

*"The drawings of Maria Mari Murga chronicle her journey to the rich and colourful region of Mindanao where she spent part of her childhood and where she drew her inspiration. Growing from a diverse cultural background of Filipino and Spanish ancestry, she captured an almost life-like images of rural family life of the indigenous inhabitants in the provinces she visited and the beauty and culture of Mindanao."*

Vincent A. Casim

## EMPOWERING MINDANAO CRAFTSMANSHIP

The Exhibition showcases a selection of carved frames handmade in Mindanao. Based in Zamboanga City, the Rene Demafeliz Atelier is a team of carpenters, painters and furniture makers collaborating together to create bespoke pieces in wood. Beautifully crafted and unique, each frame is handmade in solid gimelina, resulting in fluid curved silhouettes inspired by Nature. Focusing on Islamic aesthetic, their work decorates Mosques and public buildings in Zamboanga, Basilan, Tawi Tawi and Jolo. These soulful pieces embrace and celebrate the rich cultural history of Mindanao.



## PLAN YOUR VISIT

**Sentro Rizal Washington DC**  
Philippine Chancery Annex Building  
1617 Massachusetts Avenue NW Washington DC 20036

Opening reception  
Friday 15 November 2019  
6:30pm to 8:30pm

Exhibition will run until 26 November 2019, 10am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Email [cultural@phembassy-us.org](mailto:cultural@phembassy-us.org) to schedule a visit  
[mariamarimurga@gmail.com](mailto:mariamarimurga@gmail.com) [www.mariamarimurga.com](http://www.mariamarimurga.com)

With special thanks to Henry B. Howard

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# LIWANAG

*A journey through the Philippines way of life*



*Sentro Rizal Washington DC presents an exhibition  
featuring the work of award winning Filipina artist  
Maria Mari Murga and Mindanao Craftmakers*

*15 - 26 November 2019*



**Maria Mari Murga** is a Filipina Spanish artist based in London. Her Filipino origins hail from Zamboanga City in Mindanao and Basque roots. The grand daughter of a WWII Bataan Death March survivor, Philippine history runs in Maria's veins. Trained in Florence, Italy, she specialized in Renaissance Painting Techniques: Orient and Occident are brought together under Murga's life vision.

Maria works from her studio in Hampstead, London. Her paintings are part of the private collections of prominent British and Philippine art collectors including well known corporate companies. Murga has exhibited internationally: The Annigoni Museum in Florence, The City Council in Madrid, Petley's gallery in Mayfair, The Mall Galleries, The Philippine Embassy in London, The Consulate of the Philippines in Miami, The Philippine Senate Congress in Manila and The Philippine Center in New York.

Her artworks have been awarded by prestigious Art Institutions such as The Royal Society of British Artists, The De Laszlo Foundation, The London Festival of Architecture, The Derwent Art Prize and The Pastel Society UK at The Mall Galleries in London.

Front page image:

**Dalagang T'nalak nasa bintana ng bahay kubo. Lake Sebu, Probinsya ng South Cotabato**  
*T'nalak girl in a nipa hut window. Lake Sebu, South Cotabato Province*



**Mga katutubong bata na nagsisibat pangingsida sa Dibut dagat – dagatan. Probinsya ng Aurora**  
*Indigenous children spearfishing at Dibut Bay. Aurora Province*

**Inspired** by Filipino Modern Masters Fernando Amorsolo and Vicente Manansala, expedition artist Maria Murga challenged the conventions of life and art by travelling to remote areas of rural Philippines as a plein air documenter of the world around her.

The excitement of Aurora indigenous children spearfishing, the majestic allure of a coconut dehusker in Baler, the charm of a fisherman unloading tuna at General Santos pier, the sensuality of a Zamboangueña in her prayers, are transformed into tangible monochrome drawings exalting the human spirit through intense emotions and expressive movement.

Based on her solid expertise in anatomy and humanist ideals, Murga passionately works with a classical light foundation and a contemporary vision to illuminate the powerful authenticity of Filipino provincial life from the shadows of the unknown. Through the artist's eye, the essence of the Philippines is revealed: a multicultural archipelago united in a visual poem of beauty, endurance and human dignity.

*With heartfelt gratitude, Maria would like to thank the support of the late Mr. Edgardo J. Angara during her travels to Baler. The paintings inspired by Aurora Province are dedicated to his remembrance.*



**Dalagang T'boli sa Lake Sebu. Probinsya ng South Cotabato**  
*T'boli girl in Lake Sebu. South Cotabato Province*