

2020-2024



VENAZIR

Street Muralist & Visual Anthropreneur



+1 415 568 5113



vhanamartinez@gmail.com



VENAZIR.COM



@VENAZIRMARTINEZ



Artist Profile

Venazir Martinez is a **Filipina visual anthropreneur**, and a **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.



”

Street art can be a supplementary learning tool for community building



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.



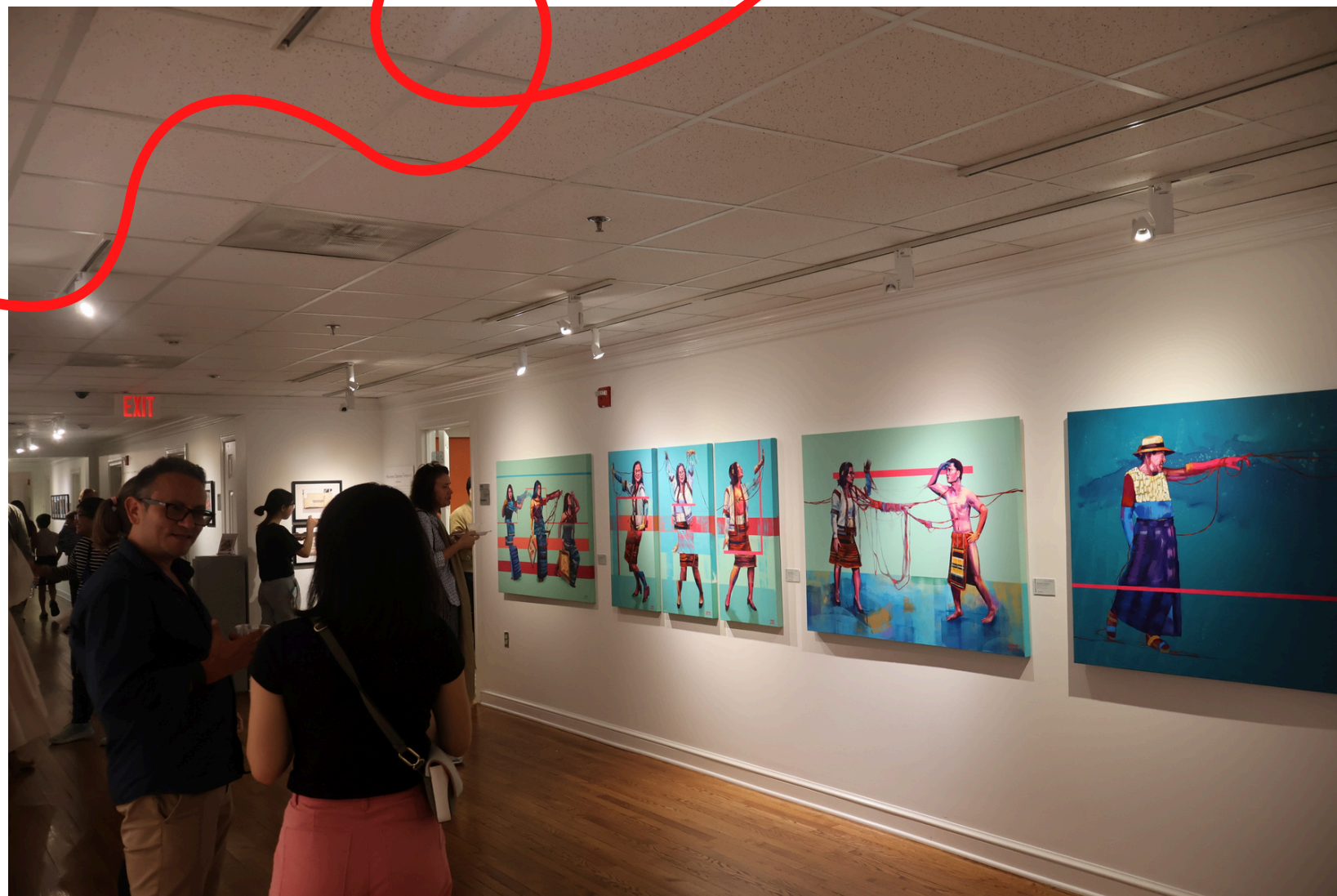
“ Sining Eskinita” | Multi-sensorial Festival , Carantes Street, Baguio City, Philippines | 2021



”

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

“Ani-Harvested Hopes” | 2500 SFT
275 5th St, San Francisco, California | 2024



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.

