





NOTES ON THE  
CONTRIBUTORS



## *About the Contributors*



### **VIJAE O. ALQUISOLA**

Nagtuturo si Vijae Orquia Alquisola ng Panitikan at Malikhaing Pagsulat sa De La Salle University-Taft, Maynila. Awtor siya ng mga aklat ng tula: *Sa Mga Pansamantala* (2017) at *Awit ng Bakwit: Mga Tula para sa Bata* (2019) na libreng mada-download sa website ng Sentro ng Wikang Filipino-UP Diliman.

*Ang daming Q, litong-lito na a-Q!*

### **GENEVIEVE L. ASENJO**

Genevieve L. Asenjo is professor of literature and creative writing at De La Salle University, Manila. She is included in the 2018 *Cultural Center of the Philippines Encyclopedia of Philippine Art (Literature)* for her works in Kinaray-a, Hiligaynon, and Filipino.



*Hinahamon tayo ng pandemya na magpalakas ng katawan, isip, at puso kaagapay ang ating mga komunidad at kasama ang marami pang uri ng buhay sa kapaligiran—mga halaman, hayop, organismo—sa pagpapatuloy ng buhay na may higit na malasakit sa kapakanan ng nakararami.*



### **MARIA DEL CARMEN R. CASTILLO**

Maria Del Carmen R. Castillo is a practicing obstetrician-gynecologist and her line of work has had her continuously working from day one of this pandemic. In between the babies, some poetry likewise came to be.

*Pandemics require solutions and not absolution for ineptitude.*

### **NOEL R. DEL PRADO**

Noel Romero del Prado is a poet from Marikina, who is a lawyer by profession and a teacher by vocation.



*Ang pandemya ay mapait na tinapay.*



## ANDRE RAMIREZ GUTIERREZ

Kasalukuyang mag-aaral ng Malikhain Pagsulat sa Filipino sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas Diliman si Andre Ramirez Gutierrez. Naging fellow siya para sa tula sa 7th Angono National Writers' Workshop, 2nd Cavite Young Writers' Workshop, at Palihang LIRA 2018 at 2020. Mababasa ang kaniyang mga akda sa *Lidayway*, *Lóngos*, *Lakbay*, *Fly on the Wall Press UK*, *Katitikan Literary Journal*, *Novice Magazine*, at *Sahaya*. Kasapi siya ng LIRA, Cavite Young Writers Association, KALasag, at Alay Sining KAL.

*Pinamukha sa atin ng pandemya na ang buhay nating tinatangi ay panandalian at pansamantala, lalo kung ang estadong marapat na tumulong at mag-ahon sa masa'y pasista't punô ng mga mapagsamantala.*

## BENJO GUTIERREZ



Si Benjo Gutierrez ay tubong Hagonoy sa Taguig na nagmamaasim na imapa sa eksena ng panitikan ang maliit ng barangay nila. Sinusubukan namang magpakatao kahit maraming sht ang buhay. Puwedeng basahin ang mga akda't sanaysay niya sa *Dapitan*, ang *Literary Folio* ng UST Faculty of Arts and Letters, *Pandemic Literature Project* ng Polytechnic University of the Philippines, *AKSYON: Dagli ng mga Eksenang Buhay* ng 7 eyes Production, *INQ.net*, at *Rappler*.

*When kaya natin masasampal lahat 'yung nagsabing sasampalin daw 'yung virus?*



## REY A. ISIDTO

Rey Isidto, MD, is a practicing Internist – Nephrologist in Iloilo City since 2013. He is a reader first and has only started writing again because the pandemic.

*The COVID-19 pandemic is the proverbial mirror that unflinchingly reflects the basic, nuclear stuff central to each of us that explains why, when in the face of imminent threat, we think and ultimately react the way we do.*

### **ABIGAIL C. JAMES**

Abigail C. James is the Director of Creative Development at Nagkahiusang Magsusulat sa Cagayan de Oro (NAGMAC). She holds a Master of Arts in English Language from Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan where she is currently an instructor at the English Department.



*The pandemic has made me realize that there are still reasons to stay and fight for a better country.*

### **ANSHERINA MAY D. JAZUL**



Ansherina May D. Jazul is a Filipino Language teacher. She writes poetry, scripts, and personal essays.

*The pandemic not only brought suffering to the people but also it exposes the flaws of the government when it comes to situations like this.*

### **GIDEON LASCO**

Gideon Lasco is a physician, anthropologist, and writer. He is Senior Lecturer at the Department of Anthropology, University of the Philippines Diliman and Research Fellow at the Development Studies Program, Ateneo de Manila University.



