

**PRESS
BOOKLET**



PHILIPPINES

GUEST OF HONOUR

FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2025

The imagination peoples the air



PHILIPPINES GUEST OF HONOUR
FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2025

Press Booklet

Philippines
Guest of Honour
Frankfurter
Buchmesse
2025

Press Conference

26 June 2025, 10.00 – 11.00 am

Evangelische Akademie Frankfurt

Römerberg 9, D – 60311 Frankfurt am Main

Performance

The Philippine Madrigal Singers

Introduction

Ines Bacher, PR Manager Frankfurter Buchmesse

Welcome Remarks

Juergen Boos, CEO and President Frankfurter Buchmesse

Message

Honorable Senator Loren Legarda, Project Visionary

Presentations

Karina Bolasco, Head - Literary Program and Curator of Books
in conversation with **Ines Bacher** on the Literary Program

Patrick Flores, Curator - Philippine GoH Pavilion
on the Cultural Program, PhilGoH theme and Pavilion Design

Stanley Ruiz, Head Designer
on the Philippine GoH Pavilion Design

Conversation featuring

Candy Gourlay, Author of *Wild Song* (Rotfuchs, 2025)
Blaise Campo Gacoscas, Author of *Kites in the Night /
Der Junge aus Ilocos* (Albino Verlag, 2025)

Moderated by

Annette Hug, Author & Translator

The talks will be delivered in German and English. The speakers will be available for interviews after the press conference.



Press Conference
Philippines – Guest of Honour
Frankfurter Buchmesse 2025

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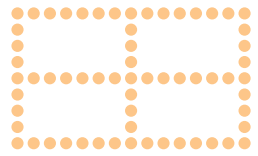
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Philippines at World's Doorstep with Guest of Honour Pavilion Program at the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2025

Frankfurt (Main), Germany – The Philippines unveiled the full scope of its Guest of Honour (PhlGoH) program for the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2025 during a press conference in Frankfurt today, positioning the archipelago as a rising force in global publishing. The country announced it has organized over 77 literary events, with 100 authors and creatives, and 50 artists across exhibitions, performances, and films. Inspired by a line from Jose Rizal's *Noli Me Tangere*, the country's theme—*The imagination peoples the air*—captures the deep interplay of Philippine literature, culture, and history, inviting the world to engage with its stories.

The program included speakers Juergen Boos (CEO and President, Frankfurter Buchmesse), Patrick Flores (Curator, PhlGoH Pavilion), Karina Bolasco (PhlGoH Head of Literary Program and Curator of Books), Stanley Ruiz (Head Designer, PhlGoH Pavilion) and



a video message from project advocate Senator Loren Legarda. Filipino authors Blaise Campo Gacoscas and Candy Gourlay, with newly released German edition books, had a conversation moderated by author and translator Annette Hug. The award-winning The Philippine Madrigal Singers regaled attendees with a captivating performance.

Karina Bolasco, the PhlGoH curator of books and head of literary program, said that “As we occupy center stage at the global literary marketplace, in this time when the world is malignantly divided, our spaces: the Pavilion, the Asia Stage, and our National Stand—are for dialogue, for listening and reflection with clarity of purpose, and respect for one another. These are forums to engage in ideas, guided by memory, and driven by resistance to any injustice, emerging or entrenched.”

Patrick Flores, curator of the PhlGoH Pavilion, remarked “The Philippines aims to foreground Philippine books, including their translations, with care, acuity, style, and intellectual dignity; and share with the world the robust history of writers and readers, the nation’s literacy and literature, and the levels of sophistication that these have reached.”

Juergen Boos stated, “This year’s Guest of Honour presentation is opening a gateway to the rich cultural variety of the Philippines. A country which is unknown to many in Europe. I am very excited that the stories from 7,641 islands with more than a 100 different languages are coming to Frankfurt to show us the lively, vibrant and contradictory history of our guest country. We will experience Philippine literature live through numerous events – from readings, discussions and talks to flitop rap performances that tell of everyday life and new beginnings, of political upheavals, inner struggles and self-empowerment. Through Philippine literature we will get insights into colonialism and societal changes and learn more about climate fiction. Under the motto “The imagination peoples the air”, a program is being created that builds relationships: between continents and generations; between colonial heritage, climate change and visions of the future.”





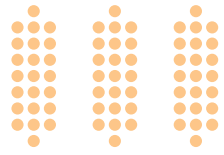
Senator Loren Legarda, principal advocate said, “We are a nation that reads itself into being, a people who have written our way through disasters, colonialism, dictatorship, and diaspora, and emerged louder, more insistent, more human. What we bring to Frankfurt is a gathering of voices that defies singular narratives, each telling a part of the whole, offering a portrait of humanity in its most intricate and truthful form.” She concluded, “For ours is not an imagination that escapes. It is awake. It questions, it dreams, and it dares—a way of seeing with eyes wide open to the world as it is, and to what our world could yet become.”

The Philippine Guest of Honour Pavilion

In his presentation, Patrick Flores explained that the architectural design and scenography of the Philippine Pavilion as Guest of Honour create a warm and fair space for introspection and wonder. He stated, “As an honoured guest, the Philippines cherishes this invitation and hospitality at the same time that it cohabits the site with its own historical experience and interests in a present driven by intense conflict and inhumanity.”

The Pavilion alludes to an archipelagic clearing, enlivened by books and moving images from contemporary artists responding to the literature of the country across the seasons. There are four zones, each dedicated to the oeuvre by and on the National Hero Jose Rizal; the work of National Artists and National Living Treasures; the history of books in the Philippines; and books on the Philippines published outside the country in the last five years.

Designed by Stanley Ruiz, the Pavilion integrates local materials with modular architecture that is also furniture. Dominant materials involved in the construction are kapis (shells), bamboo, and pineapple fabric, alongside steel and fabrics. Central in his imagination are the integrity of Philippine materials and technologies as well as the intuition to repurpose and refunction. It includes elements like circular layouts suggestive of gathering and sharing across Philippine communities.



Configured like islands, the structures are dispersed and yet the pathways into each other are fluid, meandering like routes of water or trails of the hills. The skin of the structures consists of translucent membranes that recall the quality of kites or lamps, both referencing anecdotes around Jose Rizal. The said surfaces also function as screens for moving-images by Gary-Ross Pastrana and the drawings of David Medalla, animated by Mervin Malonzo.