She was chosen out of 500 applicants to paint a mural alongside five incredible artists from all over the world for Yuba Sutter Arts and Health Festival in California in collaboration with the Yuba-Sutter Rotary Night Club





POSO: Our Well-being

21 ft x 21 ft | Exterior Latex Paint | Yuba City, California

In this mural concept, the blue lady, embodied by Filipino community leader Sonia Delen, adorned in Filipiniana attire is a poignant representation of Mother Nature, embodying the intrinsic connection between humanity and the environment. Positioned alongside her is the poso, symbolizing our access to natural resources and their essential role in sustaining life. A thirsty child, symbolic of the devastating impact of famine, highlights the urgent need for environmental stewardship and conservation efforts. The red thread, intricately woven throughout the composition, serves as a tangible link connecting individuals to their community and the spaces they inhabit, reinforcing the interconnectedness of human experience. Amidst the imagery, a withering California poppy serves as a subtle yet poignant reminder of the depletion of biodiversity and the fragility of ecosystems. However, amidst these challenges, a neon green recycled soda bottle emerges as a beacon of hope and resilience, symbolizing humanity's capacity to innovate and find sustainable solutions to our rapidly evolving environmental crises. The "poso" reminds viewers of the finite nature of resources and the need for sustainable practices. Through personal recollections and communal experiences, the mural encourages viewers to reflect on their relationship with the environment and their role in shaping a more sustainable future.

Luksong Baka: Leap of Faith

Acrylic and Spray Paint on Canvas | 48in by 48in | 2024

Luksong Baka, a traditional Filipino game, serves as a powerful metaphor for the resilience, courage, and communal spirit that define the Filipino immigrant experience. Each leap in the game is a true leap of faith, where players jump over progressively higher obstacles, mirroring the challenges immigrants face as they navigate life in a new land—overcoming barriers of language, culture, and distance from home. Through my work, I capture this dynamic movement and playful spirit, celebrating the enduring connection to cultural roots and the strength required to rise above life's hurdles and uncertainties. For Filipino immigrants, Luksong Baka evokes the sentiment of “Baka naman,” or “Maybe,” symbolizing the courage to embrace life's uncertainties for the betterment of their families.

*Painting Auctioned for \$9000 during the
PhilDev Gala and Awards at Westin SFO San Francisco, California
October 2024*

