

PRESS RELEASE

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GIFT OF LIFE EXHIBIT OPENS AT THE SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY



Artist Manuel Baldemor, Dean Roberto Mariano, UPAAS President Raymond Barlis and H.E. Amb. Belen F. Anota (L-R) officially open the exhibit at the SMU Art Gallery.

27 July 2007—Acclaimed Filipino artist Manuel D. Baldemor opened his second one-man exhibit “Gift of Life” at the Singapore Management University Art Gallery on 6 July 2007 with some fifty (50) pieces of his works on distinctively Filipino scenes and sceneries on display.

Coming on the heels of the very successful showing of his very first one-man exhibit *Windows* at the ARtrium of the Ministry of Information Communications and the Arts (MICA) Building from 17 to 30 June 2007, Baldemor opted to show his Filipiniana images this time around as opposed to his impressions of Singapore and other key cities in the world that were on show

at the MICA.

As such, there was a more festive, colorful and jovial mood to his images which evoked of the many fiestas and good harvests celebrated all year round in the country as well as typical Filipino characteristics and values such as the “Bayanihan” spirit and close-knit family ties.

The SMU exhibit entitled “Gift of Life” may well have been called “Baldemor’s Gift” since a portion of the proceeds from the show were allotted to help the Philippine Bayanihan Society Singapore (PBSS) in its many programmes that include skills training and development classes as well as the scholarship project of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association in Singapore (UPAAS). The Philippine Embassy and the Singapore Management University (SMU) partnered to put up the show.

Speaking at the well-attended opening of the show, Dean Roberto Mariano, PBSS President and Mr. Raymund Barlis, UPAAS President, both lauded the artist for his generous contribution to these worthwhile causes. Her Excellency Ambassador Belen F. Anota also thanked the SMU, as well as the PBSS and the UPAAS in helping put up the show in what she had labeled as a true example of the spirit of Bayanihan noting in particular how each entity had done their fair share in organizing and running the exhibit.

Members of the diplomatic corps, representatives from government, the private sector and the Filipino community were one in appreciating this facet of the artist Baldemor, for which he is greatly admired. END