontational stance on the plight of domestic Filipino workers. The exhibit would like to provoke thinking and conversing by looking and evaluating the past, and situating the present in the process. It also welcomes new art forms, as the museum anticipates the presentation of other expressions, that will enrich the current collection.

The museum collection continues to be in an interpretative tool. RE/CURATING presents an opportunity to re-assess the relevance of the individual artworks and the entire collection in the context of designing museum programs, and to wield art for its various museological roles.

Re/curating the Met Museum Collection will be on view until June 9, 2012. For details, please call 708-7929 or email info@metmuseum.ph. Follow us at facebook: [metmuseum.manila](https://www.facebook.com/metmuseum.manila)

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, first Mondays of the month and on holidays.