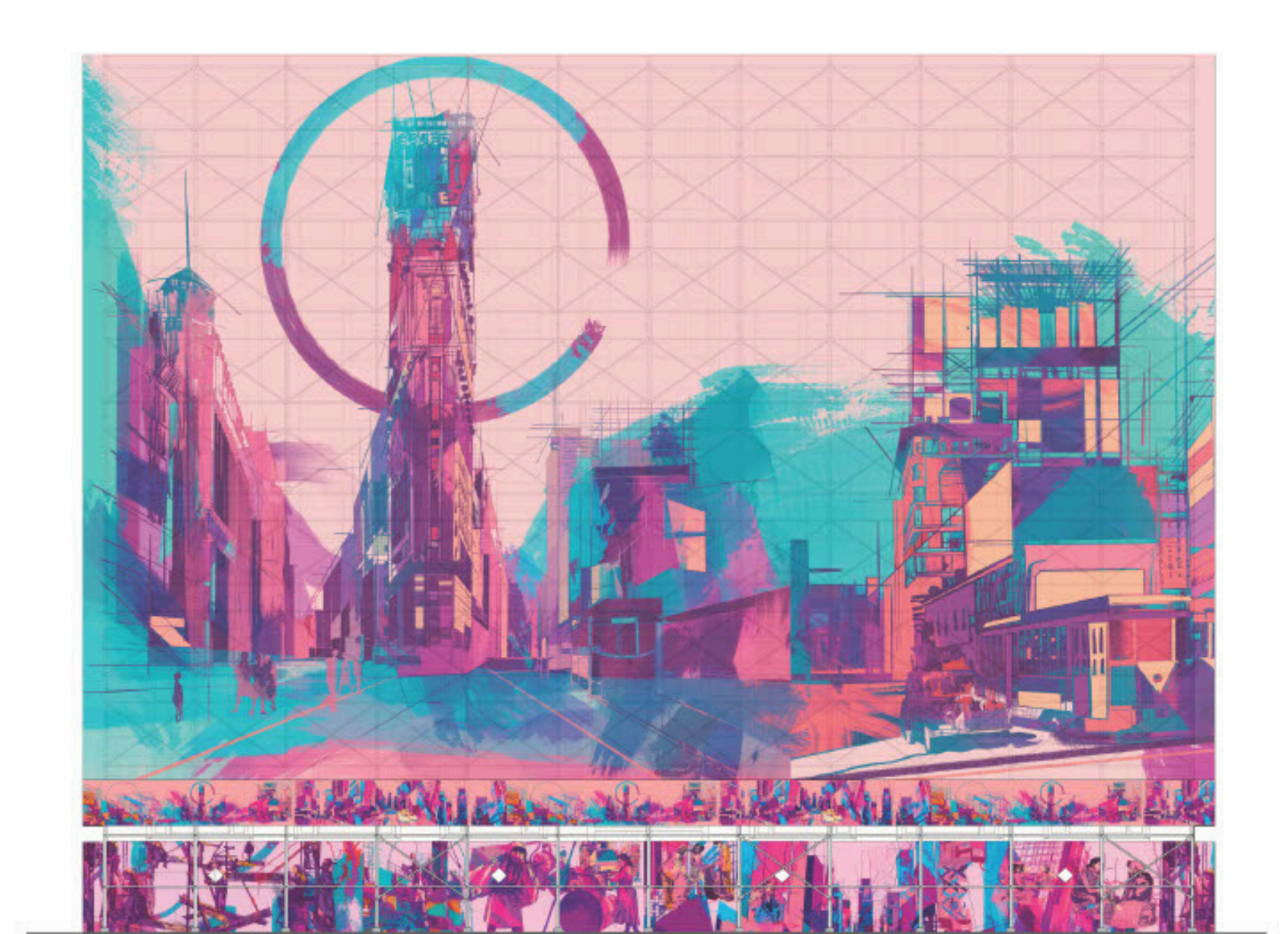






NYC Cultural Affairs City Canvas Program Grantee

She was selected as one of eight artists for the City Canvas Program by New York City's Department of Cultural Affairs. Through this program, she has contributed to public art projects celebrating cultural diversity and community identity, further solidifying her role as a global ambassador of Filipino heritage.



Venazir Martinez, *The Shaping of New York*, 2024

Artist Statement

Venazir, a Filipina street muralist and visual anthropologist, weaves a vibrant tapestry of intersectional stories, exploring the intricate relationships between human traditions and the ever-changing landscapes that shape them. Through her dynamic, fragmented, and animated works, she threads the narratives of diverse cultural communities in which she has immersed herself in, binding them with a symbolic red thread. With bold brushstrokes and a kaleidoscope of hues, Venazir strives to connect the world through her murals, creating a unified and resilient fabric that celebrates the beauty of our shared human experience.

Project Description

My art delves into the untold stories of migration, from the Industrial Revolution to the present day, and how they've shaped the city's iconic landscapes. Visualized through vibrant blocks of bold brushstrokes and delineated structures, I reveal the resilience and creativity of the people who've built New York City, generation by generation. From the bustling streets of Times Square to the ever-changing skylines, I capture the fleeting moments of New Yorkers amidst the city's architectural tapestry. These images are testaments to the diverse experiences woven into the fabric of the city, honoring the people who've made New York the vibrant, dynamic hub it is today. A poignant red thread weaves through the hearts of the people connecting the past to the present. I invite viewers to reflect on the enduring spirit of progress and the collective journey that's shaped the city. My art reminds us that the spaces we inhabit have a profound impact on our lives and communities, and that the stories we tell ourselves about the past shape our understanding of the present and our vision for the future.



