Babae...
sa
Tag-ulan
at
Tag-araw
Tula at mga pintura ni
Gigi Javier Alfonso
BABAЕ...Sa Tag-ulat at Tag-araw*
Tula ni Gigi Javier Alfonso**

Pag-inog ng tag-ulat at tag-araw
Patuloy sa haplos ng kalikasan ng tanaw
Umibig at nakibagay sa bawat galaw
Ihip ng hangin nilanghap at isinayaw

Bumukas ang mata
Tumalas ang tainga

Malakas, matapang, malumanay
Masipag, mapagmahal, mapagbigay
Nagpahalaga sa bawat isang buhay
At nang naapi poot ang gumabab

Hinimas ang braso
Tumayo ang balahibo

Nakibaka... loob ay buo
Laban sa mga salat na gawang tao
Kasimbisig ng lahat at naging sugo
Para sa kailangang pagbabago

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*This poem and paintings form part of Gigi Javier Alfonso's 5th Solo Exhibit in 2002 at the Jorge B. Vargas Museum and Filipiniana Research Center, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City.

**Grace "Gigi" Javier Alfonso, Ph.D., is currently the director of the UP Open University Multimedia Center. She is the founding chairperson of the Film and Audiovisual Communication Department of the College of Mass Communication, UP Diliman. Gigi is also a director for film and television, a painter, a sculptor, a multimedia artist, a newspaper columnist for the Daily Tribune, member and former chairperson of the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino (Gawad Urian), and a professor at the University of the Philippines.
Natuwa sa katawan
Natuklasan ang kasarapan

Nakaraan na ang mga hulma
Ng mga kimi at malamya
Pati na mga bata ayaw ng mga ina
Na tagakamot lamang ng likod nila

Dinampian ng ngiti
Kumislap ang mga labi

Mga tipak tipak na lupa
Hinubog sa pasò at bangâ
Nagtísís ng mga sangâ
Para sa banig, kumot at estatwa

Mahinahon at wagi
Kapayapaan ng kapwa ang mithi

Walang tigil sa pagbasa
Nakaraang mga kwento ay sinusuri na
Sa pira-pirasong papel, pluma
At takatak ng kompyuter niya

Nagandahan sa sarili
Respeto ay tumindí

Babae... sa tag-ulan at tag-araw
Patuloy mong mahalin ikaw
Tibok ng pusong sumasayaw
Pagmamahal sa kapwa ay isigaw

“Ani sa Tag-araw”
19.5“ x 9.5”
Mixed media

“Igisa Mo”
9.5“ x 19.5”
Mixed media
WOMAN...Through the Seasons, Rain and Sun
By Gigi Javier Alfonso

Translated by Carina C. David and Michael Beddow

Season follows season, rain follows sun
Constantly caressed by nature round her
Lovingly attuned to all that moves
Savored the wind’s breath, dancing with it

   Keen-eyed vision
   Ears attuned

Strong, brave, gentle
Hard-working, loving, considerate
Cherishing each and every living thing
In the face of oppression, sustained by revulsion

   Stroked on the arm
   She bristled

Joining battle, heart and soul,
Against all the want of mankind’s making
Everone’s comrade, becoming their advocate
for the changes that must come.

   Rejoicing in the body
   Discovering delight

* A computer lexicography specialist with an interest in Tagalog who has contributed reviews of Tagalog learning textbooks to amazon.com.
Abandoning the old molds that shape
the timid and compliant
Even children turn aside from mothers
who do no more than scratch their backs

    A gentle smile plays lightly
    On lips that glisten

Clod upon clod of earth
Formed into claypots and jars
Branches whittled
To make mats, blankets, statues...

    Gentle in triumph
    Concord and fellowship her desire

Reading tirelessly
She has started to analyze the old tales
With scraps of paper, a pen
And pattering computer keys.

    Drawn to her own beauty
    Her respect gathers weight

Woman... through the seasons, rain and sun.
Never cease to love yourself
To the beat of your dancing heart.
Proclaim your love of all who share in life.
"Balitakatan"
18" x 30"
Mixed media
“Dungaw”
30" x 18"
Mixed media
"Yabong"
30" x 18"
Mixed media
“Daloy ng Tubig
30" x 18"
Mixed media
"Himbing"
30" x 18"
Mixed media