“The overall feeling in the Pavilion is one of airiness, lightness, generosity. It is an open situation for honoring the gifts of writing and reading in an unnerving but hopefully irrepressible world, conceived by a guest who peoples the imagination,” Flores stated.

A press tour through the Philippine Guest of Honour Pavilion will be offered on October 14, 2025 at 12:30 pm.

The Literary Program

At the core of the PhlGoH program is a robust literary agenda featuring over 100 delegates—a Nobel laureate, National Artists, authors, poets, creatives, publishers, authors with new international editions, and cultural figures.

The program spans talks, performances, book launches, and rights negotiations, underscoring the country’s growing global presence in publishing. Events will unfold across the Philippine Pavilion, the Asia Stage, and a 300-sqm National Stand.

The Philippine Pavilion with its two stages will host sessions hourly including talks, conversations, interviews, panels, annotated readings, performed poetry, rap, fliptop, poetic jousts, chants, music and dance, live drawing, language teaching, annotated film excerpts, and other performances inspired by books. They are clustered into the following themes: *That You May Know Us*, *What Moves Us*, *While We Are Away*, *What Bewitches Us*, *What We Imagine*, and *What We*





Keep and Remember. Helmed by Bolasco, the Pavilion will also present more than 500 books under the framework of: Diversity, Histories, and Hope and Faith.

The Philippine National Stand, spanning 300 square meters, will feature thousands of titles available for rights sales and international distribution.

The Asia Stage program, co-hosted by Rex Education and the Frankfurter Buchmesse, highlights regional dialogue among the Philippines and its Southeast Asian neighbors.

“As the world gathers in Frankfurt, the Philippines shall bring with its books, its voice—firm, open, critical, and fiercely hopeful that storytelling remains one of humanity’s most powerful tools for truth and transformation,” Bolasco stated.

Cultural Program

Running throughout 2025, the cultural program spans multiple cities—Heidelberg, Berlin, and Frankfurt (Main)—and includes exhibitions, performances, film presentations, and publications that highlight both traditional and contemporary Filipino artistry. For its inaugural exhibition, the country launched *Oculus* at the Heidelberger Kunstverein, and featured the works of contemporary artists Stephanie Misa and Joscha Steffens. It ran from March 15 to May 18.

Highlights of the upcoming exhibitions include *Sulog: Filipino Architecture at the Crosscurrents* at Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM), a photography exhibition by Filipino artists at Fotografie Forum Frankfurt (FFF), and storytelling traditions like the *Pasyon*, and *Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang* (Stories of Grandmother Basyang) at Haus am Dom. Furthermore, the program features an immersive sound installation at Humboldt Forum Berlin by meLê yamomo, concerts by The Philippine Madrigal Singers, the *Sincerely Yours, the Philippines – Festival for Dance, Performance and Karaoke* led by contemporary artist Eisa Jocson, and a film series by Kidlat Tahimik and Nick Deocampo at the Deutsches Filminstitut Filmmuseum (DFF).



A publication on Rizal will be released- a monograph about the textile collection housed at the Berlin Ethnological Museum, and the entomological and herpetological specimens held at the Senckenberg Naturhistorische Sammlungen Dresden.

Together, these events offer a multi-sensory experience of Philippine culture. Full details are available in the press booklet.

The Philippine Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2025 is a collaborative undertaking of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the National Book Development Board (NBDB), the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Office of Senator Loren Legarda.

Information about the theme and full event details can be found in the official website, philippinesfrankfurt2025.com or download the digital press booklet. Stay updated through the official social media channels @philippinefrankfurt2025 on Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, YouTube, and LinkedIn.



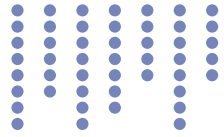


The imagination peoples the air

Pinupuno ang hangin ng hiwatig

Fantasie beseelt die Luft

The Guest of Honour spaces of the Philippines at the Frankfurt Book Fair plays out under the title *The imagination peoples the air*. It is lifted from Jose Rizal's novel *Noli Me Tangere*, written in Germany in 1887, specifically from the chapter on Sisa. The full line is: "The imagination peoples the air with specters," translated by Charles Derbyshire from the original Spanish. In the said section of the novel, the unhinged mother, Sisa, whose two sons, Crispin and Basilio, had gone missing and whom she would seek in desperation, one beaten, the other accused of theft. She later would die in the forest to be buried by Basilio. In the ominous episode, as she waited for them deep into the evening, her mind would wander and mutate, startled by the howling of a black dog. Rizal describes the condition of darkness as teeming, as the night is disposed to belief or conjuration, the period when the "imagination peoples the air with specters." These specters creep into the body: "Suddenly she felt her hair rise on her head and her eyes stared wildly; illusion or reality, she saw Crispin standing by the fireplace."



While Derbyshire translates “imaginación” as imagination, in the context of Sisa’s life as a distraught but resolute woman, her belief in possibility may be more sharply seen as speculative rather than a fully formed object like an imagination. Thus, the Filipino term “hiwatig” becomes more apt because it considers premonition, instinct, presentiment, suspicion, and so on; it is more openly preternatural, and therefore more inter-species and mystical, than exclusively humanist.

The poetry here evokes the power of the book as the source of imagination and speculation. The noun “people” becomes a verb that signifies the habitation or the fleshing out of the atmosphere. Nature and history, ethos and ecology come together beautifully in this ensemble. The key words of imagination, people, and air allude to the elements of the writing and reading context: the producers and receivers of texts; the talent of the idiosyncratic individual who reads and writes; and the community gathered by the air emanating from and animating books. For Filipinos, at the heart of books is the promise of sharing, a collective aspiration to be present in the world of stories, ideas, myths, fantasies, and the future. The Guest of Honour pavilion is the space, the climate for sharing: democratic, deliberative, daring, convivial, peopled by imagination, prompted to action by speculation.

The Philippines stages its Pavilion as Guest of Honour country at the Frankfurt Book Fair in 2025 with excitement. This enthusiasm stems from the premise that the book fair is not a travel or trade fair and therefore should not function as a marketing initiative that favors themes easily and readily captured by the populist mind accustomed to the short hand of advertising. It instead aims to foreground Philippine books, including their translations, with care, acuity, style, and intellectual dignity; and share with the world the robust history of writers and readers, the nation’s literacy and literature, and the levels of sophistication that these have reached. It is with this sensitive intelligence that the Philippines conceptualizes





Part 1: The Theme and the Philippine GoH Pavilion

its Guest of Honour position without losing the joy and liveliness of the fair as a convergence of book makers, book lovers, and their broad public. It is this substantial Philippine air—metaphoric, elemental, metamorphic—that is felt through the vital presence of people reading books together in the Pavilion.