*If writing during a pandemic is a form of resistance, then we need to recognize who/what it is that we should actually be resisting.*

### **CLARISSA V. MILITANTE**



Clarissa V. Militante is author of two novels, *Different Countries* (Anvil, 2010) and *We Who Cannot Be Daughters* (UST Publishing House, 2014); her third novel, *State of Happiness*, is soon to be published by UP Press under the Philippine Writers Series imprint. She currently teaches Literature and Creative Writing courses in De La Salle University where she also finished her PhD in Literature.

*We need to unlearn the fear instilled in us by the virus and the government's militaristic approach to the pandemic, and begin to act based on knowledge, to live with imagination, and to regain our sense of freedom.*

### **ADRIAN PETE MEDINA PREGONIR**

Manunulat sa wikang Hiligaynon si Adrian Medina Pregonir mula sa Banga, South Cotabato. Ang kaniyang mga akda ay lumitaw sa iba't ibang antolohiya at magasin at sa ngayon ay tinutuklas ang mundo at sining ng folk storytelling.



*Nakakagalit ang mga abusador na nilalampaso ang lipunan sa kanilang kahungkagan at lantad na pang-aapak sa karapatang pantao habang nasa gitna ng pandemya. Hindi sakit ang pumapatay sa tao sa gitna ng pandemya dito sa Pilipinas kundi ang kamao at baril ng administrasyon na walang awa na kailanman ay hindi na magagamot pa ng kahit ano pa mang dasal—kamatayan na lang.*



### **JAY JOMAR F. QUINTOS**

Jay Jomar F. Quintos teaches literature and Philippine Studies at the University of the Philippines. He is also an independent filmmaker.

*COVID-19 brought us toward the edge of the precipice: are we going to stay in the old and vicious world, or fly and leap and jump to start anew?*

### **CHRISTIAN RYAN RAM MALLI**

Christian Ryan Ram Malli is taking his undergraduate degree in Creative Writing at the University of Santo Tomas where he won multiple times in the Gawad Ustetika. He has bagged prizes in several poetry slam contests and has been a fellow of the 5th Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio Writers Workshop.



*More than anything, the pandemic has exposed the extremes of the human condition, both good and evil. I find that it's necessary to proceed with as much kindness as possible.*



### **IZA REYES**

Nanay, guro, mag-aaral ng malikhaing pagsulat, at manunulat si Iza Maria Reyes. Nagsusulat siya ng mga personal na sanaysay, tula, at kuwentong pambata (kapag may libreng oras mula sa pag-aalaga ng anak at mga pusa, paggawa ng lesson plan, pagtuturo, at raket).

*#OustDuterte*

### **DAVID MICHAEL M. SAN JUAN**

Full Professor sa Departamento ng Filipino ng De La Salle University-Manila, Mananaysay ng Taon 2009 (iginawad ng Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino), Pangulo ng Pambansang Samahan sa Linggwistika at Literaturang Filipino, Convener ng Tanggol Wika at ng Professionals for a Progressive Economy, at advocate ng mas mababang income tax sa masa at middle class, at ng libreng serbisyong pangkalusugan para sa lahat.



*Sana mawala na ang pandemya.*



### **BEVERLY W. SIY**

Beverly Wico Siy is a mother of three from Bacoor, Cavite. She is a writer, translator, and copyright advocate who works in the Intertextual Division of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

*Mothers must be given opportunities too for publication especially during crisis like this pandemic.*

### **ARIEL SOTELO TABÁG**

Ariel Sotelo Tabág is an Ilokano writer and edits the poetry section of *Bannawag Magazine*. He hails from Santa Teresita, Cagayan, but currently resides in Quezon City with his family.



*In the midst of countless terrors that we are facing because of the pandemic and rampant corruption, and mental health crisis due to these, there are small acts of kindness that we should be thankful for and must be propagated by keeping the bayanihan spirit alive, and by taking care of one another, which is the core value of humanity.*





### **DAYANG YRAOLA**

Dayang Magdalena Nirvana T. Yraola, PhD is an Associate Professor from the UP College of Fine Arts. She is an artist, curator, and scholar focusing on art as extended practice.

*Ang tapang ay hindi kawalan ng kinatatakutan. Ito ay ang bawat pagsulong at pagsagupa sa kalawakan ng di tiyak na alang-alang.*

### **VINCEN GREGORY YU**

Vincen Gregory Yu is a physician, health researcher, fictionist, poet, and arts critic from Iloilo City. He is currently affiliated with the Ateneo de Manila University Development Studies Program and pursuing his master's degree in medical anthropology at the University of the Philippines Manila.



*Vaccine equity now!*



### *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 Copy Editors*

**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.

### *About the Cover Colorist*



**RENAN ORTIZ** is an activist, artist, and art educator. He has jumped into the opportunity of studying up-close, and rendering the cover artwork of Neil Doloricon, whom he considers a master cartoonist and printmaker. He teaches Editorial Design and Illustration at the UP College of Fine Arts.