





NOTES ON THE
CONTRIBUTORS

About the Contributors



Erin Abanador

Erin Abanador is a freelance illustrator and student living in Marikina City. She is also a member of SAKA (Sama-samang Artista para sa Kilusang Agraryo).

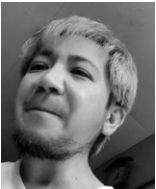
President Rodrigo Roa Duterte had every opportunity to prevent the spread of COVID-19 from the beginning, but he did not take action, and so the most vulnerable of the Filipino people will pay for his administration's negligence for years to come.

Dennis Andrew S. Aguinaldo

Dennis Andrew S. Aguinaldo teaches at the Department of Humanities, CAS, UPLB. He is the author of *Shift of Eyes* and *Bukod sa maliit na hayop*, stories and poems, respectively.



For the covid pomodoro, you'll need a to-do list, a timer, and strictly 25 minutes applied to a task, taking five after this to stretch, drink water, and extend your deepest "We're praying for you," all before a repeat.



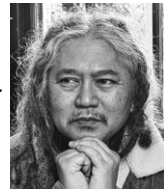
Mykel Andrada

Miyembro ng Surian ng Sining, Inc. (SUSI) si Mykel Andrada. Editor siya ng *Tapuzine*, ang opisyal na zine ng SUSI.

Kapag napagod, magpahinga; tapos ay bumalik; bumalik nang mas malakas at mas marami.

Ronald Araña Atilano

Ronald Araña Atilano is a member of Linangan sa Imahen, Retorika at Anyo (LIRA) and attended the University of the Philippines National Writers' Workshop in 2004 and the Ateneo de Manila Writers' Workshop in 2006. He is currently living in Newcastle, Australia.



In the end, it is kindness towards our fellow human beings that will save us from the virus and from ourselves.



Romulo P. Baquiran Jr.

Nakapaglathala na si Romulo P. Baquiran Jr. ng mga librong *Mga Tula ng Paglusong* (1992), *Onyx* (2003), *Kung Nanaisin* (2009), *Sagad sa Buto* (2011), *Hiwatig* (2015), *Ibig* (2017), at *Aishite imasu* (2021). Isa siyang guro ng mali khaing pagsulat at panitikan sa Kolehiyo ng Arte at Literatura, University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman, Quezon City.

COVID-19 has wiped out a way of life; we can never wrestle it back and now must move forward with much caution and sadness.

F. Jordan Carnice

F. Jordan Carnice (@thebullfrog_) is a creative writing graduate at Silliman University and is also an information technology graduate at STI College, and throughout the years his works have appeared in *Philippines Free Press*, *Sands & Coral*, *Ani*, *Philippines Graphic*, *Anomaly*, *Philippine Speculative Fiction*, *Voice & Verse Poetry Magazine*, *Quarterly Literary Review Singapore*, among others. A visual artist who is currently based in Tagbilaran City, Bohol, he has authored two poetry chapbooks—*Weights & Cushions* (2018) and *How to Make an Accident* (2019).



COVID-19 and our state's current response to the health crisis in the year 2022, with the threat of monkeypox just waiting around the corner, are like the messier and more disappointing spin-off of the original—zero stars!—and I wish more writers can actively do something about this beyond the inward-looking discipline of writing.



Ges Jaicten

Ges Jaicten is a writer and a student of the AB Literature program of the University of San Agustin, Iloilo, currently honing his craft through the program, participating in local and national writers' workshops, and submitting to contests and online journals.

The pandemic was an undeniable tremor in our lives that kept bombarding us with news after news which tire the soul, yet in this milieu of never-ending disaster, we had found ourselves persistent.

T.L JAVIER

Also known as Tristan Buenaflo, T.L Javier is an activist writer. He graduated from UP Baguio in 2019 and is currently taking his Masters in Malikhaing Pagsulat at UP Diliman. He is also an instructor of Wikat Panitikan in UP Baguio.



Defeating the pandemic means defeating the system that allows for it to continue.



Hannah A. Leceña

Si Hannah A. Leceña, ay isang guro, manunulat, at spoken word performer mula sa Sarangani Province, Region 12. Siya ang awtor ng *Jonas: Nobela sa Wikang Sebuwano* na inilathala ng KWF noong 2022.

Ang COVID-19 ay isang bangungot at gusto na nating lahat na magising at mamulat.

NIÑO SAAVEDRA MANAOG

After ten years of living in Western Visayas, Niño Saavedra Manaog now writes in Biligaynon, which interlaces Bikol and Hiligaynon. Following the national lockdown in March 2020, he edited Maria Cecilia Tatel's "Kan Magturaok si Inok" and Julio Aborde Jr.'s "Si Labsay kan Dakulang Bukid," two of the ten children's stories in Central Bikol published online for the Asia Foundation's Let's Read initiative in 2021.



Exult in our inequities; exalt our inequalities.



