



**NOTES ON THE
CONTRIBUTORS**

Nagtuturo si Tilde (ARBEEN R. ACUÑA) ng mga kurso sa panitikan, malikhaing pagsulat, at Philippine Studies sa Departamento ng Filipino at Panitikan ng Pilipinas–Unibersidad ng Pilipinas Diliman, kung saan siya nagtapos ng MA Araling Pilipino. Awtor siya ng monograph na “Ilustraxon: Semyotika sa Pahina at sa Piraso ng Komix” sa *Kritika Kultura* (2018) at ng librong *Oroboro at Iba Pang Abiso* (2020); ilustrador ng *Melismas* (Marlon Hacla; salin ni Kristine Ong Muslim; 2020), at co-editor ng *Ulirát: Best Contemporary Stories in Translation from the Philippines* (2021). Iregular siyang contributor ng “Salungguhit” (editorial cartoon) sa *Bulatlat*, “Materials, for Preposterity” (opinyon) sa *DavaoToday*, at (minsan) ng lakas paggawa sa ilang zine.

SYLVELYN JO ALMANZOR works as a barista at The Curator Coffee & Cocktails. She also cofounded a micro-roastery, Kubo Coffee, earlier in 2021. She is a literature teacher at De La Salle University, both in senior high and in college, and is also the communications officer of the Philippine Coffee Guild. In addition, she is currently finishing her doctorate degree at the De La Salle University’s Literature Department, where she also earned her Master of Arts in Language and Literature.

STEFANI J. ALVAREZ is a transgender woman and immigrant worker based in Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia. At the annual Philippine National Book Awards, her collection of flash autofiction *Ang Autobiografia ng Ibang Lady Gaga* (Visprint, 2015) won Best Book of Nonfiction Prose in Filipino and her coming-of-age novel *Kagay-an, At Isang Pag-Ibig sa Panahon ng All-Out War* (Psicom-Literati, 2018) was finalist in the Best Book of Short Fiction in Filipino category. She also edited *Saan Man: Mga Kuwento sa Biyahe, Bagahe, at Balikbayan Box* (PageJump, 2017), an anthology of a hundred flash fiction written by overseas and local Filipino writers, and coauthored *Si Mimi at Si Miming* (Vibal, 2020), an illustrated children’s book. Some of her collaborative projects have received grants from the International Studio & Curatorial Program in New York, the Goethe Institut in Dubai, Para Site – Hong Kong, LGBTQ+ Positive Voices in the United Kingdom, among others. *Lama Sabactani: Isang Nobela* (Psicom-Literati, 2020), her second and latest novel, was launched last year. She was born in Metro Cagayan de Oro in the southern Philippines.

Mula Catanduanes si NAP ARCILLA. Inilathala ang kanyang unang koleksiyon ng mga maikling kuwento—ang *Maqueda: mga usipon mula lawod hanggang baybayon* ng Isang Balangay Productions noong 2020.

Nagtapos si MIKKA ANN V. CABANGON ng kursong BA Art Studies (Philippine Art) sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas Diliman. Nagmula siya sa bayan ng Macalelon, sa lalawigan ng Quezon. Nakapaglathala na siya ng mga tula at iba pang malikhaing akda, pagsasalin, at pananaliksik. Taong 2020, naglabas siya onlayn ng koleksiyon ng tula, *Duongan: Mga Tula*. At isa rin siyang biswal artist at nakasama na sa ilang mga eksibisyon gamit ang pangalang Maya Leon. Naging miyembro siya ng UP Ugnayan ng Manunulat (UP Ugat) at UP Asterisk. Kasalukuyan siyang bahagi ng mga proyekto sa ilalim ng Pambansang Komisyon para sa Kultura at mga Sining (NCCA).