Central in this regard is the oral traditions of the Philippines that complicate the primacy of the written culture. The Pavilion brings to the fore both the literacy and orality in the Philippines, the literature of both voice and word.

Moreover, the Philippines is aware of the context of the Guest of Honour status. In this light, it offers a trajectory that pursues the historical link between the Philippines and Germany. This trajectory, which is at once a genealogy and an urgency, is no less than Jose Rizal, National Hero, exceptional writer, reader, polymath, and inspiration of countless Filipinos, writing alongside him and reading him in times revolutionary and otherwise. Rizal's engagement with Germany and notable German figures is part of this framework, and so is Rizal's relationship with home and exile that forged international solidarity in the 19th through the 20th centuries in Southeast Asia, as well as the necessary resonance with the current Philippine diaspora. Such a context provides prospects for organizing exhibitions and related projects in Heidelberg, where Rizal studied; Berlin, where *Noli Me Tangere* was published; and Frankfurt, where the Book Fair takes place.

Patrick Flores

Curator, Philippine Guest of Honour Pavilion



The Philippine Guest of Honour Pavilion



A view of the Philippine Guest of Honour Pavilion
Designer, Stanley Ruiz

The architectural design and scenography of the Philippine Pavilion as Guest of Honour create a warm and fair space for introspection and wonder. As an honored guest, the Philippines cherishes this invitation and hospitality at the same time that it cohabits the site with its own historical experience and interests in a present riven by intense conflict and inhumanity. The Pavilion alludes to an archipelagic clearing, enlivened by books and moving images from contemporary artists responding to the literature of the country across the seasons. There are four zones in the Pavilion, each dedicated to the oeuvre by and on the National Hero Jose Rizal; the work of National Artists and National Living Treasures; the history of books in the Philippines; and books on the Philippines published outside the country in the last five years.





Part 1: The Theme and the Philippine GoH Pavilion

top view: Philippine GoH Pavilion



closer view of the Philippine GoH Pavilion

Download the images at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dakxvVO4hhLo2VuzuE7RbowPQaakgTet>



The Philippine Pavilion, designed by Stanley Ruiz, integrates local materials with modular architecture that is also furniture. The presence of local form speaks to age-old and contemporary creative disciplines but also to emerging innovation, bringing together distinct sensibility and the talent in deconstruction and improvised assembly, viewed as an exploration rather than a fixed and fixated final look of identity. The dominant materials involved in the construction include kapis (shells), bamboo, and pineapple fabric, alongside steel and fabrics. Central in his imagination are the integrity of Philippine materials and technologies as well as the intuition to repurpose and refunction. It includes elements like circular layouts suggestive of gathering and sharing across Philippine communities.

Configured like islands, the structures are dispersed and yet the pathways into each other are fluid, meandering like routes of water or trails of the hills. The skin of the structures are translucent membranes that recall the quality of kites or lamps, both referencing anecdotes around Jose Rizal. The said surfaces are also screens the moving-image project of Gary-Ross Pastrana and the drawings of David Medalla animated by Mervin Malonzo. The overall feeling in the Pavilion is one of airiness, lightness, generosity. It is an open situation for honoring the gifts of writing and reading in an unnerving but hopefully irrepressible world, conceived by a guest who peoples the imagination.

Patrick Flores

Curator, Philippine Guest of Honour Pavilion





We Stand By Our Stories

Introduction

The imagination peoples the air is our theme as this year's Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair. It is taken from a line in a chapter of the subversive novel, *Noli Me Tangere*, that in the 19th century inspired the first anti-colonial revolution in Southeast Asia. The writer, Jose Rizal, like many of our ilustrados who went to Europe to fight for reforms in the Spanish colonial administration of our government, had to write and publish it while in exile, away from his country where he could be executed. It was printed in Berlin in 1887; Rizal was ordered shot by firing squad in Manila in 1896.

This is a historical connection to Germany that brought us here, two countries forged so differently by their past and collective remembrance. What we bring over is our literature, described by



National Artist Bienvenido Lumbera as “an alternation of assertion and acquiescence by the creative Filipino imagination within a cultural setting fostered by our people’s interaction with two different sets of colonial masters.”

Our narrative of struggles against European colonization will play out in a space, which in the last 500 years, has been seen safe for free critical international engagement, and where the currency is the book.

The imagination peopling the air is exactly what writers do— they create worlds and the characters who people them. Our literature’s wide expanse is from air to air, from oral forms to digital. Our literature is the entire body of works spoken, chanted, sung as epics and folklore, written as novels, poetry, essays , and drama, by all of our creative citizens in and out of the country, expressed in their many beautiful languages, and mirror our multidiverse culture, entangled in our complex history of colonization and suppression, resistance and survival.

“The imagination peoples the air with specters,” is the complete line from the story of a mother turned mad by the specter of death of a young son, a sacristan relentlessly abused by their Spanish parish priest. *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, Rizal’s two novels were incendiary and led to the Philippine Revolution of 1896, whose spirit and energy will reverberate at the FBM while the world painfully watches the unequal and oppressive war against the people of Gaza, the invasion of Ukraine, and the atrocities in Syria and in Sudan.

Literature is absolutely a rich way to know and understand a people and their culture. It is never static and continues to form a people’s consciousness and well-being, fortify or disrupt their beliefs and values, or preserve their sacred traditions.





Part 2: Literary Program

It is one thing to define and describe our national literature and our vibrant literary landscape, it is another, and extremely much more difficult, to represent it in one wholistic literary program.

At the core of the challenge is a tension. On the one hand, we have all these recovered stories not like archaeological artifacts from the deep ground but living pulsating stories we now know with certainty, should be shared with the world. We stand with them, by them, and for them. We speak them back.

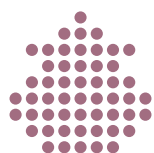
On the other, because the rest of the world has not heard of us, we calibrate the many ways of engaging, of holding attention, of baring and sharing the stories as force for truth, solidarity, and critical reflection.

As we occupy center stage at the global literary marketplace, in this time when the world is malignantly divided, our spaces: the Pavilion, the Asia Stage, and our National Stand— are for dialogue, for listening and reflection with clarity of purpose, and respect for one another. These are forums to engage in ideas, guided by memory, and driven by resistance to any injustice, emerging or entrenched.

