



VENAZIR MARTINEZ

VISUAL ANTHROPRENEUR | STREET ARTIST

ABOUT

Venazir Martinez is a Filipina visual anthropreneur, and a street muralist. She graduated cum laude with a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from the University of the Philippines Baguio. She was awarded Best Thesis through her art and advocacy entitled Hila-bana. This street art hunt challenged the public's visual perception through cultural emblems to revitalize Filipino ancestral heritage.

The initiative known as Project Hila-bana gained prominence in 2018 in Baguio City, Philippines. The project's name drew inspiration from the Filipino term "hilbanahan," signifying temporary stitching. The street art movement is unified by a red thread that serves as a visual guide for the public in search of our featured Filipino identities across the globe.

She is the visionary behind Sining Eskinita, a multi-sensory street art festival that transforms mundane alleyways into creative platforms—teaming up with The Search Mindscape Foundation, The National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Davies Paints Philippines, and other private and non-profit organizations nationwide. She had reclaimed otherwise bland spaces and transformed walls with cultural themes that enliven the indigenous spirit.

She was invited for a week-long residency and solo exhibition of her work Hilabana: Espasyo Temporal at the John Hope Franklin Center at Duke University last October 2023 to celebrate Filipino American History Month. Followed by another solo showcase at the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco in January 2024.

In April 2024, she collaborated with the Renaissance Entrepreneurial Center and SOMA Pilipinas in San Francisco, California, to create one of the largest murals entitled "Ani" in the district as a cultural marker to commemorate the harvested hopes of the diasporic Filipino communities in the Bay Area.

Martinez's creations are deeply influenced by the stories of people she encountered during her creative journey. Her artworks portray realistic depictions of individuals from diverse cultures, rendered in a fragmented and animated style. This approach, Progressive Abstract Realism, captures the intricate layers of our identities and the factors that have molded our fundamental values as a nation.

Venazir's profound fascination with identity formation became her spiritual quest and life's purpose, compelling her to redefine the myriad meanings of "Humanity" by interweaving the red thread, one wall at a time.



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ABOUT

Venazir Martinez is a street muralist and visual anthropreneur. She established a street art movement entitled Hila-bana, which magnifies real-life stories of Filipino cultural advocates of different ethnolinguistic groups unified by a red thread. This thread serves as a catalyst to weave a cultural tapestry that delineates our connected presence to global cultures.

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PROJECTS

RENAISSANCE ENTREPRENEUR CENTER MURAL PROJECT

Muralist | Renaissance Entrepreneur Center & SOMA Pilipinas | San Francisco, California, USA

To paint a 2500sqft mural for the exterior of Renaissance's headquarters, 275 Fifth Street at Folsom, in San Francisco's Yerba Buena/South of Market, Filipino Cultural Heritage District.

SINING ESKINITA

Founder & Head Street Artist | Baguio - PH | November - December 2021 - present

Sining Eskinita is a multi-sensorial festival celebrating Filipino's urban art movement. It is a platform of integration, communication, and talent execution for all creative disciplines in one eskinita. It serves as a pathway for creative development of local street artists, muralists, singers, musicians, dancers, theatre performers and other notable artists. This modern street art festival has the proclivity to elevate Baguio's street engagement and create more inclusive, more sustainable, and safer spaces for the public to enjoy.

HILABANA: CONNECTING CULTURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH A STREET ART HUNT

Founder & Head Street Artist | Philippines | 2018 -present

Hila-bana Street Art became internationally recognized since National Commission for Culture and the Arts granted the opportunity to provide mobility for the project. The red string movement became a global catalyst for engaging the locality with interconnected street art using indigenous cultural markers as a democratized learning tool to weave the community's mindset on revitalizing one's cultural identity

PAROL: NI FRANCISCO ESTANISLAO

Philippine Consulate General of San Francisco, California, USA | December 2023

A painting donation for Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco depicting the rich cultural Filipino celebration of Parol-making

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES - BAGUIO | PH

Bachelor of Fine Arts | Cum Laude & Best Thesis

Production | June 2018

TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY LABORATORY HIGH SCHOOL

Math Science Section, Vice President of the Student

Council 2015-2016 | Graduated Year 2016

FAIRLANE YOUNG ACHIEVER'S SCHOOL

Elementary School, Graduated Year 2010

AFFILIATIONS

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN SAN FRANCISCO(UPAASF)

Public Relations Officer 2024 | San Francisco, California

23 SAMPAGUITA ARTIST COLLECTIVE

Founding Member | Finance | 2020 - 2023 | Baguio- PH

FILIPINA WOMEN'S NETWORK

Affiliate Member | 2022 - Present | San Francisco, California

UNESCO CREATIVE BAGUIO CITY COUNCIL

Visual Arts Sectoral Representative | 2021 - Present

Functions as an executive member with regards to the overall planning of the locality's annual Ibagiw festival which gives homage to local artists, artisans, and crafters who are the main reason why the city received its designation as Creative City for Crafts and Folk Arts from UNESCO. Activities and events will center around the creatives and their creations.

