

Cultural Program

The cultural program of the Philippines as Guest of Honour Country at the Frankfurt Book Fair shines a light on the robust contemporary art as well as scholarship on Philippine cultural materials in Germany. They are represented by artists and scholars who live and work in the Philippines and those who have migrated overseas. The program includes: a film screening of the select works of two filmmakers; a performance of movement; a publication of Philippine artifacts in Germany; an immersive sonic event; a musical concert of Philippine songs; and a series of exhibitions on: Philippine ethnographic collections and responses of contemporary artists; the Philippine Passion called Pasyon; Philippine contemporary photography and architecture; the relationship between National Hero Jose Rizal and Heidelberg; and a revered teller of stories for children and contemporary painting of living folklore.

Philippines Guest of Honour
Frankfurt Book Fair 2025

Cultural Program 2025 at a Glance

EXHIBITION

SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

Pagtatahip
Winnowing | Windsichten
Permanent Exhibition

OPENING: **10.5 | 5PM**

Horraum (The Listening Space), Berlin

PERFORMANCE

September 18–29, 2025

Sincerely Yours, the
Philippines – Festival for
Dance, Performance and
Karaoke

Küntsler*innerhaus Mousonturm,
Frankfurt

EXHIBITION

September 19, 2025 –
January 18, 2026

Sulog: Filipino Architecture
at the Crosscurrents

OPENING: **10.19 | 7PM**

Deutsches Architekturmuseum
(DAM), Frankfurt

EXHIBITION

September 27, 2025 –
January 11, 2026

New Beginnings: Philippine
Photographic Art

OPENING: **10.26 | 7PM**

Fotografie Forum, Frankfurt

EXHIBITION

September 27, 2025 –
March 28, 2026

Pieces of Life: The Philippine
Collection

OPENING: **10.27 | 4PM**

Völkerkundemuseum, Heidelberg

EXHIBITION

October 9 – November 7, 2026

Mga Kwento ni Lola Basyang:
Filipino Stories for Children

Zentrale Kinder-und
Jugendbibliothek, Frankfurt

FILM PRESENTATION

October 10 – 12, 2025

A Philippine Season: Kidlat
Tahimik and Nick Deocampo

Deutsches Filminstitut und
Filmmuseum Schaumainkai 41, 60596
Frankfurt am Mai

EXHIBITION

October 10 to
December 4, 2025

History, Form, Practice for
Pasyon

OPENING: **10.10 | 6PM**

Haus am Dom Domplatz, Frankfurt

PERFORMANCE

October 18, 2025 | 8pm

Concert
Philippine Madrigal Singers
and Song Weavers
Philippines

Jonathan Zaens, baritone

Romanfabrik Hanauer Landstraße
186, 60314 Frankfurt am Main

Exhibitions



EXHIBITIONS

OCULUS



Artists: **Joscha Steffens and Stephanie Misa**
Curator: **Patrick Flores**

Venue: **Heidelberger Kunstverein**
Hauptstrasse 97, 69117 Heidelberg
www.hdkv.de

Dates:	March 15, Saturday	18:00	Opening
	March 16, Sunday	14:00	Artists' Talk
	March 16 to May 18, 2025		Exhibition period

EXHIBITIONS

Pagtatahip | Winnowing | Windsichten

An Ambisonics/Wave Field Synthesis Sound Installation

Eine neue Klanginstallation im Hörraum des Humboldt Forum Berlin



Credit: melê yamomo

Artists: **melê yamomo**
Sound Engineer: **Nico D'Alemann**
Dramaturg: **Jay Yamomo**

Venue: **Hörraum (The Listening Space)**
Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss
Schlossplatz 1, 10178 Berlin
www.humboldtforum.org

Dates: **September 5, Friday** 15:00 Opening Program (Klangwerkstatt)
September 5, Friday 17:00 Premiere (Hörraum)
*permanent exhibition

EXHIBITIONS

Pagtatahip | Winnowing | Windsichten

An Ambisonics/Wave Field Synthesis Sound Installation

Eine neue Klanginstallation im Hörraum des Humboldt Forum Berlin

What echoes linger in the silences of historical archives? Can the sounds of our ancestors, preserved in fragile wax cylinders and fading magnetic tapes, speak truths beyond fidelity?

