



NOTES ON THE
CONTRIBUTORS

About the Contributors



ERIC ABALAJON

Si Eric Abalajon ay kasalukuyang lecturer sa Division of Humanities, UP Visayas, Iloilo. Gamit ang sagisag-panulat na Jacob Laneria, ang kanyang zine ng mga maikling kuwento, *Mga Migranteng Sandali*, ay ipinamamahagi ng Kasingkasing Press.

Sa halip na takutin, lalo pa sanang imulat sa atin ng pandemya na ang isang mas makataong mundo ay posible.

KISHA ABUDA

Kisha Aleena Abuda has a BA in Literature and an MA in Creative Writing from the University of Santo Tomas. She is currently a contributor for *Animal Scene Magazine (Manila Bulletin)* where she writes listicles, real-life stories, and opinion pieces about animals.



The real tragedy is that when all this is over, we would go back to the way we were, and risk the repetition of our suffering.



NIMAI ALBANO

It took a pandemic for Nimai Albano to finally land her dream job of freelance writing. Raised in Bulacan, she is currently locked down in Baguio after moving there for a BA Language and Literature degree earned in 2019.

Turn off your phone and breathe.

MYKEL ANDRADA

Michael Francis C. Andrada is a teacher, editor, translator and writer. Mykel also serves as director of the Sentro ng Wikang Filipino – UP Diliman.

www.swfupdiliman.org/aklatangbayan.



Ang kalayaan ay ipinaglalaman.



MARK ANGELES

Si Mark Angeles ay naging writer-in-residence sa International Writing Program ng University of Iowa, USA, noong 2013. Siya ay columnist ng *Pinoy Weekly*, literary editor ng *Bulatlat.com*, at feature contributor ng *GMA News Online*.

We have two perpetrators during the pandemic: COVID-19 and the Duterte regime.

ELBERT O. BAETA

Si Elbert O. Baeta ay isang guro at manunulat mula sa lungsod ng Iriga, probinsiya ng Camarines Sur. Awtor siya ng dalawang koleksiyon ng tula sa wikang Bikol at Rinconada.



Walang mag-uuwi ng korona!



EMMANUEL JAYSON V. BOLATA

Sa pagi-pagitan ng kaniyang mga trabaho sa larangan ng kasaysayan, nagsusulat si Emmanuel Jayson V. Bolata ng sanaysay, tula, at panunuring pampanitikan. May-akda siya ng *Hindi Lang Basta Bata: Mga Pananaliksik at Panunuri sa Kasaysayan at Panitikang Pambata* (2020) na inilathala ng Sentro ng Wikang Filipino (SWF)-UP Diliman.

*Alpas kay Ka Amado, paano mapiit nang wala sa pagkakapiit, sa piitan?
"Ako ay hawlang habol ang pipit."*

NONON VILLALUZ CARANDANG

Nonon Villaluz Carandang lives in Bulakan, Bulacan, and teaches at De La Salle University. He also loves to travel; as such, Milan in his story is one of his frequent European destinations.



This pandemic taught and reminded us the value of absence, resilience, and silence.



PATRICK ERNEST C. CELSO

Si Patrick Ernest C. Celso ay kasalukuyang nagtuturo ng wika, panitikan, pananaliksik, midya, at komunikasyon sa antas-hayskul ng Ateneo de Manila University at University of Santo Tomas. Kumukuha siya ng MA Creative Writing at nakapagtapos ng BSEd English sa UST.

May pandemya man o wala, unahin at mahalín ang sarili.

R. JOSEPH DAZO

R. Joseph Dazo is the author of *Ubang Gabi sa Mango Avenue* (Kasingkasing Press, 2019), and coeditor of *Libulan: Binisayang Antolohiya sa Katitikang Queer* (Cratos, 2018). He lives in the City of Talisay, Cebu.



The greatest threat in this pandemic time is not the virus itself, but the incompetence of the Philippine government's COVID-19 response.