The Literary Program at the Guest of Honour Pavilion

Mindfully lined-up on two stages of our GoH Pavilion, in both the proscenium and the arena are talks, conversations, interviews, panels, annotated readings, performed poetry, rap, flitop, poetic jousts, chants, music and dance, live drawing, language teaching, annotated film excerpts, and other performances inspired by books. They are clustered into the following themes:

1. *That You May Know Us* is not driven by what image of ourselves can we pitch to sell translation rights but rather refers to the fundamental characteristics of our nature as humans, of our arts and culture — what is the Filipino spirit? What is Filipino imagination?



How are two major poets, both National Artists for Literature, one writing in Filipino and the other, in English, write for a nation? How is music our heart? What are our different poetic forms in the different regions? How are our stories mythical and spiritual?

2. *What Moves Us* are the many stories spun into film and documentary, the graphic novel which seems new in form but really, old and wise in soul, our food history and culture, and our tales borne by disaster and poverty, which all tie us up with the global south.

3. *While We Are Away* covers worlds shaped by memories of home, and those which critically study home from far away.

4. *What Bewitches Us* is the literature of the body moved by melodies of the wind and sea, simply by poignant and powerful storytelling.

5. *What We Imagine* includes the bounty of our literary output, and the width and depth of our artistic explorations for our children and young people.

6. *What We Keep and Remember* is our history of resistance and struggles against inequality and repression; the haunting of spaces outside of the imperial city; and our openness to alternative spiritualities and multiple spaces. There will be a round-the-clock poetry for freedom, justice, and peace.

Asia Stage

As important is our program on the Asia Stage, co-hosted by Rex Education and the Buchmesse, where we will talk to our neighbors, who like us have also been colonized by European imperial powers. Here we rediscover and recover our ties, our taste for one another's commerce, strongly visible in our robust pre-colonial trade in the





Part 2: Literary Program

region. Appreciative of our very own, our tongue different as it may be from one country to another, we can now participate in our common but diverse artistic and cultural conversations.

Philippine National Stand

Our National Stand, all of 300 square meters, shall present thousands of titles for rights sales and international distribution in Frankfurt Book Fair — the largest and oldest marketplace for books. It will be a venue for launches of international editions of Philippine works, for micro-conversations and publishers' meetings, for readings and book signings.

Complementing these main spaces are libraries, museums, galleries, and cinemas in Frankfurt City and other nearby towns, which will hold their own literary festivals, mount and host exhibitions of art and artifacts, and where films will be screened and discussed.

We shall bring a delegation of over 120 creatives, with five National Artists, three for Literature and two for Film, and a chanter who is a National Living Treasure. With us too is our Nobel laureate for peace.

A big group are publishers and authors whose books now have German or foreign editions ready by October. The PhlGoH core team knows it is important to support our partner German and foreign publishers by bringing the authors over for bookstore readings and signings, and media interviews within and outside the Fair.

We have invited the best to represent and speak about our history and heritage, arts and culture especially our literature, and they, who by themselves are established authors and respected names in their genres.



In all, we are mindful of being as inclusive as we are richly diverse, democratic and contemporary, deliberate in partnering the wise and the emergent writers and creatives in the many conversations over pressing issues as voice, identity, survival, justice, and dignity for all.

This participation is a political act, not a posture of neutrality, but a declaration of the nation's lived struggles, and of its literary vision to claim its own seat at an equal global table.

For books forge our beliefs, interrogate our assumptions, involve us in important conversations that may impact this complex world. They argue bravely for the dignity of all humanity— they hold us by the hand to where we may imagine a clear path to a just future.

The delegation believes that literature must speak boldly and categorically against injustice and oppression, as we have, many times, over the centuries.

To be present is to meet head-on the difficult and complex stories, not turn away from them, but stand by them, reframed and told, this time, from our many peoples' points of view— through words wisdomed by our various experiences— they now inspire us to come together as a literary and cultural force.

As the world gathers in Frankfurt, the Philippines shall bring with its books, its resplendent voice—firm, open, critical, and fiercely hopeful that storytelling remains one of humanity's most powerful tools for truth and transformation.

Good books, great literature, beyond time and place, seize human nature by its collarbone, and dissect it, to know how and why it descends from dark to darkest, but also to imagine as palpably as possible that it can, and will, leap back into the light.

Karina Bolasco

Head of Literary Program and Curator of Books





Schedule of the Literary Program

The Philippine Guest of Honour Pavilion curates its programming by grouping events according to intent, form, and theme, offering a dynamic and immersive experience for fairgoers. Themed clusters include That You May Know Us, What Moves Us, What Bewitches Us, While We Are Away: The Diaspora, What We Imagine, and What We Keep and Remember.

These sessions span a wide range of formats: talks, interviews, panels, annotated readings, poetic performances, rap, flip-top battles, chants, music, dance, live drawing, language lessons, film excerpts, and more. By aligning related events within specific time blocks, the Pavilion encourages audiences to stay engaged, follow a rhythm, and return regularly, creating deeper connections through recurring, themed encounters.

The schedule outlines a robust and dynamic program. Please note that all events are subject to change. Sessions featuring one or more **National Artists***—recipients of the Philippines' highest honor for outstanding contributions to the arts—are clearly marked, as are those representing the country's **Young Voices****, highlighting the emerging generation of Filipino creatives.

Updated schedules will be shared through the official Frankfurter Buchmesse channels and the Guest of Honour website.