In *Pagtatahip*, meLê yamomo invites audiences into an immersive sonic weaving of past and present, where the reverberations of empire and memory are brought into resonance. Rendered through Ambisonics and Wave Field Synthesis, The Listening Space at the Humboldt Forum's Hörraum becomes a site of acoustic excavation—a resonant crucible where colonial echoes stir. Archival recordings—of a Malay soldier held in a WWI German camp intoning loss in captivity; of indigenous Kalinga soundscapes captured by early twentieth-century European composers amidst the aesthetic fervor of musical Orientalism; of a Filipino librarian in 1920s Berlin voicing anti-colonial poetry; and of a Javanese dancer on European tour cantillating the Panji epics—resound from Berlin's Phonogrammarchiv and Lautarchiv as living traces on exile. These spectral voices intermingle with contemporary field recordings by meLê and his brother Jay—lullabies, intimate murmurs between father and son, and echoes from a Southeast Asian village once called home. Together, they form a tapestry of dislocation and return, where the sonic debris of colonial encounter intertwines with familial memory, inviting a listening across an entire century,

This piece weaves a fractured yet vivid tapestry of personal and collective memory—one that beats with the resonances of displacement, colonial legacies, and cultural reclamation. Sound waves within the space becomes a mode of inquiry as listeners navigate an acoustic landscape sculpted by technological imperfections—scratches, static, and ghostly resonances—the witness to histories both hidden and inherited.

Pagtatahip—the rhythmic winnowing of rice casts grains into the air, integrating the wind in the process what stays and what scatters—is a community wisdom at work of filtering significance from noise. As husks feed the earth, discarded yet essential, what forgotten histories nourish our collective understanding? Listen closely; within the whispers of past archives might emerge the clarity of the grains we choose to keep.

EXHIBITIONS

Sulog: Filipino Architecture at the Crosscurrents

Philippinische Architektur im Spannungsfeld | Arkitekturang Filipino sa Agusan



Credit: Patrick Kasingsing

Curatorial Team: **Edson Cabalfin, Patrick Kasingsing, Peter Cachola Schmal**

Venue: **Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM)**
Schaumainkai 43, 60596 Frankfurt am Main
dam-online.de

Dates:	September 19, Friday,	11:00	Press Conference
	September 19, Friday	16:00	Symposium
	September 19, Friday	19:00	Opening
	September 19, 2025 – January 18, 2026		Exhibition period

EXHIBITIONS

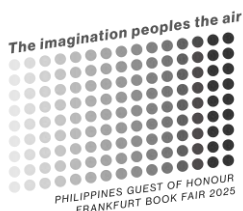
Sulog: Filipino Architecture at the Crosscurrents

Philippinische Architektur im Spannungsfeld | Arkitekturang Filipino sa Agusan

Contemporary Filipino Architecture is at the nexus of interconnected and intersecting forces. Once imagined as limited within the confines of the Philippines as a geographical setting, Filipino Architecture is recast as the continuous flow of people, places, and processes. **“Sulog”**, a Cebuano term that refers to “water currents”, encapsulates the dynamic ebbs and flows of Filipino Architecture that is born of an archipelagic setting and whose sense of becoming is enmeshed within crosscurrents of multiple flows and network exchanges.

The exhibit is inspired by anthropologist Arjun Appadurai’s conception of **“Global Cultural Flow”** (1990) as an intersecting transnational network of exchange between people, goods, economics, politics, and ideas. He suggests that we need to understand these cultural flows across geo-political boundaries through the five dimensions of ethnoscapescapes, technoscapescapes, financescapescapes, mediascapescapes, and ideoscapescapes. Following this framework, we can then also understand that the production, consumption, and mediation of architecture are embedded within the ever-dynamic currents of movement that could never be limited to just one idea of territory. Thus, we can think of architecture as not simply emerging from a single nation or country but instead as a confluence of cultural exchanges occurring across time and space.

