

MUSEUM THEMES

The Yuchengco Museum regularly presents exhibitions revolving around four themes:

1. **Sino-Filipino Expressions**

This series brings to the fore excellent artistic and creative expressions by Chinese Filipinos, and looks at the best attributes of a twin-heritage: Chinese ancestry where virtues of hard-work, skill, and craftsmanship are highly regarded, and the Filipino's highly expressive and adaptive sensibility. As a means to foster greater appreciation and establish connections, the series likewise engages the viewers in a continuing dialogue on the Chinese Filipinos' unique vision and view of their identities, of their country and its people, and of the world.

Exhibitions shown under the theme Sino-Filipino Expressions:

- *AnnTiu.Alchemy*
(March 2008 to May 2008)
- *Flow of the Gentle Ink: Storytelling in Calligraphy by Ong Bun Han*
(March 2008 to May 2008)
- *Praise to Nature: Recent Works by Arsenia Lim*
(August 2007 to October 2007)
- *Sculptures by Ting Ping Lay*
(March 2007 to June 2007)
- *Sino-Filipino: Three Visions*
(November 2006 to February 2007)

2. Bridging Cultures

Culture and its many expressions have always been a bridge to foster a deeper understanding between peoples. As exhibition venue, the Museum serves as a cultural bridge to the regional Asian and Pacific Rim communities. International visiting exhibitions highlight dynamic and evolving cultures of the world. From political, historical exhibitions, contemporary visual arts, and traditional arts and crafts to innovative trends in art, design, and popular culture exhibitions, a survey of a regional worldview is observed, helping the Filipino define and assert his place globally.

Exhibitions shown under the theme Bridging Cultures:

- *Binondo: Pride of Place*
(March 2008 to May 2008)
- *Zhangzhou Ware Found in the Philippines: "Swatow" Export Ceramics from Fujian 16th – 17th Century*
(October 2007 to April 2008)
- *The World in Painting*
(January 2008 to February 2008)
- *Cordillera Suite: Homage to Apo Ben*
(November 2007 to January 2008)
- *Gelam Nguzu Kazi (Dugong My Son): Prints from the Western Torres Strait*
(July 2007 to August 2007)

3. Design as Art, Art as Design

To be truly great, a design must express its utility in such a way that the aesthetic debate—whether form precedes function or vice versa—is non-existent. When form and function are perfectly integrated in a single object, design excellence is achieved. Designers practice across numerous creative fields and bring into their best work a sensibility specific to their own culture—a distinctive form, a particular detail, an attitude. They share this sensibility with us as we use their creations, thus introducing and filling the need for art in everyone's lives. Through this series, the Museum intends to define excellence in both expressions in a variety of forms, reviewing a mix of foreign or home-grown influences on art and design.

Exhibitions shown under the theme Design as Art, Art as Design:

- *AnnTiu.Alchemy*
(March 2008 to May 2008)
- *Poetry in Function: A Glimpse at Contemporary Filipino Pottery*
(October 2008 to January 2008)
- *Framing Architecture: Photographs of Modern Philippine Cultural Venues by Paulo Alcazaren*
(August 2007 to October 2007)
- *Nature Bejeweled*
(February 2007 to March 2007)

4. Culture and Development

The Yuchengco Museum adds a new direction in positioning all its exhibitions, events, and activities to support culture as a main pillar in national development. Part of the search for and scholarly debate over Filipino national identity, and the seeming dearth of values in mass media and pop culture, stem from the fact that information about who we are, what we are about, and what we are expressing—is lacking. And this is what culture is all about. Our exhibitions are inspired by the creative industries to highlight design. Through our Saturday Culture and Development talks by various experts, we hope to bring tradition and heritage to the forefront of what needs to be preserved in Filipino culture, to highlight our unique values, and to identify what aspects of our culture can be intertwined with our modern-day lives.