HONOR SOCIETY OF PHI KAPPA PHI

Member | Philippine Chapter | June 2019

AWARDS | GRANTS | NOMINATIONS

RISING VISIONARY AWARD

A celebration of Alice Pena Bulos Legacy as we present Filipino American community Heroes and Servant Leaders with the 2023/2024 Pinay/ Pinoy Warriors and Visionary Awards. February 10, 2024

NCCA COMPETITIVE GRANTS

Visual Arts Sector Grantee | Manila, Philippines |
2020 & 2022

THE SEARCH MINDSCAPE FOUNDATION

Grant for Sining Eskinita Project | 2021 & 2023

DON PAPA RUM ART COMPETITION

Finalist | Art Fair Philippines | 2019

WANDERLAND ARTIST

Grand prize winner | Wanderland Music and Arts
Festival | 2019

DARNAY DEMETILLO ARTIST AWARD

Grand Prize Winner | University of the Philippines | 2018

TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENTS

UPAASF SPEAKER SERIES: SIP & PAINT WITH VENAZIR

Art Teacher | Kalayaan Hall, Philippine Center, 447 Sutter Street, San
Francisco | January 26, 2024

CREATED TOGETHER

Grantee | A National Assembly for Artists Working With Communities
Mural Arts Philadelphia | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | October 2023

SIP N' PAINT

Art Teacher | Sentro Filipino: The San Francisco Filipino Cultural
Center | August 2023

LIFEMOVES

Art Teacher for Filipino American History Month | 2550 Great
America Way, Santa Clara, CA 95054 | October 2023

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN SAN FRANCISCO FILIPINO CULTURAL IMMERSION SUMMER CAMP

Art Teacher | St. Raymond's Church 11557 Shannon Ave Dublin, CA
94568 | July 31 - August 3, 2023

RISE VR

Guide | Metaverse Tutoring with Tom Nickel | San Francisco,
California | August, 2023

SANG-AT BUGUIAS: BENGUET YOUTH AS CULTURAL BEARERS

Keynote Speaker | Buguias, Benguet, CAR, Philippines | June 2023

AUSTRALIA ALUMNI NETWORK SUMMIT

Keynote Speaker | REGENERATION in PRACTICE | Richmond Hotel,
Iloilo City | May 2023

YOUTH INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2023

Speaker | Innovation for Sustainable Development | Virtual
Conference | 2023

AFRICA VR CAMPUS AND CENTER

Mentor 6 African Women about the possibilities of VR as an
instrument to share their truth with the world | Virtual Mentoring |
April 2023

ART IN THE STREETS WEBINAR

Speaker | "Art In The Streets: The Hows & Knows of Filipino
Muralists" | iAcademy | 2023

UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR'S CONVOCATION

Speaker | University of the Philippines Baguio | 2023

ART MADE PUBLIC: THE COLOR OF CHANGE

Speaker | In collaboration with Metrobank Foundation & BAYO
Foundation | Harvest Community Hub- Baguio City | 2023

CUPAGWAY: SI ISKA AT ANG MALIKHAING SIYUDAD

Plenary Speaker | UP Baguio | Baguio, Philippines | 2022

DARNAY DEMETILLO ARTIST AWARDS 2022

instructor | UP Baguio | Baguio, Philippines | 2022

TEDX TALK | LUCENA CITY @YOUTH

Inspirational Speaker | HOW STREET ART CONNECTS COMMUNITIES
THROUGH A SINGULAR RED THREAD | 2022

TEDX TALK | DE LASALLE @YOUTH

Inspirational Speaker | NAVIGATING VERICITY | 2022

REDLINE CONTEMPORARY ART 48 HOURS SUMMIT

Resource Speaker | Denver, Colorado | 2021

PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY

Art Instructor | Baguio City - Philippines | October 2021

THE MOST OUTSTANDING STUDENTS OF THE PHILIPPINES CAR

Inspirational Speaker & Judge | Cordillera Region & Central Luzon |
2020 - 2021

ALAB FESTIVAL

Inspirational Speaker | Lancaster New City, Cavite, Philippines |
2019

IFUGAO YOUTH SUMMIT

Community MURal for the Municipality | 2019

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

HILABANA: ESPASYO TEMPORAL II

International Solo Exhibition | Kalayaan Hall,
Philippine Center, 447 Sutter Street, San Francisco, USA
January 19, 2024

HILABANA: ESPASYO TEMPORAL

International Solo Exhibition | John Hope Franklin Center
Main Gallery, Duke University, North Carolina, USA
October 6, 2023

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

CONSCIOUS BEAUTY PROJECT

Threads of Consciousness: Conscious Beauty | In
Collaboration with De Moi & Becoming Miss Right,
Demee Koch | Aesch, Lucerne, Switzerland |
September 2023

HILA-BANA ESPASYO TEMPORAL

John Hope Franklin Center Main Gallery, Duke
University, North Carolina, USA | Asia/Pacific Studies
Institute | October 2023

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

ROAD TO ARTELFEST

Winter Edition of the Road to Artelfest Series
Williamsburg at 119 North 1st Street, New York, New York.
December 22, 2023