Three interlocking themes emerge from this reconceptualization of Filipino Architecture. First, **“People as Network”** presents architecture and the built environment as emerging from the imagination, experience, and engagement with people. In this sense, we understand architecture through the Filipino architects, collaborators, clients, communities, mentors, educational lineages, and the diaspora of the Filipino people across the world. Second, **“Places as Flux”** highlights the built environment as fundamentally grounded in places. Under such conception, an idea of place can cover a multitude of aspects of architecture, such as the site context, tropical climate, geological, geography, culture, history, and placemaking. Third, **“Process as Flows”** acknowledges the decision-making processes involved in the production and consumption of architecture through materials, construction, participatory methods, community engagement, heritage conservation, and the socio-political context.



EXHIBITIONS

As contemporary Filipino architecture emerges from the dynamic crosscurrents and interplay between people, places, and processes, it would also need to transform dynamically in the future. What kind of changes will have to occur between these networks and flows of people, places, and processes in the future? It is only by accepting that change is inevitable in Filipino Architecture that we can achieve its potential as a contributor to the global discourse and production of the built environment.



EXHIBITIONS

New Beginnings: Philippine Photographic Art



Credit: Gina Osterloh, 2025. Courtesy of the artist and Silverlens, Manila and New York

Curators: **Patrick Flores, Andrea Horvay, and Celina Lunsford**
Artists: **Tommy Hafalla, Gina Osterloh, Nana Buxani, MM Yu, Veejay Villafranca, Wawi Navarroza, Augustine Paredes, Xyza Cruz Bacani**

Venue: **Fotografie Forum Frankfurt (FFF)**
Braubachstrasse 30-32, 60311 Frankfurt am Main)
www.fff Frankfurt.com

Dates: **September 26, Friday** 11:00 Press Conference
September 26, Friday 19:00 Opening
September 27, Saturday 12:00 Gallery Walk with Artists and Curators

September 27, 2025 to January 11, 2026 Exhibition period

EXHIBITIONS

New Beginnings: Philippine Photographic Art

In light of the dynamic practice of visual culture across time in the Philippines, this exhibition presents a diverse selection of photographic works from an archipelago in Southeast Asia. The artists explore a range of concerns: personal identity, tradition, spirituality, storytelling, migrant labor, urban life, survival, memory, and the concept of home. All these trains its lens on both deeply personal narratives and broader social reflections.

Rooted in a complex colonial history and shaped by stark social contradictions, Philippine photographic art often indexes moments of transformation and resilience. Through experimental portraits, installations, and compelling documentary styles, the exhibited works foreground emerging subjectivities, lived realities, and cultural processes.

The participating artists include Xyza Cruz Bacani, Nana Buxani, Tommy Hafalla, Gina Osterloh, Augustine Paredes, Wawi Navarroza, Veejay Villafranca, and MM Yu.

This contribution by Fotografie Forum Frankfurt is organized on the occasion of the Philippines as the Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2025. New Beginnings: Philippine Photographic Art is curated by Patrick Flores, Andrea Horvay, and Celina Lunsford.

EXHIBITIONS

Pieces of Life: The Philippine Collection

Pieces of Life: Die Philippinensammlung der von Portheim-Stiftung



Credit: Völkermuseum vPST, 2019

Curators: **Partick Flores and Corazon Alvina**
Artists: **Jasmin Werner and Rocky Cajigan**

Venue: **Völkermuseum der J. & E. von Portheim-Stiftung für Wissenschaft und Kunst (vPST)**
Hauptstrasse 235, 69117 Heidelberg
www.vkm-vpst.de

Dates: **September 27, Saturday** 16:00 Curatorial talk
September 27, Saturday 17:30 Opening

