Rizal as an Artist

By: Group 1
The novels; Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo propelled him into becoming the leading proponent against the Spanish rule in the Philippines. Unfortunately these very noble acts have lead into his eventual capture and execution. The life he lived is a testament that nationalism within one person could envelop a whole country into a full blown revolution.
NOLI ME TANGERE

EL FILIBUSTERISMO

English translation by Dr. JORGE BOCOBO
• He is very prolific and made various paintings, sketches as well as sculptures. Having lots of sweethearts he made portraits of them and his closest friends such as Ferdinand Blummentrit and Juan Luna. Being an intellectual he also made anatomical drawings of insects and plants since he studied medicine during his years studying in the University of Sto. Tomas. Also, while travelling he liked to make panoramic paintings or pencil sketches of the landscapes of the places he passes by or stays in.
• However, **his real talent laid in writing**. At a very young age he is able to write poetry and simple essays and as he grew he made novels and also more poems and complex essays with deep meanings and messages addressing to the Filipinos with topics about education, religion and government.
There is no question that, apart from being a hero, a patriot, and writer, Jose Rizal was an artist of high caliber. In his lifetime, he produced no less than 110 works of art: 8 paintings, 51 sketches, 46 sculptures, 2 engineering plans, and 3 maps. He began showing his artistic skills at age 5, surprising his kin with sketches and clay models. In 1869, as a student in his hometown, Rizal earned the admiration of town officials and townsfolk by reproducing a better copy of the Spanish coat-of-arms as emergency replacement to a damaged banner on the eve of the town fiesta. Among his better known works of art are the portraits of Segunda Katigbak and Leonor Rivera, two of his early loves; the curtain art of Dapitan church (1894); Christ Crucified in crayon (1875); painting of Immaculate Conception (1874); the sculptures "Triumph of Death Over Life" and "Triumph of Science Over Death" in clay; two copies of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in wood and terra cotta; the image of Virgin Mary in wood; the plan for a water system in Dapitan and for a college in Paris. Among his favorite subjects are women, religion, his friends, and places and people he encountered during his travels.
• The following works are the most significant in my opinion based on the ideals he cherished most.
The first one is his poem entitled:

“Sa aking Kabataan.”

This piece talks about many important issues. **Love for our nation and native tongue is the main idea of the poem.** Then if analyzed further it shows the effect of colonialism to the Philippines under Spain and how it greatly affected our culture as a nation. As he grew this became contradictory on what he had said, because he didn’t wrote his famous novels according to our native tongue but in Spanish.
“Sa Aking Mga Kabata”

Kapagka ang baya'y sadyang umiibig  
Sa kanyang salitang kaloob ng langit,  
Sanglang kalayaan nasa ring masapit  
Katulad ng ibong nasa himpapawid.

Ang wikang Tagalog tulad din sa Latin  
Sa Ingles, Kastila at salitang anghel,  
Sapagka't ang Poong maalam tumingin  
Ang siyang naggawad, nagbigay sa atin.

Pagka't ang salita'y isang kahatulan  
Sa bayan, sa nayo't mga kaharian,  
At ang isang tao'y katulad, kabagay  
Ng alin mang likha noong kalayaan.

Ang salita nati'y huwad din sa iba  
Na may alfabeto at sariling letra,  
Na kaya nawala'y dinatnan ng sigwa  
Ang lunday sa lawa noong dakong una.

Ang hindi magmahal sa kanyang salita  
Mahigit sa hayop at malansang isda,  
Kaya ang marapat pagnyamaning kusa  
Na tulad sa inang tunay na nagpala.
Second are the **sketches of his two sweethearts**: Segunda Katigbak and Leonor Rivera. Because of his love he dedicated his time and effort into making portrait of them. However, neither of the two would be committed to Rizal. This pattern would continue to plague him woman after woman. It may seem he has a fear of settling down or as a gentleman because he knew that the path he has chosen could affect a lot of people especially his loved ones.
Finally the third is his sculpture of the Sacred Heart of Christ. The main idea of his work was his devotion to Christianity. His faith to God would ultimately challenge as he becomes an adult. Furthermore, he finally cut his religious ties by joining the Freemasons and became a respected member in the fraternity. Again this contradiction to his earlier ideas is common throughout his works.
In summary Jose Rizal shouldn’t just be remembered as a hero to the motherland but also an artist who in his works have shown a very personal side of himself, because in his works it reflected his beliefs and ideals and how he used it for the good of a nation.
END