
Manila Women's Forum

A Network of Women Professionals

April 2005

Philippine Collectibles: The Art of Selection and Display

By Erlinda Enriquez Panlilio

Miguel Rosales, interior designer and expert on Philippine arts, artifacts, textiles and antiques, was MWF's guest speaker March 21 at the residence of Susan Nishihira, whose home lent itself to the talk, Susan being an artist and collector herself. Miguel encourages people to collect Philippine antiques and curiosities because these represent several cultures: Spanish, Chinese, European, Islamic, and even American. Philippine collectibles are both unique and varied, having many forms and types, from tiny beads to large furniture. Because one has experienced living in the country, knowing its people and customs, learning their history will give more meaning to the objects one collects.

What to Collect

Western-style furniture: Inlaid pieces from Laguna and Bulacan like armoires, chests, old altar tables, chairs, and escritorio or writing desks. These may be inlaid with fish bone or ivory, and may have silver knobs. They may be of mahogany, narra, or kamagong (ebony) wood. Nineteenth

century pieces are still available, although 18th Century furniture are Miguel's personal favorite. He showed his audience some pieces from his collection: a mid-19th Century chair from Batangas of yellow narra wood, with a rigid back and wide, curving arms. He also had a Philippine art nouveau chair, circa 1910, with inlay work, crossbound grains, carved legs, and a woven rattan seat.

He also showed photos of some art nouveau picture frames from the 1920s with carvings of Philippine plants and flowers.

Provincial types: Paminggalan or dish racks, almario or pillow racks (similar to an étagère without divisions), bangkô or (weathered) benches, dulang or low rectangular tables. Some people even buy farming implements like plows and sleds. In the US, curved plow handles are in museums labeled as tribal sculptures.

Northern tribal items:

1. Ceremonial/ritual boxes tied to animistic worship; also used to store rice grains.
2. Bulul or granary guardian figures. These look like tribal sculptures. The oldest dates to the 15th century; it is in a museum in Europe.

Southern tribal items:

1. Betel nut boxes of brass inlaid with silver
2. Gador or tall ceremonial brass jars used in marriages and treaties in Mindanao

Religious Items:

1. Icons like the 18th Century Mater Dolorosa from Bohol, from Miguel's collection.
2. Santos –Miguel also showed his 18th century San Vicente Ferrer wooden santo from Bohol, with

polychrome paint and gold leaf. The more expensive santos are of ivory, or may be combined with wood (the saint's face and hands would be in ivory)

3. Reliquaries—Miguel showed us a piece that contained bone fragments, believed to be that of a martyr.

Silver—these show off the craftsmanship of 18th Century silversmiths. Miguel brought samples from his collection: a Ramillete designed as carved flowers, used to decorate altars in pairs; a chalice from the 18th Century with rococo décor at its base; a candlestick with engravings of Augustinian symbols at the base.

Jewelry: Miguel showed slides of colonial gold jewelry such as peinetas or combs to hold a lady's hair in place. Some contained seed pearls and coral, and were generally in 10 to 12 karat

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Chinese Art: It's not only dynastic porcelain vases. Art mavens are buying contemporary works as well.

From BusinessWeek online

Next MWF Meeting

When: 6:30 p.m., Monday
April 18, 2005

What: Dr. Diana Cua will speak about her work with indigent breast cancer patients and the prevalence and treatment of breast cancer in the Philippines.

Where: Tricia Hoban's home, 1416 Campanilla, Dasmarinas Village, Makati

Bring: A contribution to the potluck dinner.

May meeting: 6:30 p.m.,
Monday May 16, 2005



Voice of the Chair

By Lisa Kircher Lumbao

Safety Reminders for Traveling by Car or Taxi

The following is from friend and MWF member Kathryn Nelson. It contains important reminders for all of us living in Manila.

I have been meaning to email you but things got very hectic after/during the holidays. Two days after Christmas I was violently attacked and mugged in the back of a cab coming back from Malate. It was very traumatic, but finally after some time has passed I am mostly ok.

The big reminder I would pass along to MWF women is ALWAYS ALWAYS check ALL four doors to make sure they are locked any time you take a cab. The cab driver wasn't in on the attack but his door wasn't locked so that's how the guy with the knife got inside the cab. He laid on top of me and tried to drag me out of the cab but didn't succeed.