September 27, 2025 to March 28, 2026 Exhibition period

EXHIBITIONS

Pieces of Life: The Philippine Collection

Pieces of Life: Die Philippinensammlung der von Portheim-Stiftung

Pieces of Life: The Philippine Collection in Heidelberg explores the Philippine collection at the Völkerkundemuseum Heidelberg. The exhibition sheds light on the material culture of Philippine communities in conversation with contemporary art. The collection includes possessions and belongings across the Philippine archipelago: baskets, personal adornment, textile, domestic objects, beads, agricultural and fishing equipment, weapons, among others. The exhibition also reflects on the implications of collecting these materials in the context of the history and museology of the Völkerkundemuseum Heidelberg.

EXHIBITIONS

History, Form, Practice for Pasyon

Pasyon of the Philippines – Tradierte Texte und gelebte Traditionen zur Leidensgeschichte Jesu



Curator: **Patrick Flores and DM Reyes**

Venue: **Haus am Dom**
Domplatz 3, 60311 Frankfurt am Main
hausamdom-frankfurt.de

Dates: **October 10, Friday** 18:00 Opening
October 10, Friday 19:00 Public Program (Grosser Saal)

**October 10 to
December 4, 2025** Exhibition period

EXHIBITIONS

History, Form, Practice for Pasyon

Pasyon of the Philippines – Tradierte Texte und gelebte Traditionen zur Leidensgeschichte Jesu

The exhibition focuses on texts of the Passion of Christ from the Philippines. The Passion texts reveal the story of the suffering of Christ and his death that leads to salvation. These texts testify to the production of text and image in the telling of a religious narrative that becomes a performative tradition during the Lenten season in the Philippines

The exhibition will feature pages from the texts that reveal modes of poetics, translation, graphic design, printing techniques, and drawings.

EXHIBITIONS

Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang: Filipino Stories for Children

Die Erzählungen von Großmutter Basyang:
Kindergeschichten aus den Philippinen



Curator: **Patrick Flores**
Artists: **Rodel Tapaya and Christine Bellen-Ang**

Venue: **Zentrale Kinder-und Jugendbibliothek
(Central Children and Youth Library)**
Arnsburgerstrasse 24, D-60385 Frankfurt am Main
stadtbuecherei.frankfurt.de

Dates: **October 9 Thursday** 16:00 Opening
October 17 Friday 16:00 Art Workshop for Children

**October 9 to
November 7, 2025** Exhibition period

EXHIBITIONS

Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang: Filipino Stories for Children

Die Erzählungen von Großmutter Basyang:
Kindergeschichten aus den Philippinen

The exhibition surveys the history of Severino Reyes's Mga Kwento ni Lola Basyang from its initial production to its iterations in various media: illustrated book, dance, television, and cinema.

Stories for children form an important part of the Philippine literary tradition. And as this particular example demonstrates, they have belonged to the collective imagination of the public culture.

The exhibition will feature the various articulations of the story in books, visual culture, and the mass media.

Film Presentation

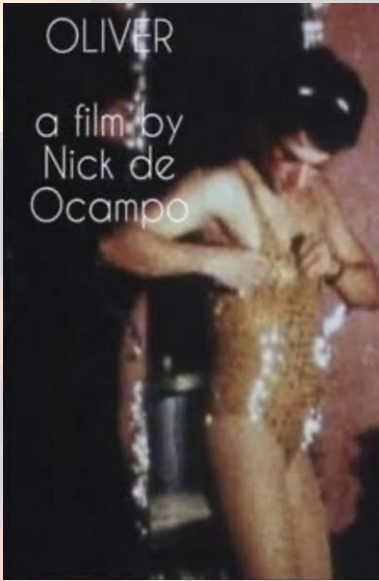


FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE
15-19 OCTOBER 2025
GUEST OF HONOUR PHILIPPINES