15 OCTOBER 2025

Wednesday

Time	Theme	Stage 1 (Proscenium)	Stage 2 (Arena)
10:00 am – 11:00 am	<i>That You May Know Us</i>	Our National Literature: Filipino Spirit and Imagination**	Writing Poetry for a Nation**
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	<i>What Moves Us</i>	Film and Literature: Tension and Translation (with film excerpts)**	Comics: The Gamechanger through the Years
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	<i>What Bewitches Us</i>	We Story, We Live, We Sing (with performance)	Books and Documentaries: Facts of Life (with excerpts)
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm		Performance	Performance
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Poetry for Freedom, Justice, and Peace	**	**
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<i>While We Are Away: The Diaspora</i>	Worlds Shaped by Home Away From Home	Hunting for Artifacts: 19 th Century German Explorers in the Luzon Cordillera (with moving images)
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	<i>What We Imagine</i>	Beloved Women Poets: Across Time and Space	Framing Stories: Art and Film Resist*
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	<i>What We Keep and Remember</i>	The Constantino Legacy: At Home and Abroad	Alternative Spiritualities/ Multiple Spaces
6:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Poetry for Freedom, Justice, and Peace	**	**

*Young Voices

**National Artist/s





16 OCTOBER 2025

Thursday

Time	Theme	Stage 1 (Proscenium)	Stage 2 (Arena)
10:00 am – 11:00 am	<i>That You May Know Us</i>	Our Heart, Our Music	The Chinese in Our Stories
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	<i>What Moves Us</i>	How Do We Write About Climate Change?	The Texture of Fiction From The Global South
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	<i>What Bewitches Us</i>	Filipino Fliptop* (with video presentation)	First Books of the Philippines (with video excerpts)
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm		Performance	Performance
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Poetry for Freedom, Justice, and Peace	*	*
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<i>While We Are Away: The Diaspora</i>	Covering a Home Country*	Translation is Politics
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	<i>What We Keep and Remember (stage 1) and What We Imagine (stage 2)</i>	Philippine Media: Struggles for Freedom*	Politics of Clothing (With Visuals)
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm		Philippine Reception Venue: National Stand	

*Young Voices

**National Artist/s



17 OCTOBER 2025

Friday

Time	Theme	Stage 1 (Proscenium)	Stage 2 (Arena)
10:00 am – 11:00 am	<i>That You May Know Us</i>	War and Peace in Religion and Race	Very Visual Stories*
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	<i>What Moves Us</i>	Reading for Life: What are we not doing right?	Cartooning the Politics of Everyday*
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	<i>What Bewitches Us</i>	Music We Do Not Hear (with chanting)	Superheroes of World Literature
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm		Performance	Performance
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Poetry for Freedom, Justice, and Peace		
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<i>While We Are Away: The Diaspora</i>	Philippine Art in the World	West Philippine Sea: Ecology and Assertion
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	<i>What We Imagine</i>	Graphic Novels: Spiritual and Mythical	Speculative Fiction and AI Narratives
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Children's Literature Reception* Venue: National Stand/Asia Stage Delight and Innocence in Filipino Children's Books		

*Young Voices

**National Artist/s

Additional Program:

04:00 pm – 05:00 pm FBM Centre Stage

Nobel Laureate for Peace Maria Ressa in conversation with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg





Part 2: Literary Program

18 OCTOBER 2025

Saturday

Time	Theme	Stage 1 (Proscenium)	Stage 2 (Arena)
10:00 am – 11:00 am	<i>That You May Know Us</i>	Mindanao Classics, Art, and Politics	The Haunting of the Regions
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	<i>What Moves Us</i>	Ladlad, the Optics of Gender	Ifugao and Moro: Dis/Engagement
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm	<i>What Bewitches Us</i>	Writing Far, Writing Home (1)	Our Mythical Creatures: Story and Symbol (with drawings and anthropological research)
1:45 pm – 2:30 pm		Writing Far, Writing Home (2)	Performance
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Poetry for Freedom, Justice, and Peace		
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<i>While We Are Away: The Diaspora</i>	Writing a Nation for Our Children	Materiality of Mythology
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	<i>What We Imagine</i>	Benedict Anderson and Jose Rizal	Rizal and Remembrance
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	<i>What We Keep and Remember</i>	Culture, Democracy, And Technology (Nobel Laureate for Peace)	
6:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Poetry for Freedom, Justice, and Peace		

*Young Voices

**National Artist/s



19 OCTOBER 2025

Sunday

Time	Theme	Stage 1 (Proscenium)	Stage 2 (Arena)
10:00 am – 11:00 am	<i>That You May Know Us</i>	The Laji, Tanaga, Ambahan, and Tigsik	Bones Tell it All: Post-colonial Archaeology
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	<i>What Moves Us</i>	Feisty Women in Arts and Media	Philippine Food History and Culture
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	<i>What Bewitches Us</i>	Traditional Theater: The Philippine Zarzuela (with 2 Madrigal singers)	Baybayin: Ancient Philippine Syllabary (revival and teaching)
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm		To Engage, Or Not To Engage	Philippine-German Connections in Cinema
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm		Performance	Performance
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Handover Ceremony		

*Young Voices

**National Artist/s





Asia Stage

Asia Stage Co-hosted by Rex Education and the Frankfurter Buchmesse, the Asia Stage offers a dedicated platform for meaningful exchange among publishers, authors, and thought leaders from across Asia.

For full details, please refer to the flyer or go to our website <https://philippinesfrankfurt2025.com/>.



'In the City' Events

Discover the finest Philippine talents who are redefining the country's creative and literary landscapes. Book signings, readings, interactive performances, exhibitions, and film screenings will be held across various venues throughout Germany.

These events offer a vibrant introduction to the dynamic Philippine spirit—set against a backdrop of the sounds, sights, and faces that embody the essence of being Filipino.

For full details, please refer to the flyer or go to our website <https://philippinesfrankfurt2025.com/>.





Cultural Program

Introduction

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.

Patrick Flores

Curator, Philippine Guest of Honour Pavilion

**Program may be subject to change. For queries or to attend or cover our cultural program contact our press agency ARTEFAKT Kulturkonzepte at philippines@artefakt-berlin.de.*



Exhibitions



OCULUS

Duration: March 16 – May 18, 2025
Venue: Heidelberger Kunstverein
Hauptstr. 97, D – 69117 Heidelberg
Artists: Joscha Steffens and Stephanie Misa
Curator: Patrick Flores

Already at the beginning of this year, the Philippines heightened anticipation for its Guest of Honour role at the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2025 presenting *Oculus*, an exhibition that brought together moving image, research and installation to reflect on what it means to “see things.”

Artists Stephanie Misa and Joscha Steffens worked out how seeing, shaped by both ecology and imagination, can give rise to visions. *Oculus* immersed audiences in a space where scientific knowledge and aesthetic education intersected, and where the line between real and spectral blurred.





Part 5: Cultural Program

One of the entry points of the exhibition were Philippine National Hero Jose Rizal's ophthalmological studies in Heidelberg and his novel, *Noli Me Tangere*, parts of which he wrote when he was in the same city.

Curated by Patrick Flores, *Oculus* is a central feature in the Philippines' cultural program as Guest of Honour at the 2025 FBM. It resonates with the theme of the country's participation: *The imagination peoples the air*, which was cited from the same novel by Rizal.