IAN ROSALES CASOCOT is a novelist and teaches film, literature, and creative writing at Silliman University in Dumaguete City, Philippines. He has won several Palanca Awards and the Fully Booked / Neil Gaiman Philippine Graphic / Fiction Prize for his fiction. His books include *Old Movies and Other Stories* (NCCA, 2005), *Beautiful Accidents* (University of the Philippines Press, 2011), *Heartbreak & Magic: Stories of Fantasy and Horror* (Anvil Publishing, 2011), *First Sight of Snow and Other Stories* (Et Al Books, 2015), *Don't Tell Anyone: Literary Smut* (Anvil Publishing, 2017), and *Bamboo Girls: Stories and Poems From a Forgotten Life* (Ateneo de Naga University Press, 2017). He was Writer-in-Residence for the International Writers Program of the University of Iowa in the United States in 2010. He also does graphic design and has produced the film documentary *City of Literature*, directed by the Chinese filmmaker Zhao Lewis Liu. He is the founding coordinator of the Edilberto and Edith Tiempo Creative Writing Center in Silliman. He is profiled in the literature volume of the *Cultural Center of the Philippines [CCP] Encyclopedia of Philippine Arts*.

MDC CASTILLO is a practicing obstetrician-gynecologist in Manila. Writing has always been like a siren call and her work was published in *Caracoa 19: The Poetry Journal of the Philippine Literary Arts Council* in July 1988 while at medical school. The pandemic has, strangely enough, allowed her to revisit her love of writing. She was a fellow of the 2nd Creative Nonfiction Writing Workshop for Doctors by the Bienvenido N. Santos Creative Writing Center.

ELLA LEENAIL DEDURO is from Dumangas, Iloilo. As of this publication, she is a student at the University of San Agustin – Iloilo taking up AB Literature, hoping to finish her degree on time amidst the class setup. Her hobbies include playing the ukulele and guitar, swimming, and thinking. “The Resident of Our Indian Mango Tree” is her first published work.

MA. CECILIA C. DE LA ROSA writes poems and plays. Her one-acts “Ang mga Bisita ni Jean” and “Labor Room” were staged at the Virgin Labfest 2016 and 2018, respectively. She is a fellow for poetry (Filipino) at the 60th UP National Writer’s Workshop. Her works appear in various anthologies and zines. Maki works as university research associate at the Department of Political Science and teaches part-time at the Departamento ng Filipino at Panitikan ng Pilipinas, both in UP Diliman. She is currently completing her MA in Malikhaing Pagsulat in the same university. She earned her BA in Philippine Arts from UP Manila.

KARL R. DE MESA is a longreads journalist and photographer who has reported on stories in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Myanmar, and Singapore. He is the author of both fiction and nonfiction books—finalists for the Philippine National Book Awards for journalism and nonfiction. He is a martial artist, competition grappler, and Muay Thai instructor.

RODRIGO DELA PEÑA JR. is the author of *Tangere* (University of the Philippines Press, 2021) and *Aria and Trumpet Flourish* (Math Paper Press, 2018). He is also the editor of *A/PART: An Anthology of Queer Southeast Asian Poetry in the Pandemic*, featured in the Southeast Asia Queer Cultural Festival 2021. His poems have been published in *Likhaan: The Journal of Contemporary Philippine Literature*, *Kritika Kultura*, *Tomás: The Journal of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies*, *Rattle*, and other journals and anthologies. He has received prizes from the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature. Born in the Philippines, he has been based in Singapore since 2011.

Higit sa lahat, iniibig ni RALPH FONTE ang mga sumusunod na bagay: ang liwanag na lumalagaslas sa dalisay na pahina sa mauulang hapon, ang karagatang nasusunog taki-takipsilim, ang mahahamog na

umaga sa tuktok ng bundok, at maiinit na mangkok ng sabaw tuwing alas-tres ng madaling-araw. Siya ay manggagamot at makata mula sa Kalakhang Maynila na lumitaw na ang mga akda sa iba't ibang lathalain gaya ng *Voice&Verse Poetry Magazine*, *Cordite Poetry Review*, at *Likhaan*. Nagwagi na rin sa ilang patimpalak tulad ng Gawad Carlos Palanca at ng Gawad Maningning Miclat ang kaniyang mga tula. Kung siya ang masusunod, makikinig kayong lahat ng Ang Sabi Nila Radyo.

