



West Bloomfield artist to have painting show in Philippines

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

The saying "You can't go home again" wouldn't apply to West Bloomfield artist Jose Romero. Romero will be leaving for a visit to his native Philippines, where his paintings will be featured in a one-person exhibit at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Manila. The show, opening May 18 and running to July 3, will be at the site of this year's Miss Universe Pageant. Her exco-office Amelia Ramos, the wife of the president, may attend.

To Philippines: Paintings by West Bloomfield artist Jose Romero, who works as a nurse-anesthetist in Southfield, will be featured in an exhibit in Manila starting next month. Women in Romero's works show strength and beauty, and the colors are rich.

"I think this is a great show," said Romero, who works as a nurse-anesthetist at the Straith Hospital in Southfield. "I'm going home, going to see my family."

This will be Romero's first exhibit in the Philippines. He was born and raised in Tayabas, Quezon, and left in 1963 to pursue a career as an artist in France, Canada and the United States.

Romero is an acrylic impressionist. He thinks the acrylic to get a watercolor effect. His paintings have an Oriental influence. Some images are softened as if by a gentle, misty rain. The colors are rich. Settings often have an exotic air, with lush landscapes and large flowers. Women, a predominant theme, show strength as well as beauty.

The artist's travels around the world serve as inspiration for much of his work. In others, such as one featuring musicians, his love of music was the spark ("I'm a frustrated guitarist").

About 30 pieces by Romero will be in the show. He will bring books to donate to high school students in the Philippines.

"I told the university I want all the students to come and see my work."

Coordinators at the cultural center contacted Romero about the exhibit after he was to be featured in a book called "Filipino

Achivers in America and Canada: Profiles in Excellence" by Isabelo Crisostomo, one of the Philippines' leading political and historical writers.

"I think I was lucky to be accepted."

Romero has exhibited his art in Southfield, Rochester, and Pontiac, as well as New York, Chicago, Toronto, London, Paris and Beijing, among other places. His first one-man show of 60 original paintings was in Southfield in 1974.

Romero studied art at the Paris-American Academy Beaux des Arts in 1978. He was one of three winners in the 1993 Michigan Art Exhibition and Competition in Detroit, was named one of the recipients of the Outstanding Men of Michigan Award for professional achievement as artist in 1976, and awarded the Einstein Academy Foundation Alfred Nobel Medal in 1991.

He is listed in "Who's Who in International Art," "International Directory of Arts" and "Who's Who in American Art." Romero is a board member of Concerned Citizens for the Arts in Michigan and a lifetime member of the Scarab Club.

"When I exhibit I'm thinking of the good fun. The exhibition is exciting because I'm showing my painting, the best... I can produce."

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