For more information on the exhibition and the artists check <https://philippinesfrankfurt2025.com/de/press/> or scan the QRcode.



Pagtatahip | Winnowing | Windsichten An Ambisonics/Wave Field Synthesis Sound Installation by meLê yamomo

Opening:	September 5, 2025, 5:00 pm (opening program starts at 4:00 pm)
Duration:	Permanent Exhibition
Venue:	Hörraum (The Listening Space) Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss Schlossplatz 1, 10178 Berlin
Artist:	meLê yamomo
Sound Engineer:	Nico Dalemann
Dramaturg:	Jay Yamomo



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.





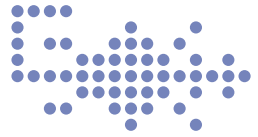
Sulog: Filipino Architecture at the Crosscurrents

Sulog: Philippinische Architektur im Spannungsfeld

Press Conference:	September 18, 2025, 11:00 am
Opening:	September 19, 2025, 7:00 pm
Duration:	September 20, 2025 – January 26, 2026
Venue:	Deutsches Architekturmuseum (DAM) Schaumainkai 43, 60596 Frankfurt am Main
Curatorial Team:	Edson Cabalfin, Patrick Kasingsing, Peter Cachola Schmal

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.

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.





New Beginnings: Philippine Photographic Art

Press Conference:	September 25, 2025, 11:00 am
Opening:	September 26, 2025, 7:00 pm
Duration:	September 27, 2025 – January 11, 2026
Gallery Tour & Talk:	September 27, 2025 12:00 pm
Venue:	Fotografie Forum Frankfurt (FFF) Braubachstraße 30-32, 60311 Frankfurt am Main
Artists:	Nana Buxani, Augustine Paredes, Tommy Hafalla, Gina Osterloh, Xyza Cruz Bacani, and MM Yu
Curators:	Patrick Flores, Andrea Horvay, Celina Lunsford

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 shed vital light 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.



Pieces of Life: The Philippine Collection

*Pieces of Life: Die Philippinensammlung der von
Portheim-Stiftung*

Opening:	September 27, 2025, 5:30 pm
Curatorial Talk:	September 27, 2025, 4:00 pm
Date:	September 28, 2025 – March 29, 2026
Venue:	Völkerkundemuseum Hauptstraße 235, 69117 Heidelberg
Curators:	Patrick Flores and Corazon Alvina

The Pieces of Life exhibition 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.



Pasyon of the Philippines: History, Form, and Practice

Pasyon Christi– Geschichte, Form und Praxis

philippinischer Glaubenstexte

Opening:	October 10, 2025, 6:00 pm
Public Program:	October 10, 2025, 7:00 pm, Giebelsaal
Duration:	October 10 – December 4, 2025
Venue:	Haus am Dom Domplatz 3, 60311 Frankfurt am Main
Curator:	Patrick Flores

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 became 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.



Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang: Filipino Stories for Children

*Die Erzählungen von Großmutter Basyang:
Kindergeschichten aus den Philippinen*

Date:	Opening date to be announced
Venue:	Zentrale Kinder-und Jugendbibliothek (Central Children and Youth Library) (Arnsburger Straße 24, D-60385 Frankfurt am Main)
Artists:	Rodel Tapaya and Christine Bellen-Ang
Curator:	Patrick Flores

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

A Philippine Season: Kidlat Tahimik and Nick Deocampo

Philippinisches Kino:

Eine Saison mit Kidlat Tahimik und Nick Deocampo

Date: October 10 – 12, 2025

Venue: Deutsches Filminstitut und Filmmuseum (DFF)
Schaumainkai 41, 60596 Frankfurt am Main

Artists: Kidlat Tahimik and Nick Deocampo

Curators: Patrick Flores and Natascha Gikas

Artist Talks: October 10, 2025: Kidlat Tahimik
October 11, 2025: Nick Deocampo
October 12, 2025: Kidlat Tahimik and Nick Deocampo

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

Songs of a Culture

A concert by The Philippine Madrigal Singers

Date: June 26, 2025, 8:30 pm – 9:40 pm
Venue: ROMANFABRIK
Hanauer Landstraße 186, 60314 Frankfurt am Main
Artists: The Philippine Madrigal Singers
Entrance: Free – registration is requested at
reservierung@romanfabrik.de, or at
<http://bit.ly/400q6Ym>

An exclusive one-night concert by the internationally acclaimed The Philippine Madrigal Singers.

Recognized by UNESCO as Artists for Peace, they are among the world's most awarded choirs, celebrated for uniting music, culture, and the human spirit.

“Songs of a Culture” forms part of the Cultural Program of the Philippines as Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2025. This concert brings Filipino culture to life through powerful songs from folk to contemporary works composed by Filipino National Artists and notable composers.





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

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

Date: September 18 – 29, 2025
Venue: Künstler*innerhaus Mousonturm
Waldschmidtstraße 4, 60316
Frankfurt am Main
Artists: Grace Nono, Bunny Cadag, Catherine Go,
Teresa Barrozo, Franchesca Casauay,
Ea Torrado, Angeline de Dios,
and Nenita Jocson
Director and Curator: Eisa Jocson

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.

The Philippine Madrigal Singers Concert

Date: October 18, 2025, 8:00 pm
Venue: ROMANFABRIK
Hanauer Landstraße 186, 60314 Frankfurt am Main
Artists: The Philippine Madrigal Singers
and other Filipino artists in Germany

This forms part of the concert series scheduled in different venues in Frankfurt during the FBF in October. Filipino artists based in the Philippines including The Philippine Madrigal Singers and Grace Nono will perform with notable bass-baritone Jonathan Zaens and other performing artists who are based in Germany.



Publication

October 2025

A publication on Rizal will be released- a monograph about the textile collection housed at the Berlin Ethnological Museum, and the entomological and herpetological specimens held at the Senckenberg Naturhistorische Sammlungen Dresden.



Juergen Boos

CEO and President Frankfurter Buchmesse

Juergen Boos trained as a publisher at Herder Verlag (Freiburg) in the early 1980s and has degrees in both Marketing and Organisational Theory. He has held management positions at Droemer Knaur Verlag (Munich), Carl Hanser Verlag (Munich), as well as Springer Science and Business Media (today Springer Science) and John Wiley & Sons (Weinheim). He became President and CEO of the Frankfurter Buchmesse GmbH (Frankfurt Book Fair) in 2005. He was President of LITPROM (Society for the Promotion of African, Asian and Latin American Literature) and is Managing Director of LitCam (Frankfurter Buchmesse Literacy Campaign).



