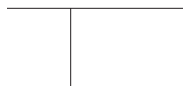




INTRODUCTION



This issue of the *Philippine Humanities Review* brings you five critical essays and two creative works. In "Statutory Deconstruction: Against Oracular Constitutionalism," Jose Duke S. Bagulaya reviews the Supreme Court ruling that exonerated Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who many believe exploited her post as chief executive in appointing a justice chief during an election period. Bagulaya criticizes the decision for its so-called oracular constitutionalism in mainly seeking the opinion of "author/god" constitutional commissioners to unearth the law's intent (*ratio legis*) instead of using its plain meaning. Bagulaya's essay highlights the significance of scholarship that focuses on law and literature and the deconstruction of salient social and political by way of literary studies. Lok Chong Hoe's "Limits of Institutional Theory of Art" examines the impact of radical politics in the art world. In challenging the institutional theory of art, the essay also encourages the reader to rethink the notion of radical art and protest actions. In "*Ermita's* Rolando Cruz: A Discourse Deviation Approach to the Study of Character," Cynthia Grace Suguitan-Sanguyu illustrates how discourse deviation approach can effectively be used in Philippine literature. In its analysis of the chosen character's diction and sentence structure, the essay reminds both readers and literary producers of the importance of a deeper understanding of society. Regina Banaag Gochuico's "Authentic Assessment in B.A. Speech Communication" presents an alternative to pedagogical techniques in assessing academic programs. The essay stresses the academe's role not only to educate but more importantly to ensure the students welfare beyond graduating from college. In "Ang Panulaan ni Maria Lorena Barros [The Poetry of Maria Lorena Barros]," Pauline Mari F. Hernando analyzes a collection of poetry written through the various stages of a writer's life. Hernando plots the poet's class consciousness in the realm of social and armed struggle. The issue ends with creative works from U.Z. Eliserio and Elyrah Loyola Salanga-Torralba.

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