INO HABANA studied Literature at the Ateneo de Manila University. Upon graduation, he received the Loyola Schools Award for the Arts in Creative Writing. He attended the Iyas Creative Writing Workshop in Bacolod and the Silliman National Writers Workshop in Dumaguete. He is currently pursuing graduate studies in Creative Writing at the University of the Philippines, Diliman. His works have been published in *Philippines Free Press* and in *Likhaan: The Journal of Contemporary Philippine Literature*. He spends a lot of time on the beach.

CARLO REY LAURENA is a Comparative Literature undergraduate, concentrating on European Literature at the University of the Philippines-Diliman. His research interests include Dutch East Indies literature, Francophone literature (Maghreb and Quebec), memory and heritage studies, cultural policy and management, theatre and opera.

REIL BENEDICT OBINQUE teaches Mathematics. He lives in Davao City.

MARIA-FE PARCO ORTNER began her writing career as editor in chief of her high school paper, *The Caviteñan*. After studying Communication Arts at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, she took graduate courses in Literature at the Ateneo de Manila University. She won a Carlos Palanca Memorial Award for her short story "The Three Juans and How They Joined the Revolution" in 1989. While working as a museum researcher for the Intramuros Administration in 1993, she won a scholarship to study tourism management in Austria, where she now lives.

Her production of the essay "Reflections of an Economic Migrant"; for the community-based station Radiofabrik Salzburg was shortlisted

for the first Austrian Civilmedia Awards in 2015. She obtained her MA in Intercultural Studies from Paris Lodron University and currently works in program administration at a private medical university in Salzburg, Austria.

NED PARFAN is the author of two books of poetry, *The Murmur Asylum* and *Tilt Me and I Bend*, both published by the University of the Philippines Press. He is an assistant professor at the University of Santo Tomas and is the deputy director of the UST Publishing House.

ADRIAN CARL PESCADOR graduated from Ateneo de Manila University with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, Psychology and Education tracks, and a Minor in French Studies. After stints in corporate and three years working toward an MBA from the Ateneo Graduate School of Business, he decided to refocus his efforts and is currently completing his Master's Degree in Creative Writing at the University of the Philippines Diliman. His master's thesis will attempt to expand upon contemporary HIV-AIDS representation and PLHIV protagonists in short fiction. He was a fellow at the 2nd Project Grace-UP LGBTQ+ National Writers Workshop, and his works have won in the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature.

Nagtuturo si ALLAN POPA ng Panitikan at Pagsulat sa Pamantasang Ateneo de Manila. Awtor siya ng sampung aklat ng mga tula kabilang na ang *Damagan* (UST Publishing House, 2018), *Narkotiko at Panganorin* (Ateneo de Manila University Press, 2018) at *Autopsiya ng Aking Kamatayan* (Tala Antala, 2019). Ginawaran na siya ng *Philippines Free Press* Literary Award, *Manila Critics Circle* National Book Award, ng Academy of American Poets Graduate Prize at Norma Lowry Memorial Prize noong nag-aaral siya ng MFA in Writing sa Washington University in Saint Louis. Nagtapos siya PhD in Literature sa De La Salle University.

ZOSIMO QUIBILAN JR. won the National Book Award for Fiction (2006) and the Madrigal Gonzalez Best First Book Award (2008) for *Pagluwas*, published by the University of the Philippines Press, 2006. His works of fiction and poetry have appeared on *Kweli Journal*, *KCET*, *Flash Fiction Magazine*, *VerbSap*, *Bewildering Stories*, *Opus42*, *Interlitq*, *Philippines Free Press*, *Philippine Graphic*, *Ulirat*, *Kuwento: Lost Things*, *Under The Storm*,

Transfiksyon, *Mondo Marcos*, *Likhaan 03*, and *Ani*, among many others. He wrote the theme song for the upcoming American Film Institute short film “Zenaida.” Quibilan occasionally gives talks on Filipino fiction at the University of California Los Angeles and lives in South Pasadena, CA, with his wife and kids. “Sekta” is a chapter from his novel-in-progress called *Scentlebrity*.