Hon. Senator Loren Legarda

Project advocate

Senator Loren Legarda is the visionary and project principal of the participation of the Philippines as Guest of Honour country in the Frankfurt Book Fair in 2025.

Since 2016, Legarda has pushed for this distinction as Guest of Honour at the world's oldest and most prestigious book fair. It was late in 2015 when Karina Bolasco, then Director of the Ateneo de Manila University Press, presented the idea to support the Fair, and Legarda has done so ever since.

Legarda has long been an advocate of cultural preservation. Through her vision and leadership, the Philippines is now actively participating in the Venice Biennale, returning after 51 years to the 2015 Art Biennale and joining for the first time in the Architecture Biennale in 2016.

The four-term Senator is currently the chairperson of the Senate Committee on Culture and the Arts. She has legislated several measures, including RA 11961 or the Cultural Mapping Law, which mandates the creation of an inventory of our cultural wealth. She has also promoted our country's cultural discourse with universities abroad through the Philippine Studies Program, under the Department of Foreign Affairs.

In appreciation for her lifelong advocacy to protect and preserve our culture, heritage, and the arts, Senator Legarda was conferred the *Dangal ng Haraya* (Achievement Award) by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Through her efforts to strengthen bilateral relations with other countries, the Senator was bestowed with the title of Knight in the French National Order of the Legion of Honor, Knight in the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, the Commendatore to the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, and the Award of Distinction by the European Union.





Part 6: Profile of speakers



Patrick Flores

Curator, Philippine Guest of Honour Pavilion

Patrick Flores is the Chief Curator at the National Gallery Singapore (NGS). He is concurrently a professor at the University of the Philippines-Diliman. In 2015, he curated the Philippine Pavilion at the 56th Venice Art Biennale. In 2022, he was the curator of the Taiwan Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

Flores was a Visiting Fellow at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. in 1999 and an Asian Public Intellectuals Fellow in 2004. Among his publications are *Painting History: Revisions in Philippine Colonial Art* (1999); *Remarkable Collection: Art, History, and the National Museum* (2006); and *Past Peripheral: Curation in Southeast Asia* (2008). He was a grantee of the Asian Cultural Council (2010); a member of the Advisory Board of the exhibition *The Global Contemporary: Art Worlds After 1989* (2011), organized by the Center for Art and Media in Karlsruhe; and a member of the Guggenheim Museum's Asian Art Council (2011). He co-edited the Southeast Asian issue with Joan Kee for *Third Text* (2011). On behalf of the Clark Institute and the Department of Art Studies of the University of the Philippines, Flores organized the conference, *Histories of Art History in Southeast Asia* in Manila. He serves as the curator of the Philippine Pavilion for the country's role as Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2025.



Karina Bolasco

Head of Literary Program and Curator of Books

Karina Africa Bolasco dedicated four decades of her life to book publishing, first as Junior Editor, then as Assistant Publishing Manager for Textbooks at National Bookstore. After ten years, she co-founded Anvil Publishing which she ran for 26 years. In 2016, she moved to Ateneo de Manila University Press. Under her leadership, both presses won Publisher of the Year many times and for their books, over 300 National Book awards.

Active in literary organizations and industry associations, she also served as National Book Development Board Governor and Cultural Education Head at the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Karina was hailed as one of the Ten Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS) in 1995 for her work in book publishing and literacy development. In 2018, she was awarded a 6-month fellowship at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) at the Kyoto University.

She wrote two children's books and contributed to anthologies, literary and professional, and represented the country in many international publishing congresses.

In 2013, she was given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Manila Critics Circle and The Hildegard Award for Changemakers in Media.





Part 6: Profile of speakers



Stanley Ruiz

Designer, Philippine Pavilion

Stanley Ruiz is an industrial designer and principal of Estudio Ruiz - a Manila-based design consultancy he founded after working in Bali and New York City. With an extensive background in craft design and production, his work explores the commonplace to bring about new meaning and interpretation to object archetypes.

His works have appeared at the Museum of Arts and Design and at the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York. He has exhibited at Salone Del Mobile in Milan, International Contemporary Furniture Fair in New York, Maison & Objet in Paris and Singapore, Ambiente in Frankfurt, Bangkok International Gift Fair, Philippine International Furniture Show, Manila FAME, Singapore Design Week, and Tokyo Gift Fair.

Stanley has been featured internationally in a number of books, magazines, and newspapers, and received several accolades including three Katha awards (Manila), Coup De Coeur prize at Maison & Objet (Paris), Talents selection at Ambiente (Frankfurt), Outstanding Asian Talent (Bangkok), Rising Asian Talent award at Maison & Objet (Singapore), and was hailed as an Avant Guardian by Surface magazine (New York).

Notable projects include lighting fixture design using renewable materials for Design Center Philippines, furniture design for Areté and the Ateneo Art Gallery, sculptural pieces for Conrad Hotel Manila, installation for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit commissioned by the Cultural Center of the Philippines, collaboration with glass makers in the Czech Republic, and creative direction for the Philippine delegation at NY NOW – the biggest design show in the US.

In 2024, he was conferred the Gawad Yamang Isip for Industrial Design by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines for his contributions in the field of design.



Blaise Campo Gacoscas

*Author of *Der Junge aus Ilocos* (Albino Verlag, 2025)*

Blaise Campo Gacoscas was born in Candon, Ilocos Sur, in 1968. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature degree from the University of the Philippines Diliman. A fellow of the UP National Writers' Summer Workshop, he won third prize at the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for his one-act play titled *Taguan sa Ulan*. He finished his Master of Arts in Creative Writing also in UP Diliman.

His debut novel, *Kites in the Night*, has been translated into several languages, including Greek and German. The German edition, titled *Der Junge aus Ilocos* (The Boy from Ilocos), was published by Albino Verlag.





