



MEDIA RELEASE

In art, as in politics, Philippine women take centre stage

The Asia-Australia Arts Centre is pleased to present an art exhibition of Filipina-Australian artists to be opened by the Hon. Bob Carr, Premier of NSW on Friday 10th February, 2001.

This exhibition, titled *The Ineffable*, brings together the work of two Filipina (a woman of Philippine extraction) artists, Maria Cruz and Victoria Lobregat for the first time. The Philippines has a remarkable ability of placing its women at the forefront. Fifteen years after Cory Aquino harnessed 'people power' to force the dictator Ferdinand Marcos out of office, history repeated itself last weekend when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo assumed Philippine Presidency after leading a peaceful popular uprising against the discredited Joseph Estrada.

The Curator of the exhibition Ramon E.S Lerma, (Assistant Curator of the first modern art museum in the Philippines) states:

" Filipinos are exultant after the events of last week. Our outlook for the future is very positive... this is reflected by the contemporary nature of this exhibit, which emphasises a freshness of perspective as it highlights the significant contribution of Filipina-Australians to the art and culture of Australia."

Maria Cruz and Victoria Lobregat were both born in Manila: Lobregat leaving the Philippines at only five years of age, while Cruz completed her tertiary studies prior to migrating to Australia.

Victoria Lobregat has shown her work at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney and has been selected for the Wynne Prize at the Art Gallery of NSW. Her work is currently on show at the Australian Embassy in Tokyo.

Maria Cruz was awarded the Portia Geach Memorial Art prize in 1997. She has exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art, S.H Ervin, Artspace and Art Gallery of NSW. She is currently on a residency in New York.

Exhibition: The Ineffable: Maria Cruz and Victoria Lobregat
 Date: 11 February – 10 March 2001
 Gallery Hours: Tues-Sat, 11-6pm
 Venue: Asia-Australia Arts Centre, 181-187 Hay Street, Sydney

FREE ADMISSION

For further information and images contact Jennifer Kwok or Melissa Chiu.
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gallery hours
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