SI MJ RAFAL ay nagtapos ng AB History at MA Filipino sa Politeknikong Unibersidad ng Pilipinas kung saan din siya nagtuturo ng mga asignaturang Filipino, Panitikan, at Malikhaing Pagsulat. Kasalukuyan niyang binubuno ang programang PhD Filipino: Malikhaing Pagsulat sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas Diliman.

ZENY MAY RECIDORO was an Asian Cultural Council Fellow from 2018 to 2020. Her works have been published in *Berfrois*, *Queen Mobs Teahouse*, *qarrtsiluni*, *Cha: An Asian Literary Journal*, the University of Hong Kong’s *Yuan Yang*, Ateneo de Manila University’s *Kritika Kultura*, *Variable West*, and *Brooklyn Rail*, among others. In 2017, her poem “We” (2012) was translated into Chinese for *Voice and Verse Poetry Magazine Hong Kong*. She has also been nominated for the Best of the Net Award. Recidor’s essay on Philippine contemporary art and the internet was recently published in the Philippine Contemporary Art Network’s *Writing Presently*. She grew up in San Pedro, Laguna, and currently lives in New York City.

LOUIE JON A. SÁNCHEZ is an assistant professor of English at the School of Humanities, Ateneo de Manila University. He is the author of three books of poetry in Filipino: *At sa Tahanan ng Alabok* (2010), *Kung Saan sa Katawan* (2013), and *Siwang sa Pinto ng Tabernakulo* (2020); a book of essays, *Pagkahaba-haba man ng Prusisyon* (2010); and a book of literary criticism, *Aralin at Siyasat* (2018). He has also written a cultural history of the teleserye, *Ang Drama ng Ating Búhay*, now forthcoming. He is at work on a translation into Filipino of selected poems of National Artist for Literature Edith L. Tiempo, as a recipient of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts’ Gawad Rolando Tinio para sa Tagasalin. He has won prizes from the Catholic Mass Media Awards, the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature, and the Talaang Ginto, where he holds the distinction of being proclaimed “Makata ng Taon” or Poet of the Year thrice (2006, 2009, 2011).

E. SAN JUAN JR. is emeritus professor of English and Comparative Literature, University of Connecticut and Washington State University. He was recently visiting professor in the Department of English, University of the Philippines; and Cultural Studies professor at Polytechnic University of the Philippines. His recent books are *Sisa's Vengeance: Rizal's Sexual Politics and Cultural Revolution* (Vibal Publishing Co.), *Carlos Bulosan: Revolutionary Filipino Writer in the U.S.* (Peter Lang), *Kontra-Modernidad* (UP Press) and *Faustino Aguilar: Kapangyarihan, Kamalayan, Kasaysayan* (UST Publishing House).

TRISH SHISHIKURA is a published photographer, creative director, and poet currently based in Manila, Philippines. Her photography has led her to work on campaigns and fashion editorials with Versace, Condé Nast Tokyo, Coach, and Champion, to name a few. Her fashion editorials have been featured in publications in Japan, Italy, US, and the Philippines. Her poetry has been featured in *Softblow Literary Journal*, *Quarterly Literary Review Singapore*, and the *Philippines Free Press*, among others. She was a recipient of the Ophelia Dimalanta Award in the 27th Gawad Ustetika and a fellow for poetry in the 52nd Silliman University National Writers Workshop.

AXLE CHRISTIEN TUGANO obtained his degree in History (magna cum laude) from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in 2015 and is now finishing his MA Philippine Studies Program at the University of the Philippines Diliman. He is a History Faculty Member of the Department of Social Sciences, University of the Philippines Los Baños, Laguna. He has published some articles and book reviews in academic refereed journals such as *Tala Kasaysayan*, *Dalumat*, *SALIKSIK*, *Katipunan*, *Kawing*, *Hasaan*, and more. Also, he has published some book chapters in BAKAS, ATAGAN, ADHIKA, and NCCA. His research is focused on diaspora, Philippine intercultural encounters, and Southeast Asian Studies.

JOEL VEGA lives in Arnhem, the Netherlands, where he works as a freelance editor. His debut poetry collection *DRIFT*, published in 2018 by the UST Publishing House, won the National Book Award in 2019 for Best Poetry in English and an equivalent prize given by the Philippine Literary Arts Council.