FILM PRESENTATION

A Philippine Season: Kidlat Tahimik and Nick Deocampo

Philippinisches Kino: Eine Saison mit Kidlat Tahimik und Nick Deocampo



Artists: **Kidlat Tahimik and Nick Deocampo**
Curators: **Patrick Flores and Natascha Gikas**

Venue: **Deutsches Filminstitut Filmmuseum (DFF)**
Schaumainkai 41, 60596 Frankfurt am Main
www.dff.film

FILM PRESENTATION

A Philippine Season: Kidlat Tahimik and Nick Deocampo

Philippinisches Kino: Eine Saison mit Kidlat Tahimik und Nick Deocampo

Dates:	October 10 Friday	19:00	Opening Program
		20:00	"Perfumed Nightmare" Artist's Talk: Kidlat Tahimik
	October 11 Saturday	18:00	"Oliver" and "Revolutions Happen Like a Refrain in a Song" Artist's Talk: Nick Deocampo
		20:15	"Sino ang Lumikha ng Yoyo" Artist's Talk: Kidlat Tahimik and Nick Deocampo
	October 12 Sunday	18:00	"Balikbayan #1" Artist's Talk: Kidlat Tahimik
	October 19 Sunday	17:30	"Dekada '70" (Film by Chito S. Roño, based on the novel by Lualhati Bautista) Panel Talk with Annette Hug (Translator) and Beverly "Bebang" Siy (Epilog) of the German edition „Die 70er“ (Orlanda Verlag)

*will be included in the regular programming on **October 12 – 30**

The program presents select films from Filipino filmmakers Kidlat Tahimik and Nick Deocampo. These films do not only honor the achievements of the filmmakers; they also signify important aspects of Philippines cinema from the seventies onward. They struggle to discuss the complex conditions of a Filipino subjectivity through the history of successive colonialisms and state control over the years.

Performances

PERFORMANCES

Sincerely Yours, the Philippines – Festival for Dance, Performance and Karaoke

Sincerely Yours, the Philippines – Festival für Tanz, Performance und Karaoke



Credit: Goethe Institut Philippinen



Credit: Rockbund Art Museum and Hugo Boss Asia Art Awards 2019



Credit: Joyie's Studio

Director and Curator: **Eisa Jocson**

Artists: **Eisa Jocson, Grace Nono, Ea Torrado, Bunny Cadag, Leeroy New, Cathrine Go, Teresa Barrozo, Franchesca Casauay, Anjeline de Dios, Aaron Kaiser Garcia, Pepe Dayaw, Alvin Collantes, Alyx Ayn Arumpac, Albert Garcia**

Venue: **Künstler*innerhaus Mousonturm**
Waldschmidtstrasse 4, 60316 Frankfurt am Main
www.mousonturm.de/en/

PERFORMANCES

Sincerely Yours, the Philippines – Festival for Dance, Performance and Karaoke

Sincerely Yours, the Philippines – Festival für Tanz, Performance und Karaoke

Dates:	September 18 – 29	
	September 18, Thursday	19:00 Opening / Jaya Jacobo, keynote (Mousunturm Lokal) 20:00 The Filipino Superwoman Band (Mousonturm Saal) 21:00 – 24:00 Karaoke Opening Party (Mousunturm Lokal)
	September 19, Friday	18:00 Speak my language (Mousonturm Studio 2) 20:00 The Filipino Superwoman Band (Mousonturm Saal)
	September 20, Saturday	13:00 Be Your Own Festival Queen (Mousonturm Foyer) 14:00 Cooking as Performance Art (Mousonturm Lokal) 18:00 Speak my language (Mousonturm Studio 2) 20:00 Re-claim (Mousonturm Studio 1) 21:00 Fiesta (Mousonturm Saal)
	September 21, Sunday	15:00 Reflexion und Debatte I (Mousonturm Lokal) 18:00 Re-claim (Mousonturm Studio 1) 18:00 Bibingka (Mousonturm Probebühne 1)
	September 22, Monday	19:00 Reflexion und Debatte II / Aswang (Mousonturm Studio 1)
	September 23, Tuesday	19:00 Macho Dance (Mousonturm Probebühne 3)

