



OICA opens double exhibit, “Imprinted in Water” and “Iridescence”

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Who can resist a double treat, especially an art exhibit?

The Office for Initiatives in Culture and the Arts (OICA) is now holding a back-to-back art exhibit, “Imprinted in Water” and “Iridescence,” featuring artists Nicolei Buendia Gupit and Karla Sajona-Sta.Cruz.

Gupit’s “Imprinted in Water” showcases print artwork highlighting how humans rely on water resources, often at the expense of the environment. Gupit showcased twelve frames of woodcut print with water-soluble ink and watercolor on paper and also used wet pigment to dye surfaces to reflect the current state of water resources.

The exhibit also displayed five bottle-shaped resin with money prints inside to symbolize the challenge to viewers to consider the value of water resources, especially now that it is being privatized.

Through the exhibit, Gupit aims to make the audience reflect on water as a vital resource.

Karla Sajona-Sta.Cruz, the artist behind “Iridescence,” says it took 17 years to bring her solo exhibit to life. A nature enthusiast, painter, illustrator, and art educator with a degree in Child Development and Education, Sajona-Sta.Cruz used mixed media of acrylic, watercolor, and colored pencils to paint avian fauna—sunbirds, hornbills, and kingfishers—three of her favorite birds. Some species featured in the exhibit have already been declared endangered or near-threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Sajona-Sta.Cruz said that she named the exhibit “Iridescence” because, in real life, the featured birds show prismatic colors when the light hit their feathers. Through the exhibit pieces, Sajona-Sta. Cruz wishes to drive appreciation and interest in the beauty and conservation of our local birdlife.

The event was attended by Dr. Nathaniel Bantayan, vice chancellor for research and extension; OICA Director Jerry R. Yapo, artists Irma Dimaranan and Antonio Quillo, UPLB students, and art enthusiasts.

“Iridescence ”and “Imprinted in Water” officially opened on May 9 and will run until June 30 at the Sining Makiling Gallery in the DL Umali Hall. Art enthusiasts may visit from 8 am until 6 pm on weekdays. (KEAraguas with information from the [UPLB OICA Facebook page](#))

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