ALFONSO MANALASTAS

Alfonso Manalastas is a poet from Butuan City, now based in Manila. His works have been published in *Likhaan*, *Kritika Kultura*, *Voice & Verse HK*, *Cordite Poetry Review*, and *Quarterly Literary Review Singapore*, among others.

May we continue to take part in the larger political life that exists outside of craft and continue to resist the injustices, impunity, and violence being perpetrated by institutional forces, for which the pandemic has served as a convenient smokescreen.

KARL R. DE MESA

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 and Muay Thai instructor.



The COVID-19 virus pandemic is a once-in-a-lifetime event that both revealed and obscured what was best in the Filipino people. It also brought out the worst in our systems and leadership.



JULIAN DELA CERNA

Taga-Davao si Julian dela Cerna, na nag-aaral para sa kanyang MA sa Araling Pilipino sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas, Diliman, at nagtatrabaho bilang patnugot sa Ateneo University Press.

The pandemic highlights the ongoing failure of the Philippine government, past and present, to genuinely introduce reforms for the public welfare, such as reforms in the health and public-transport systems.

MAR ANTHONY SIMON DELA CRUZ

Nagtapos ng PhD sa Filipino: Pagsasalin sa UP Diliman si Mar Anthony Simon dela Cruz at nagtuturo siya ngayon ng mga kurso sa panitikan, malikhaing pagsulat, at pagsasalin sa UP Baguio. Siya ang may-akda ng *Isang Gabi sa Quezon Avenue at Iba Pang Kuwento* (UP Press, 2015) at *Pasakalye* (NCCA at AILAP, 2010).



Walang trabaho, walang pagkain. O, e di magsayaw na lang tayo.



DJ ELLAMIL

DJ Ellamil was born in 1999 in Mabitac, Laguna, and is currently pursuing AB Filipinolohiya at Polytechnic University of the Philippines. His works can be found in *Lidayway Magazine*, *Kawing Journal* (PSLLF), *Bookwatch* (NBDB-Philippines), and *Vital Points* (Ateneo Art Gallery), among other publications in the country.

Mahirap isipin ang hinaharap sa panahong ito, subalit isa rin itong pagkakataon upang maitala ang lahat-lahat ng kasalukuyang realidad, puno man ito ng kawalan ng katiyakan o kakarampot na pag-asa.

MICHAELA ANN A. GONZALES-MONTALBO

As an Internal Medicine doctor hailing from the province and a doting mother to a two-year-old darling girl, Michaela Ann A. Gonzales-Montalbo secretly wishes she could be in two places at the same time. She strives to dedicate her work to the well-being of her patients, to be an admirable example for her daughter, and to pursue her love for writing.



If we could only walk in the different shoes of a frontliner, of a patient, of a lawmaker, of a businessman, or of any random stranger, maybe it will be easier to be kinder, to be more open to learning, and to give more of ourselves to others.



SUE ANN LOCNEN

Sue Ann Locnen, an assistant professor in medical school, specializes in adult cardiology and echocardiography. She was a fellow at the 2nd Bienvenido Santos Creative Nonfiction Writing Workshop for Doctors.

The pandemic showed us that we only need simple things to live and that no matter how different we are from one another, we remain interconnected. Unless everyone is safe, no one is.

GABRIEL MARI OBLEFIAS

Si Gabriel Mari Oblefias ay isang freelance writer at part-time faculty sa multimedia arts program ng De La Salle – College of Saint Benilde. Mag-aaral din siya ng Sertipiko sa Panitikan at Malikhaing Pagsulat sa Politeknikong Unibersidad ng Pilipinas.



Ipinakita ng COVID-19 pandemic ang dakila at dambuhalang kapalpakan ng mga institusyon, lalong-lalo na sa pambansang pamahalaan at “poong” namumuno rito.



MUBARAK M. TAHIR

Mubarak M. Tahir is a pure-blooded Maguindanaoan and a graduate of Bachelor of Arts in Filipino at the Mindanao State University, Marawi City. He is the first Maguindanaoan writer to win in the 67th Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature in Filipino Essay entitled “Aden Bon Besen Uyag-Uyag” (May Buhay Pa Pala).