In the end, I was lucky—I wasn't cut and I wasn't raped. I am pretty sure all he wanted was my money—which was in my purse—which I was laying on top of and eventually gave to him. The one thing (besides peace of mind) that couldn't be replaced were all the pictures in our digital camera (a wedding present...from the month of December).

So, I am sorry to say that the pictures I took that day Melissa and I visited you and little Aaron are gone. We just bought a new digital camera last week which is insured against theft. Needless to say I won't be riding in ANY CABS any time soon.

I just thought you should know and if possible it would probably be a good idea to send a safety reminder about things to do when riding in cabs to the MWF list.

Safety Reminders:

Most cabs don't have tinted windows, so if you are a foreign woman traveling alone, you are an easy mark.

Before Leaving The House:

1) Make a mental note of everything in your purse before you leave the house (camera, which credit cards, how much cash, jewelry, any form of identification, home address? etc.).

2) Keep cash, credit cards, ID, passport in your pocket or in a satchel under your clothes, so if they get your purse they don't know where you live or have difficult to replace documents.

3) When in doubt, leave it out. Only travel outside the house with stuff you can bear to lose or can be easily replaced (paraphrased from The Accidental Tourist). My AMEX and Bank of America Bank card were reported stolen and replaced within hours. It was my digital camera and personal items that couldn't be replaced.

4) Invest in theft insurance through your renters insurance. Most expats are covered under some company or government policy. Check to see what kind of coverage you have for theft that occurs OUTSIDE your home. If your company doesn't cover it, you can buy a local policy for peace of mind. Our new digital camera and laptop computer are covered under that kind of policy now.

Getting in the Cab:

1) Always take down the license plate and cab number BEFORE you get in a cab. Call a friend or family member to inform them that you are in the cab, x minutes away from your destination and give them the license plate and cab number over the phone. Make sure the cab driver notices you doing this.

2) Always make sure ALL 4 doors are locked once you get in the cab. Even if you are on the highway, traffic jams and pedestrian foot traffic make you a sitting target in stalled traffic.

3) Keep an eye on the cabbie and track his phone calls. In my case, he wasn't in on the attack, but I have heard of instances where the cabbie calls his friend who is ahead on the road to plan a joint attack.

4) Keep your cell phone out of

your purse and in your hand for easy access. If they take your purse, you still have a way to call home and the police.

(I had just called my husband, so I had my phone out of my purse. Since I was still clutching my phone underneath me after the attack, I was able to call my husband while the cabbie took me home. At that point I didn't know if the cabbie was in on it or if he would really take me home or to the police like he claimed, so being able to call my husband and have him on the phone was incredible peace of mind at an extremely terrifying moment).

5) If possible, never travel alone. If you are out with other girlfriends, like I was, pair up to increase the chances that everyone arrives home safely. Our car was color coded the day this happened. Make arrangements to car pool or if you must take a cab, double up—there is strength in numbers!

If You are Attacked:

1) Empty the contents of your purse on the cab floor (if they just want money you can throw your purse out the door and say the money's in my purse don't hurt me) This way you may avoid further injury and end up with more of your personal belongings. I wish I had done that because then I would still have my

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The Harvard Business Review has published an article entitled "Off-Ramps and On-Ramps: Keeping Talented Women on the Road to Success" and an accompanying research report.

Among the findings are that 37% of highly qualified women voluntarily leave their careers for some period of time and a further 21% take flexible or reduced hour options. Almost 60% of these women describe their careers as non-linear.

In addition, among women who leave their careers, the overwhelming majority (93%) wants to return to work. However, only 74% of those who want to rejoin the ranks of the employed manage to do so.

From "How to Keep Women on the Path to Success" by Sylvia Ann Hewlett

(Safety... Continued from page 2)
digital camera and priceless pictures from the Christmas holidays. Of course, if the cabbie is in on the attack he may end up with your belongings anyway, but chances are they are just after the cash.

2) Hide your phone underneath you, so they don't take the only way you may have left to call for help.

All that being said, it would be great if MWF could host a self defense class. I asked around at my gym and at work after it happened and the most I could find was a tai chi class. I was very conflicted about how much to fight back since he had a knife. It would be good to get some 'worst case scenario' training."