San Diego Filipino Film Festival 2024

Festival Illustrator and Muralist | San Diego, California, USA | October 2024



LINK NYC ILLUSTRATIONS

In partnership with **The Philippine Consulate General in New York City**, LINK NYC approved these designs to be featured on LinkNYC screens throughout New York City from October 2024 - December 2024

Traces

Traces delves into the enduring journey of Filipino immigrants in the United States as they navigate the complex interplay between their new lives and the pull of their homeland, embodying the dual process of retracing and tracing—a synthesis of maintaining a connection to the Philippines while forging new identities in a foreign land. At the heart of this journey lies the quest for dual citizenship—a symbolic reclamation of identity, where immigrants seek to legally tether themselves to both lands. This pursuit reflects their desire for belonging in their new home while honoring the deep roots and cultural ties they continue to nurture with the Philippines. Dual citizenship bridges borders and strengthens the connection between past and present, homeland and diaspora, embodying the duality of Filipino immigrant life, where two worlds coexist and enrich one another.

Our Empire State of Mind

Our Empire State of Mind portrays a Filipina carrying a load of Balikbayan boxes while climbing the Empire State Building, which represents a unique ideation of “Empire State of Mind” shaped by the Filipino immigrant experience. This iconic skyscraper, a symbol of ambition and possibility in the American dream, contrasts with the humble yet profound Balikbayan box—a vessel of transnational love, sacrifice, and identity.

Through Our Empire State of Mind, we honor the determination and fortitude embodied in every Filipino immigrant’s journey.

”

There is a red thread that guides us. That thread stretches and tangles across time and space but never breaks.



“ Sining Eskinita” | Multi-sensorial Festival , Carantes Street, Baguio City, Philippines | 2021



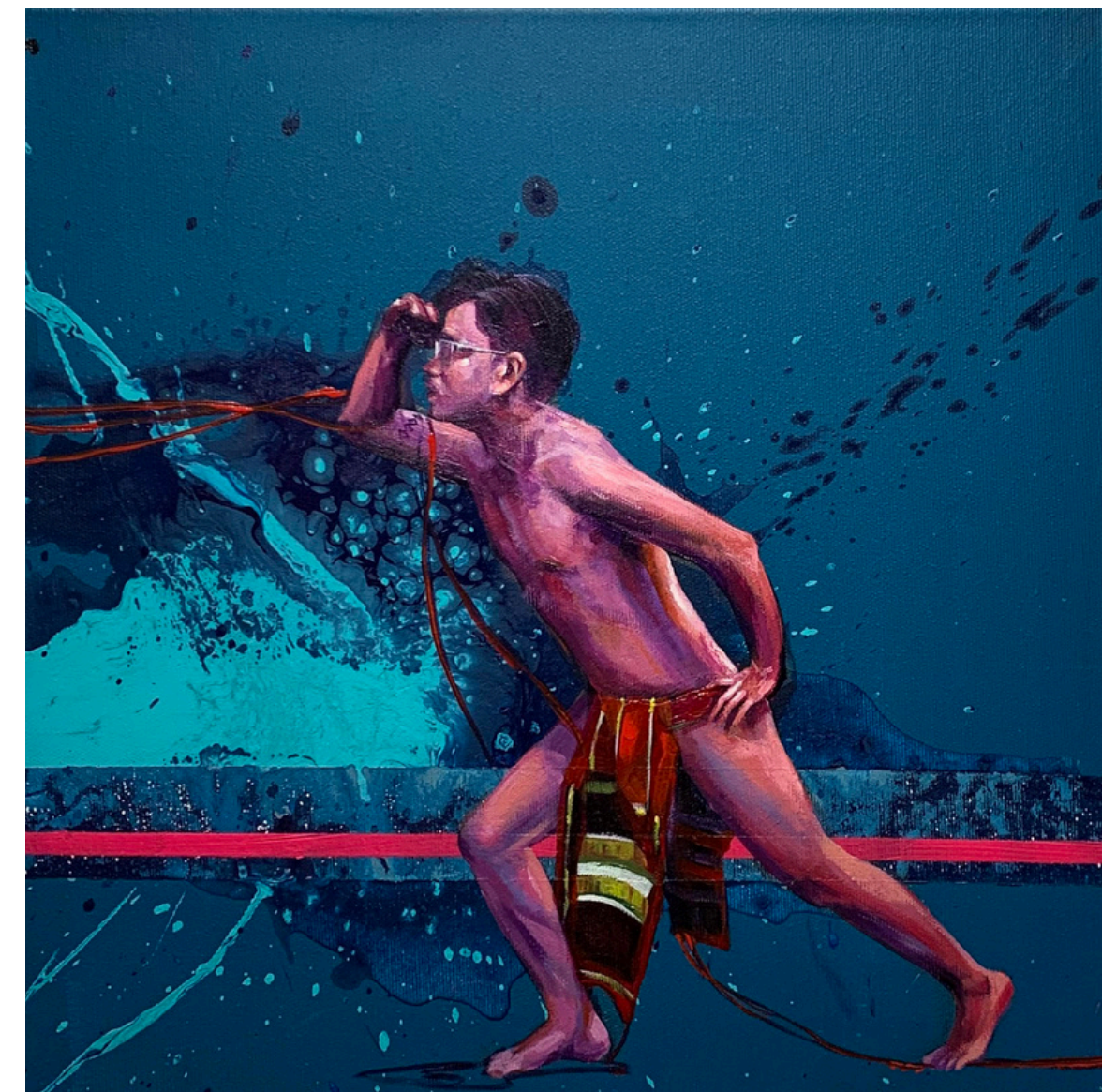
”

