Notable Cebuanos: Gabriel Abellana, artist

One of the most memorable experiences that I had during my college days in University of San Carlos-Technological Center is the time spent with my Fine Arts professors. The relationship between the teachers and the students in Fine Arts is one-of-a-kind and amazingly overwhelming. I can actually say that some of the teachers are fun-loving and I can even tell that they can be just one of those friends that I hang out with, but when it comes to class participation, this is where it becomes the real deal.

One of the Fine Arts teachers and Cebuano Artists that I’m proud of knowing for years is Mr. Gabriel Abellana. For a long time that I’ve known him, he’s probably one of those people that lives in simplicity but has become one of the most significant people in Cebu and in the world of art.

Biography

Gabriel Abellana is born from parents Ramon and Emiliana Abellana in Carcar, Cebu from a known family of artists, particularly with the late Martino Abellana and Dr. Ramon Abellana, a dentist who is also a musician and a famous sculptor. He attended his elementary days in a local school in Carcar then at St. Catherine School under the Saint Theresa’s College (STC). Later on he enrolled in University of the Philippines-Cebu and took up Bachelor of Fine Arts Major in Painting. There he ruled the coveted Painting Competition in UP for four consecutive years and with those are four gold medals. From that, not only he visited local places like Negros, Cagayan de Oro, Palawan and Bohol but also Germany, New York and Washington.

It all started when he was 10 years old when he expressed interest in sketching and drawing as well as joining his uncle on several on-the-spot painting gathering in their hometown of Carcar, Cebu. This I can certainly say that the place is not only famous for the chicharon, shoes, lechon and others, but also in the field of art.

Career Highlights

In 1984, Gabriel won the Joya Award in the UP Painting Annual Competition Abstract Category. For years, he capitalized his expertise in the field of art as he joined several local painting competitions in Cebu, like winning the Montebello-sponsored theme “Cebu in Modern Times” back in 2003, also in Badian and Plantation Bay Painting Competitions.

Gabriel Abellana also established himself as one a member of the core group in the upcoming VIVA (Visayan Island Visual Artist) Ex-conference to be held October next year. Other than that, he was also one of the judges in the recent Sinulog Photo Contest this year and has been one of the solid organizers for 16 years in the Dona Modesta Painting Competition held every year in his local hub of Carcar, Cebu.
Painting style

For Gabriel, the world of art is where he can express his innermost sentiments cupping the longevity of each brush stroke that resembles the most prolific style in the family. Of course, Mr. Gabriel Abellana would certainly mark a name for himself.

Gabriel Abellana’s painting style denoted the overall impact in the essence and beauty of nature. He captures the quintessence of nature catered with his accurate strokes that denote his overall density and personality. Overtime, this painting style evolved into a modern-type impression but still with his total depiction of nature. That’s nature tranquility and progressive style for you there.

As of this writing, Mr. Gabriel Abellana is busy with his new painting to be included in the Philip Morris Painting Competition 2007. And you can always contact him with the following:

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Look also here: www.Painters.PhilippineCulture.ph