

FOTO A FOTO
Opening/Welcome
24 October 2011

His Excellency Benigno Simeon Aquino III, President of the Republic of the Philippines, His Excellency Jorge Domecq, Ambassador of Spain to the Philippines (other names as they are present).

Pinakamalugod na pagsalubong at masayang pagbati sa Kagalang-galang na Pangulong Aquino – magandang hapon po sa kanila. Buenas tardes y bienvenidos, I a very good afternoon to you all, warmest welcome to the Metropolitan Museum of Manila!

A long relationship, durable and productive, is what the Philippines and Metropolitan Museum of Manila have had with Spain, with the Embassy of Spain to the Philippines and with Spanish art and culture institutions that have jointly brought to the Philippines programs and projects that highlight and strengthen the ties between our countries, and that celebrate our shared history.

It gives us, therefore, inestimable pleasure to welcome and host the exhibition, *FOTO A FOTO, Un Retrato de Espana*, as a demonstration of abiding cultural relations and collaborations between Spain and Philippines, coming as it does on the 150th birth anniversary of National Hero Jose Rizal, and it being one of Spain's congratulatory gestures.

Spanish hands extended to us in that spirit of collaboration help the Met Museum revisit one of its objectives at its establishment in 1976: to show and share with its audience the art and the manner of reflection, narration and expression by other peoples, other countries. We in the Met Museum believe that the arts wield some of the most efficient tools in diplomacy and foreign relations.

On behalf of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, specially our Chairperson Joselito Campos Jr and other members of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila Board and staff, and the Met Museum's steadfast partner in its efforts, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, *maraming salamat po,*

Pangulong Aquino, sa inyong pagpapaunlak. Making time to lend your gracious presence to this event delights and honors us -- it is our hope that we shall be honored by many more visits; *muchissimas gracias* to Ambassador Jorge Domecq and the Embassy of Spain to the Philippines and its allied cultural offices for making possible this awesome event; and to the Accion Cultural/Española (AC/E), for organizing and bringing the exhibition FOTO A FOTO to the Philippines, and to the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. *Viva el arte! Mabuhay ang ugnayang Filipino-Hispano.* Welcome again to the Metropolitan Museum of Manila! *Maraming salamat at magandang hapon po kanilang lahat.*