I had become the
vessel for the thread's
telos—a medium for
connection.

“Happiness Philippines”, Bulabog, Boracay, Philippines | 2023



Hila ni Lina | Acrylic on Canvas | 36in x 48in | 2023 | Durham, NC



Paglipad ni Jan | Acrylic on Canvas | 1ft by 1ft
| Triptych | 2023 | Durham, NC





"Unang tahi" | 10 ft x 20ft | Baguio City, Philippines | 2018



"Unang tahi" | 10 ft x 20ft | Baguio City, Philippines | 2018



"Apoli" | 10 ft x 10ft | Baguio City, Philippines | 2020



" Hila-bana " | 50ft x 60ft | Baguio City, Philippines | 2020



"Saliksikan" | Acrylic on Canvas | 24in x 36in | San Francisco, CA | 2022

On Canvas & beyond

an artist statement

Derived from the Hila-bana street art movement established in Baguio City, Philippines, the red thread acts as a visual cue that plots vestiges of a shared identity as it links back to the "self."



"Selves in time" | Acrylic on Canvas | 36in x 36in | 2022



Threads of Consciousness

Acrylic on Canvas | 12 in x 36 in
| Aesch, Lucerne, Switzerland |
September 2023

I'm on a journey inside myself. It's like my inner world is unfolding before me, and what appears scary is just the echo of fear in my heart, much like blood flowing through veins.



Threads of Consciousness 2

Acrylic on Canvas | 36 in x 48 in
| Aesch , Lucerne, Switzerland |
September 2023

Conscious beauty, as I perceive it, is not merely a superficial aesthetic. Instead, it's a profound and multifaceted revelation that goes beyond conventional definitions. It's the innate beauty that resides within each of us, waiting to be unearthed when we step beyond our perceived limitations and connect and embrace with our true selves.





Immerse

Acrylic on Canvas | 36 in x 48 in | Aesch , Lucerne,
Switzerland | September 2023

I'll always remember the sensation of drowning from six years ago, a pivotal moment that marked the beginning of my creative journey. As I faced the depths of the water, something profound happened—I had a shift in consciousness. In that moment, I not only saw my family and those closest to my heart, but I also glimpsed a world waiting to be unlocked. It was as though I had forgotten about the drowning itself. I entered a state of flow where the boundaries between myself and the environment dissolved, and a deep sense of conscious beauty emerged as a revelation. This transformation echoes the essence of my artistic exploration, where I delve into the connection between a multitude of selves and their surroundings. Through my work, I invite viewers to ponder beauty from a perspective that goes beyond the conventional, emphasizing the idea that genuine beauty is revealed when we embrace our true selves and explore the shared inner selves that connect us to the world.





Hila-hilata | 36in x 48in | Arcylic & Spray Paint on Canvas| 2021

ACRYLICS & SPRAYS

They conceptualize the multiple meaning of being a "Filipino" as fragmented and animated beings in various stages of becoming, compelling the audience to participate in their creation. As a result, a tapestry of selves stretching across time and space. I hope to provide a linked experience for the audience to cognitively map the process of the figure's 'perforated' embodiment's unresolved loss of identity.



Ammin x Hilabana | 36in x 48in | Arcylic & Spray Paint on Canvas| 2021



MARAMING SALAMAT!

Thank you!

📞 +1 415 568 5113 | +63 945 277 7740

✉️ vhanamartinez@gmail.com

🌐 VENZAIR.COM

📷 @VENAZIRMARTINEZ