PERFORMANCES

Sincerely Yours, the Philippines – Festival for Dance, Performance and Karaoke

Sincerely Yours, the Philippines – Festival für Tanz, Performance und Karaoke

Dates:	September 25, Thursday	18:00	Reflexion und Debatte III (Mousonturm Studio 2)
		20:00	The Singer (Mousonturm Saal)
		21:00	Karaoke Party (Mousonturm Lokal)
	September 26, Friday	20:00	The Singer (Mousonturm Saal)
	September 27, Saturday	11:00	Reflexion und Debatte IV (Mousonturm Studio 2)
		18:00	Home in Huyong-Huyong (Frankfurt Lab)
		20:00	Brown Madonna (Mousonturm Studio 1)
		21:00	Karaoke Party – The Grand Finale (Mousonturm Lokal)
	September 28, Sunday	16:00	The Survival Guide: between a dog, wolf and tardigrade (Mousonturm Saal)
		18:00	Brown Madonna (Mousonturm Studio 1)
	September 29, Monday	20:00	The Survival Guide: between a dog, wolf and tardigrade (Mousonturm Saal)

Sincerely Yours, The Philippines is an allusion to the motto “Love the Philippines” used by the Philippine Government in Tourism advertising. Eisa Jocson continues her exploration of the connections between embodiment, labor migration, and the construction of Filipino identity.



PERFORMANCES

Concert Philippine Madrigal Singers and Song Weavers Philippines

Jonathan Zaens, baritone



Credit: JM Puyat

Venue: **Romanfabrik**
Hanauer Landstraße 186, 60314 Frankfurt am Main
www.romanfabrik.de

Date: **October 18, Saturday** 20:00

P E R F O R M A N C E S

Concert

Philippine Madrigal Singers and Song Weavers Philippines

Jonathan Zaens, baritone

Songs of a Culture is a concert aimed at creating awareness on the Philippine history, literature, arts and culture through choral music. The repertoire includes songs of love, struggle, hope, triumph, and heroism composed by National Artists for Music and other prominent Filipino composers. All 25 members of The Philippine Madrigal Singers will perform in this concert.

Recognized by the UNESCO as Artists for Peace for “putting their fame and influence to promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace,” the Philippine Madrigal Singers are one of the most awarded choral groups in the world, having won all the top prizes in most of the world’s prestigious choral competitions, including the Grand Prix in the 2016 Concorso Internazionale di Guido d’Arezzo, Arezzo, Italy. They hold the distinction of being the first choir in the world to win the prestigious European Grand Prix for Choral Singing twice (1997 and 2007) and the first Asian choir to be accorded the Brand Laureate Premiere Award by the Asia Pacific Brands Foundation in 2012.