Part 6: Profile of speakers



Candy Gourlay

Author of *Wild Song* (Rotfuchs, 2025)

Candy Gourlay's novel *Wild Song* has just been released in German, translated by Alexandra Rak. The novel is set in a little known historical moment, when indigenous Filipinos were put on display at the 1904 World Fair in St Louis Missouri. *Wild Song* won the National Children's Book Award of the Philippines and was listed for the Carnegie Medal, the Caffè Nero Book Award and the Jhalak Prize. Candy was born in the Philippines, grew up under a dictatorship and met her husband during a revolution. She had many adventures as a journalist in Asia, including visiting North Korea in 1987. Then she moved to the UK and found herself writing news about toilet paper, toothpaste and bleach. She pivoted to writing books for children and young adults and was published after nine years of rejection. Her books have been nominated for major prizes in Europe and she has won the National Children's Book Award of the Philippines twice. Her first novel *Tall Story* was selected as one of the *100 Best Books of the Last 100 Years* and *Bone Talk* was listed as a White Ravens Book and is endorsed by Amnesty International. She lives in London with her family, where she loves dogs, making comics and gardening, in that order.



Annette Hug

Author and Translator

Annette Hug studied History in Zurich and Women and Development Studies at the University of the Philippines, Diliman. After working as a lecturer and trade union officer, she has been a freelance author since January 2015. Her novels *Lady Berta* and *In Zelenys Zimmer* were published by rotpunktverlag in 2008 and 2010, *Wilhelm Tell in Manila* (2016) and *Tiefenlager* (2021) by Das Wunderhorn in Heidelberg. Annette Hug was awarded a Swiss Literature Prize in 2017, and her column *Dreaming the World* appears every two weeks in the weekly newspaper WOZ. Since 2017, she has published longer reportages from the Philippines, Shanghai and Seoul. As a literary translator from Filipino to German, she has translated books by Luna Sicat Cleto, Allan N. Derain, Lualhati Bautista, and Isabelo de los Reyes.





Part 6: Profile of performing group



The Philippine Madrigal Singers

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 is 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 BrandLaureate Premiere Award by the Asia Pacific Brands Foundation (2012). The group’s virtuosity across a vast repertoire range, its continuing promotion of Filipino choral works, and the rousing and deeply emotional impact that each performance has on all audiences the world over as they sing in the distinctive set-up of sitting in a semi-circle without a conductor, have established their reputation as a pioneering force in choral music and an inspirational role model for other choirs.

Founded in 1963, by National Artist for Music Professor Andrea O. Veneracion, the 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.





Authors at Frankfurter Buchmesse 2025

The Philippines has unveiled its initial lineup of authors set to appear at the Philippine Pavilion and National Stand for the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2025, reflecting the country's vibrant and evolving literary landscape. The delegation brings together a mix of acclaimed and emerging voices—award-winning novelists, poets, independent authors, and publishers—who are shaping the future of Philippine literature.

Spanning diverse genres including climate fiction, science fiction, new adult, poetry, graphic novels, contemporary fiction, and children's and young adult literature, the roster highlights the breadth of Filipino storytelling.

Five National Artists—Virgilio S. Almario (Literature, 2003), Resil B. Mojares (Literature, 2018), Kidlat Tahimik (Film, 2018), Gémino H. Abad (Literature, 2022), and Ricky Lee (Film and Broadcast Arts, 2022)—headline the delegation.

Also joining are celebrated authors such as Jose Dalisay, whose *Killing Time in a Warm Place* was recently translated into German; Nobel Peace Prize laureate Maria Ressa; trauma journalist Patricia Evangelista and more.

The full list of delegates and biographies is available on philippinesfrankfurt2025.com under the “Authors” tab. These authors will take part in the Literary Program at the Philippine Pavilion, the Asia Stage, and various events throughout the fair and in nearby locations.

To learn more, visit our website at: philippinesfrankfurt2025.com/authors-books or scan the QR code.





What's Being Published About the Philippines in the German-Language Market?

As Guest of Honour at the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2025, the Philippines is proud to present a growing list of newly translated works by Filipino authors, as well as fresh German-language titles that explore Philippine culture, history, and society.

This curated list, compiled by Frankfurter Buchmesse, highlights all German-language publications released in the Guest of Honour year that are either authored by Filipinos or focus on the Philippines. It reflects the expanding literary dialogue between our country and German readers.

To learn more, visit the website at <https://www.buchmesse.de/en/highlights/guest-honour> or scan the QR code.





Website, Social Media Pages, and Contact Details for the Press

Official PhlGoH website: <https://philippinesfrankfurt2025.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/philippinesfrankfurt2025/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/philippinesfrankfurt2025/>

TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@philippinesfrankfurt2025>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@philippinesfrankfurt2025>

LinkedIn: [https://www.linkedin.com/company/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/philippinesfrankfurt2025/)

[philippinesfrankfurt2025/](https://philippinesfrankfurt2025.com/)

For background on the Philippine participation as Guest of Honour, including our history with the Frankfurt Book Fair, translation initiatives, information on the Philippine book market, and visual identity, please refer to our previous press kits: <https://philippinesfrankfurt2025.com/press/>

Discover the story of our imagination: <https://philippinesfrankfurt2025.com/story-of-our-imagination/>

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Philippine Government Institutions: Collaborative Undertaking

The Philippines Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair is a project of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the National Book Development Board (NBDB), the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Office of Senator Loren Legarda.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) is the Philippines' overall policy-making body, coordinating and grant-giving agency for the preservation, development, and promotion of Philippine arts and culture.

<https://www.facebook.com/NCCAOfficial>

The National Book Development Board (NBDB) is a national agency created through Republic Act 8047, also known as the Book Publishing Industry Development Act, showing the government's commitment to the vital role of books in shaping our nation. NBDB is responsible for creating and carrying out a National Book Policy and a National Book Development Plan to help grow the book publishing industry.

<https://www.facebook.com/NBDBPhilippines>

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is the primary agency responsible for Philippine policy through its foreign service posts and is the primary representative of the Philippine government overseas.

<https://www.facebook.com/dfaphl>

Office of Senator Loren Legarda

Composed of a dedicated team of government workers, legislative officers, and creatives who have helped realize the vision of its principal, the Office supports Senator Loren Legarda, a four-term Senator and the longest-serving female senator in the Republic of the Philippines.



Internationally recognized for her leadership in climate action and resilience, she is the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Global Champion for Resilience, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) National Adaptation Plan Champion, a Commissioner of the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA), and the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) Ambassador for Parliaments.

She has also been honored as a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Laureate, a Global Leader for Tomorrow by the World Economic Forum, and the Global Ambassador for Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change, and Environment of Women Political Leaders.

Senator Legarda is a lifelong champion of environmental protection, women's and children's rights, and the promotion of Philippine arts and culture.

<https://lorenlegarda.com.ph/>



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