SIGAW _____(ECHO)

Collaborative Performance Art with Dr. Anna B. Gatdula |
Pearson Hall, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North
Carolina | October 2023

FESTIVE FIESTA

A Holiday Pop Up Exhibition | FOBBS NYC x Project Barkada
Bushwick Generator, Brooklyn, New York | 2022

HEALING ARTS FOUNDATION

Healing Arts Benefit Weekend | Los Angeles, California | 2022

ALIMUOM CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBIT

Ibagiw Creative Festival | Baguio, Philippines | 2021

INTERLINKED CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBIT

Ibagiw Creative Festival | Baguio, Philippines | 2020

SUNLIFE BEYOND LIFETIMES

125th Celebration Exhibit | Sun Life Financial Ph | BGC | 2020

ART FAIR PHILIPPINES

Don Papa Rum Finalist Exhibition | The Link Carpark, Greenbelt,
Makati - Ph | 2019

MANIAM PUKAQUE 2

Museo de Tarlac | Tarlac City | 2018

MULTIMEDIA RELEASES ARTICLES

VENAZIR MARTINEZ, BAGUIO CITY'S 'ANTHRO - PRENEUR'

WRITTEN BY EMMA RIVA, UP MAG - STREET ART MAGAZINE

New York, New York, United States | Released February 2023
<https://upmag.com/venazir-martinez/>

PIONEERING STREET ART IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH VENAZIR MARTINEZ

BY STEPHANIE O'BRIEN, ON SPLATRS.COM

Australia - Philippines | Released Dec 5, 2020
<https://medium.com/splatrs/pioneering-street-art-in-the-philippines-with-venazir-martinez-a2146829a31b>

VENAZIR'S PEOPLE & PLACES LOOKING CAREFULLY AT STREET ART IN VR

BY TOM NICKEL , ON MEDIUM

San Francisco, California, US | Released Dec 5, 2022
<https://tomnickel.medium.com/venazirs-people-places-e6ab8f6eafd1>

CORDILLERA FACES ON BAGUIO WALLS

BY: VALERIE DAMIAN - @INQUIRERDOTNET

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER / 05:54 AM MARCH 31, 2019

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1101552/cordillera-faces-on-baguio-walls>

SUNSTAR YOUNG BLOOD

BRENDA LEE VILLANUEVA| FABULOUS PEOPLE | FEBRUARY 21, 2020

<https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1845403/baguio/lifestyl/e/villanueva-young-blood>

THESE MURALS PROVE THAT BAGUIO IS INDEED A CITY FOR CREATIVE PEOPLE

MELO VILLAREAL| FEBRUARY 8, 2019

<https://outoftownblog.com/these-murals-prove-that-baguio-is-indeed-a-city-for-creative-people/>

TUP COED TURNS BAGUIO STREET WALLS INTO COLORFUL MURALS

BUSINESSMIRROR | MARCH 18, 2019

<https://outoftownblog.com/these-murals-prove-that-baguio-is-indeed-a-city-for-creative-people/>

STREET ART IN THE PHILIPPINES: 10 SPOTS THAT TELL STORIES AND EXPRESSIONS

TRIPZILLA.PH | JUNE 10, 2022

<https://www.tripzilla.ph/street-art-in-the-philippines/35932/>

HILA-BANA STREET ART

AWESOME WITHOUT BORDERS | SEPTEMBER 28 2020

<https://awesomewithoutborders.org/grant/hila-bana-street-art/>

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT FORD MORHEL: FILIPINO/X AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

BERKELEYSCHOOLS.NET

Australia - Philippines | Released Dec 5, 2020

<https://www.berkeleyschools.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Family-Guide-for-Filipino-American-History-Month-BUSD-22-23.pdf>

PHILIPPINE STREET ART SCENE

STREETARTNEWS.NET

Released August 31, 2021

<https://streetartnews.net/2021/08/philippine-street-art-scene.html>

ON TURNING THE OTHER WALL

BAGUIO CHRONICLE

Released October 27, 2020

<https://thebaguiochronicle.com/opinion/editorial/on-turning-the-other-wall/>

IN MANHATTAN, A MAKESHIFT FOREST IS HAUNTED BY THE GHOSTS OF IMPERIALISM

HYPERALLERGIC

Released June 20, 2021

<https://hyperallergic.com/657065/manhattan-makeshift-forest-haunted-by-ghosts-of-imperialism/>

IN SCORCHING NEVADA DESERT, PINOY ARTISTS SLAYED LIKE THE WIND

IRIS GONZALES

Released September 23 2022

<https://propertyreport.ph/tourism/2022/09/23/27268/in-scorching-nevada-desert-pinoy-artists-slayed-like-the-wind/>

CULTURAL IDENTITY IN BAGUIO MURAL

ELIZABETH LOLARGA

Released December 6, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1368467/cultural-identity-in-baguio-mural>

MAKING BAGUIO A CREATIVE CITY

VINCENT CABREZA

Released December 8, 2019

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1199197/making-baguio-a-creative-city>

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Released December 8, 2019

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