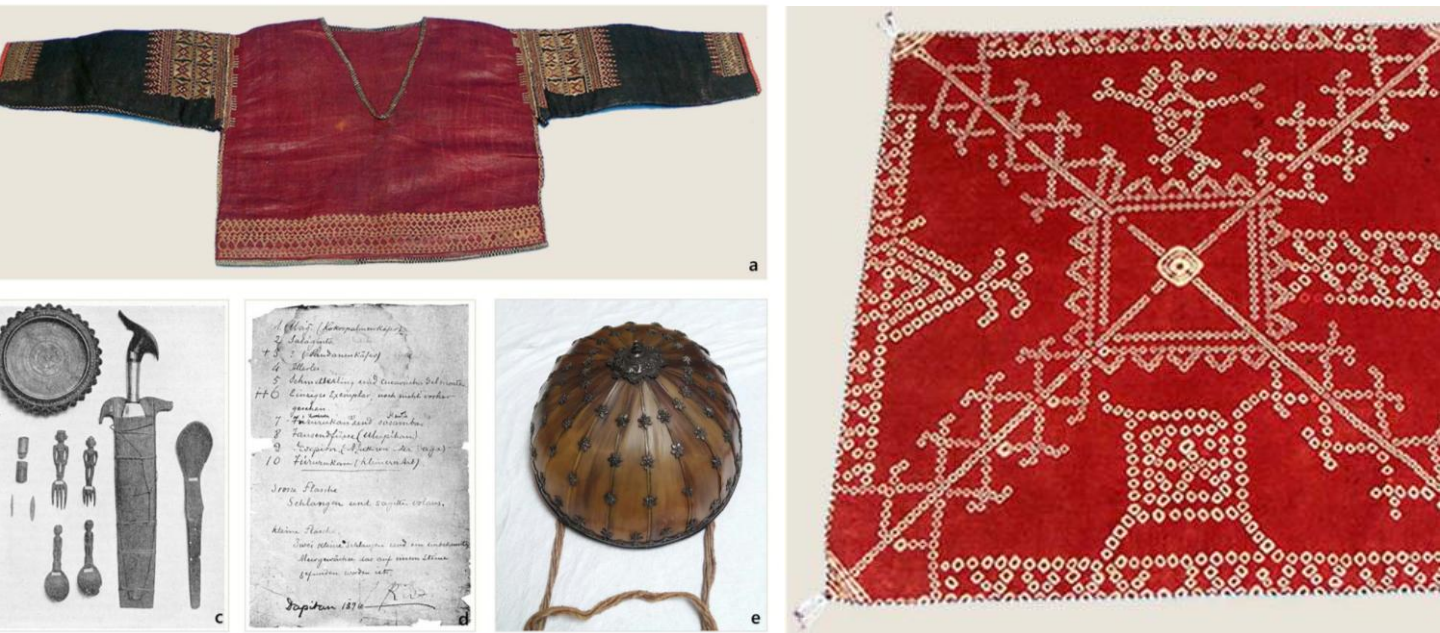
Founded in 1963 by National Artist for Music Professor Andrea O. Veneracion, UP Madrigal Singers, now under designated successor Mark Anthony Carpio, demonstrate that choral music can be socially relevant and transformational. They have continued to touch hearts and souls of those who come to their performances, and carried on various programs to nurture and develop future generations of conductors and choral singers all over the world.

The Philippine Madrigal Singers has also been designated the National Performing Arts Company for Choral Music under Republic Act 11392 in 2024.

Publication

PUBLICATION

Rizaliana in Berlin



Credit: [National Museum of the Philippines Facebook Page](#)

Editor: **Patrick Flores**
Contributors: **Corazon Alvina, Analyn Cabras, Dietrich Harth, Lizza May David**

The Philippine Guest of Honour program, with its theme The imagination peoples the air, a phrase drawn from the incendiary novel Noli Me Tangere by national hero and writer Jose Rizal, concludes with a monograph that returns to Rizal and his enduring ties to Germany.

Edited by Patrick Flores, the monograph offers a composite portrait of Rizal, revealing how his curiosity, mobility, and imagination continue to resonate in both German and Philippine contexts, and how his encounters in Europe shaped a mind attuned to the world.

It brings together Corazon Alvina’s study of Rizal’s collection at the Berlin Ethnological Museum; Analyn Cabras’s research on Rizal’s insect and reptile specimens at the Senckenberg Naturhistorische Sammlungen and the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen in Dresden; Dietrich Harth’s meditation on Rizal’s wanderlust, tracing the intellectual flâneur’s journey in Europe; and Berlin-based Filipino contemporary artist Lizza May David, whose essay reflects on her works centered on Rizal as she meditates on the delicate boundary between fiction and history.

The imagination peoples the air

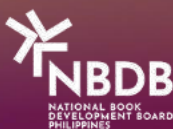


PHILIPPINES GUEST OF HONOUR
FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2025



@philippinesfrankfurt2025

www.philippinesfrankfurt2025.com



FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE

15 – 19 OCTOBER 2025
GUEST OF HONOUR PHILIPPINES