ENRIQUE S. VILLASIS is a poet and a scriptwriter, born in Milagros, Masbate, Philippines. He has received numerous national literary awards for his poems. His first book of poems, *Agua*, was a finalist for a National Book Award. He is a member of Linangan sa Imahen, Retorika, at Anyo. He lives in Quezon City and currently writes television shows for ABS-CBN.

Si E. J. BETITA VILLENA ay na nakabase sa Gagayan de Oro. Matagal niyang na-indie-publish ang unang koleksiyon ng mga kuwento na *Thus It Rain To-Night and Other Stories* (Lulu Press, Inc.); lakip ang kuwento niya sa *this is how you walk on the moon* anthology (Ethos Books, Singapore). Ang kanyang di-nalathalang manuskrito para sa nobelang “Mga Bulong ng Anino at Tahimik” ay na-short-list sa Cirilo F. Bautista Prize for the Novel noong 2015.

Ipinagpapatuloy ng THE MAKATÀS ang makulay na tradisyon ng balagtasán at pagtatanghal nitó sa iba’t ibang espasyo. Hangad ng samahang ito ng mga makata na maibalik ang paghahandog ng aliw at paglilimi sa mahal na madla.

Si MICHAEL ANGELO V. SANTOS ay nagtapos ng kursong Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication: Malikhaing Pagsulat sa Bulacan State University taong 2016. Tubong-San Miguel, Bulacan. Kasalukuyan siyang nag-aaral ng MA Filipino: Malikhaing Pagsulat sa UP Diliman. Iginawad sa kaniya ang 1st Panelist Choice Award sa Pamiyabe 17 Regional Creative Writing Workshop taong 2017. Nagkamit ng Ikalawang Gantimpala ang kaniyang maikling kuwento sa kauna-unahang Gawad Lazaro Francisco 2020. Kasapi ng organisayong Lunduyan ng mga Bulakenyong Artistat Manunulat (LAMBAT). Nailimbag ang ilan sa kaniyang mga akda sa magazine na *Liwayway*; mga dagli na nailimbag sa *KAWING*, refereed Journal ng PSLLF (Tomo 3.1, Hulyo 2019), antolohiyang *NASA PUSO/D* ng Organisasyong LAMBAT na inilimbag ng Balangay Production; at tula sa librong *Sustaining the Archipelago* na inilimbag ng UST Publishing House, at ang tulang “Paggiik” sa *Lagda: Journal ng Departamento ng Filipino at Panitikan ng Pilipinas* (Vol. 11, No. 1 (2021), Isyung Malikhaing Pagsulat) sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas Diliman, Lungsod Quezon.

Si EUBERT LENNARD O. TORRELIZA ay isang guro at nangangarap na makapagsulat ng tula at nangangahas na makapagbalangkas ng maikling kuwento. Nagwagi ng ikalawang gantimpala sa pagsulat ng tula na pinamagatang “Ang Sampung Utos ng mga Diyos-Diyosan” sa patimpalak na Unang Gawad Rogelio Ordoñez. Nanalio rin ng ikatlong gantimpala sa pagsulat ng maikling kuwento na pinamagatang “Ang mga Bilin ni Alyas Angas” sa Gawad Rogelio Sikat 2019. Kasalukuyan siyang naka-enroll sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas sa programang gradwado na MA Filipino: Malikhaing Pagsulat.

About the Book Designer

R. JORDAN P. SANTOS is an art director for Anvil Publishing. Follow him at IG @rjordanpsantos.design. He likes cats.

About the Cover Artist

KEVIN ERIC RAYMUNDO is an animation director and comic artist. He is the author of the hit webcomic series, *Tarantadong Kalbo*, which has more than 100,000 followers on Facebook.

Kevin fell in love with drawing as early as age five. Now, he has been in the animation industry for about fifteen years. He worked on the Netflix original film *Hayop Ka* by Rocketsheep Studios

Due to the success of his webcomics known for creatively narrating social issues, Kevin released print collections *Tarantadong Kalbo Vol. 1* and *Tarantadong Kalbo Vol. 2*, published by Komiket, Inc.