Mon Karlo L. Mangaran

Assistant Professorial Lecturer sa Departamento ng Filipino ng De La Salle University-Manila, Mananaysay ng Taon 2010 (iginawad ng KWF), COVID-19 survivor, at naglilingkod bilang barangay kagawad.

Hindi lamang COVID-19 ang virus na pumatay sa libo-libong mamamayan kundi maging ang kahirapan at kawalan ng maayos na serbisyong panlipunan.

Francisco Arias Monteseña

Ang manunulat ay dating instruktur sa kolehiyo. Siya ay nagmula sa Majayjay, Laguna at naninirahan ngayon sa Angono, Rizal.



Sinusubok ang ating pagiging tao ng pandemya at kailangang hawakan natin nang mahigpit ang ating sariling tino at pagmamahal sa kapwa.



Eilyn Lamadrid Nidea

Eilyn Lamadrid Nidea is a cultural worker, author, Bikol indie film and stage actress, and educator (teaching English and literature subjects at the Ragay National Agricultural and Fisheries School). She is a co-founder and the artistic director of the Teatro Ragayano, a community theater, and is a member of Parasurat Bikolnon, an organization of Bikol artists and cultural workers.

The lockdowns during these times of the pandemic generally have been having negative effects and results; however, these also have provided venues for the practice of one's craft, and opportunities to be of assistance and service to one's fellowmen and country.

Keanu Reyes

Si Keanu Reyes ay tubo at babad sa bahaing bayan ng Hagonoy. Sa panahon ng kalakhan at kapag nagtapsing ang tubig, sumisingaw ang mga kuwento ng bayang kanyang nilulusong.



Hamon sa ating panahon ang pandemya, hamon sa manunulat kung paano ito idodokumento.



David Michael M. San Juan

Full Professor sa Departamento ng Filipino at Fellow sa Southeast Asia Research Center and Hub (SEARCH) 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 para sa masa at middle class, at ng libreng serbisyong pangkalusugan para sa lahat.

Quoting a priest in the movie Voces Inocentes: “Today, brothers, it is not enough to pray.”

Brylle B. Tabora

Brylle B. Tabora is an MFA candidate at the De La Salle University-Manila working on his first collection of poetry. His poems have appeared in *Cordite Poetry Review*, *Quarterly Literary Review Singapore*, and *Rabbit Poetry Journal*.



With the unmitigated misery brought on by the global pandemic, I turned to the companionship of poetry for solace and reprieve. And as a sort of response to Czesław Miłosz’s most famous line, indeed, poetry saved me many times over.



Rosmon Tuazon

Rosmon Tuazon lives in Pasig City. He is the author of *Mula* (translated into English by Ben Aguilar for the bilingual edition Forth / Balangay Books, 2021), *Sa Pagitan ng mga Emerhensiya* (*Between Emergencies* / UP Press, 2022) and the chapbook *Borador sa isang Epilogo* (*Draft for an Epilogue* / Aklat Ulagad, 2021).

Nakapanghihinang makita kung paano lapain ng salot ang taumbayan habang todo-kapit sa laylayan ng mga lulong sa kapangyarihan na abalang iligtas ang kanilang mga sarili.

Ria Valdez

Ria Valdez is born and raised in Davao City. She teaches in the Department of Humanities in the University of the Philippines-Mindanao.



In all things we say and do, I hope we always remember to check our privilege; the pandemic has not been kind to everyone.



Yayo Winter Sun Yambao

Ang manunulat ay boluntaryong guro at mananaliksik na nanirahan sa bakwit ng mga Lumad sa Manila at lalawigan ng Davao, Mindanao, nang mahigit dalawang taon. Malugod siya na nakapagpabasa ng alpabeto at mga libro

sa mga pinakabatang mag-aaral na Lumad at nakapagturo ng aralin sa sining upang makapagtapos ang ilan sa mga mag-aaral na Lumad sa Lumad Bakwit School. Nagawaran siya ng Global Minds Fund para sa bahagi ng kanyang pananaliksik ukol sa Lumad bakwit.

Kung isiniwalat ng COVID-19 pandemic ang ibig sabihin ng esensiyal na paggawa at pangangailangan, lalong ibinuyangyang rin ng virus ang kapinsalaang dinudulot ng namamayaning kaayusan ng estado at kita sa mga esensiyal na paggawa bilang precariates o “bulislis”—ang mga kontraktwal na manggagawa, mababang pasahod sa frontliners, arawan na drivers at delivery, isang kahig-isang tuka, point of service agents, pisante, katutubong mag-uuma at iba pang mga nasa laylayan—hindi bilang mga hiram na oras sa mga esensiyal na lakas paggawa sa panahon ng hard lockdown kundi mga buhay na kinakatasan at kinakaltasan ng pagiging tao at pagkatao at lalo pang isinangkalang sa panganib alang-alang sa kita ng kapitalismo, pagsustina sa buhay-ginhawa ng may pribilehiyo at pagsalba sa pagsampa ng mga gitnang-uring buhay manggagawa na kaya pang mag-work from home.