

## **ART FOLIO**

### ***How I View My Art***

*Estela G. Ocampo*

It's hard for me to translate my thoughts into words nor do I find it easy to talk about my art. I just paint and try to be honest in the process.

My paintings are primarily concerned with women. I am still in the process of learning more about the condition of women. But I know that it is not easy to be a woman in the Philippines. The subjects of my paintings and the feelings I try to express are based on personal experiences, observations and how I imagine certain emotions should be expressed.

My style is expressionism. I draw figurative forms using oil direct from the tubes with quick gestural strokes. The colors I use are usually complementary so I can achieve high contrasts. I am especially attached to primaries.

Right now I am interested in using fabrics and dyed rope for my future works. My latest work used jute sack instead of canvass and so far I am quite pleased with the effect.

Using women forms for most of my paintings was not a conscious decision. At this stage I am still experimenting with medium and forms and I feel the need to have more experience as a person to paint more expressively. At this point I am more expressive with technique than with feeling.

In the artworld, the standard is to paint like a man. For a while I was led to believe this but now I feel people just have to be themselves. One should not regret or feel sorry for being a woman. Opportunity and success are the rights of both sexes (although at this time women have a clear disadvantage.)

It is not easy to be a woman in the Philippines. Too many rules are imposed by society and discrimination is strong. I feel women

are boxed-in by the conventions of society and have to struggle to be free. My women are always enclosed in tight spaces and maybe this is reflective of that thought. Personal experience has taught me that women have to be really good to gain respect, that women are always the second choice when they compete for work against men. This is especially true in the field of art. But I hope, somehow, my art will change things for younger women artists.