Pandemic is the new normal that is not normal at all because it changes everything the way we see the world where we live in.

ALMAYRAH A. TIBURON

Almayrah Abbas Tiburon is a faculty at Mindanao State University, Marawi. She wanted to present that Mëranaw culture is rich, great, and historic.



May the whole world overcome this pandemic.



RANDY Q. VILLANUEVA

Randy Q. Villanueva has been the head writer of various TV shows, including *Kagat ng Dilim* (2020–2021), *Midnight DJ* (2010–2011), and *Super Inggó at ang Super Tropa* (2009–2010). He dabbles in music, painting, digital art, photography, literature, animation, cooking, and public speaking.

Now, more than ever, we need stories and songs and art to help us make sense of our existence.



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 Proofreaders

ARVIN ABEJO MANGOHIG is the author of *The Gaze: Poems* (University of the Philippines Press, 2003); *Bloodflow: A Lyric Sequence* (De La Salle University Publishing House/Central Books, 2012); *Lost Things* (Vagabond Press, 2017); *Martial Law: Poems for the Dead* (UST Publishing House, 2019) and *Tokhang Nation: Poems* (UST Publishing House, 2021).

He self-published his sixth book, *Contagion: Poems for a Pandemic*, on Amazon.

His seventh book, *The Lost Cats of Maginhawa: Poetry from Filipino Suburbia*, is already approved for publication under the UP ICW's Philippine Writers Series imprint.



Si **ROGENE A. GONZALES** ay nagtatrabaho bilang copy editor para sa UP Press at Likhaan: UP Institute for Creative Writing. Kasapi ng Sama-samang Artista para sa Kilusang Agraryo o SAKA at pana-panahong kontribyutor sa *Bulatlat*, *Pinoy Weekly*, at *Manila Today*. Nakapag-self publish siya ng mga koleksiyon ng mga tula kabilang na ang *Salita'y Sandata* (2013), *Diskonektado* (2015), at *Alitaptap* (2019). Kasalukuyan niyang tinatapos ang MA Filipino: Malikhaing Pagsulat sa Departamento ng Filipino at Panitikan ng Pilipinas sa UP Diliman.



About the Cover Artist

LEONILO ORTEGA DOLORICON, also called “Neil,” (born in December 1, 1957, Agusan del Sur; died July 16, 2021, Manila), is a Filipino sociorealist painter who served as the dean of University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts in 1998–2001. He was also an awardee of the Thirteen Artists Gawad para sa Sining Biswal of the Cultural Center of the Philippines in 1990.

He was born to Genoveva and Tomas Doloricon in Agusan del Sur, Philippines, on December 1, 1957. He was the second child of the three children. He had an older brother named Leonardo Doloricon and a younger sister named Richelda Doloricon-Freeman. He was said to be influenced by Manila City where he grew up and developed his drawing skills by watching people sketch. At a young age, he helped his family’s expenses by drawing portraits, posters, and visual aids for teachers, students and friends.

He graduated from the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts with a Bachelor Degree in Visual Communication in 1981 and in 1994 with a Master of Arts in Philippine Studies from the same university.

He met Angela Manogan in Mountain Province while teaching art in indigenous community and married her in Manila in 1985. They have three children. The eldest is Leonilo Sandino was born in 1985. Their middle child is Victoria, born in 1986, and their youngest is Katrina, born in 1993.

He was a member of the Kaisahan Group, an organization of social realist artists, and his art’s subject regularly depicts the political situations, human rights, and social injustice in Philippines in oil painting and print making. Aside from paintings, he also shared his political commentary through editorial cartoons with various newspapers such as the *Manila Times*, *Pinoy Weekly*, and *Kabayan*. He held solo and group exhibitions in various cities in Philippines and abroad, and won several art awards.

He was also a professor at the UP College of Fine Arts and a member of the Concerned Artist of the Philippines.