Thanks so much for sharing your story Kathryn. MWF offered a self-defense class years ago, but I don't know who to contact for one now. If anyone knows of a class or instructor, please let me know at lumbao@mozcom.com.

Taxi options

A safer option for taxi riders is to call one of the various taxi services. I use the following companies, which always provide me with a fairly new taxi (verses the old, stinky ones I often flag down on the street!). 373-TAXI is a dispatching service that includes several taxi companies, MGE (364-8260 or 363-6096), Trends (822-9345), R&E/EMP (293-5930, 330-1654). They all charge P50 above the meter and are willing to wait for you (P150/hour) or return to pick you up.

Acquaintance Rape

If it is against your will, it is against the law.



KaWoMeNaN

Selected and Edited by Beulah Pedregosa Taguiwalo

Myth: Rape is an impulsive act.
Fact: 58% to 71% of rapes are clearly planned.

Myth: Rape is motivated by sexual desire.
Fact: Rape is a crime of violence, motivated by anger and the desire for power and control.

Myth: Rape only happens when a stranger attacks women.
Fact: Most rapes and sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the victim.

Myth: A woman who truly resists can't be raped. If she didn't fight back, she must have wanted it.
Fact: Most women are victims of acquaintance rape. They don't fight because they know the person assaulting them, and can't believe that someone they know and trust would rape them. They imagine that the perpetrator will

come to his senses in a moment and stop.

Myth: They weren't hurt, they will get over it.
Fact: Physical trauma is the exception rather than the rule in the event of a sexual assault. Very few people want to be hurt emotionally or physically or to have control wrested from them. Psychological trauma can be as great or greater for physically uninjured persons as for those with physical trauma. Aside from professional medical help, victims of abuse need to be introduced to the activity of counseling. Counseling, in a warm, caring, nurturing and non-judgmental environment helps the victim to verbalize and share her inner most feelings and ventilate her fears and anxieties. Its aim is self-understanding, self-acceptance and self-realization. Counseling helps the victim to gain inner strength through self-acceptance, a clear purpose in life, the tenacity to achieve it, and the assertiveness that will not allow intimidation.

Myth: Victims provoke sexual assaults when they dress provocatively or act in a promiscuous manner.
Fact: Rape and sexual assault are crimes of violence and control that stem from a person's determination to exercise power over another. Neither provocative dress nor promiscuous behavior are invitations for unwanted sexual activity. Forcing someone to engage in non-consensual sexual activity is sexual assault, regardless of the way that person dresses or acts. (To be continued)

Would you like to be a phone counselor?

By attending a training program you can be eligible to volunteer as a phone counselor on Crisis Line. No previous experience necessary!

- Gain valuable crisis intervention skills
- Expand your knowledge of communication skills
- Learn advanced interpersonal skills
- Meet a variety of new people
- Training offered several times a year
- Flexible schedule when volunteering.

Next Courses: Evening Class - 7 June to 11 August, Tuesdays & Thursdays 6 to 9 pm.
Daytime Class - 20 September to 8 November, Tuesdays & Fridays 9 am to 1 pm. For further details, please call In Touch Community Services at Tel. #s 810-6233 or 893-1893; email intouch@i-manila.com.ph or log on to <http://www.in-touch.org>

(Philippine... From page 1)
gold. There were also long, gold filigree necklaces called tamborin worn with a baro't saya (a top of native fabric worn over a long skirt).

Antique Maps and Prints, Engravings – look out for old-style coloring.

Displaying Collections

1. Groupings of small or similar items work best

2. By theme: similar materials and types

3. Eclectic: Varying finishes, textures, and patinas

Use metal stands for sturdier objects, acrylic or Lucite for smaller objects

Lighting: Try focused lighting for drama. But remember that some objects (of ivory, textiles) are sensitive to heat and light.

Care and Preservation

1. A very dry climate will crack Philippine wood. Try to control humidity and moisture.

2. Dust lightly with a feather duster rather than a cloth which could damage the item. When an item needs thorough clean it should be brought to a professional.

3. Respect ritual and religious items. Refrain from touching the inside of a chalice, for example.

Where to Find Collectibles

1. First, do research: read books like *Philippine Household Antiques and Heirlooms*; *Filipino Style*; *Consuming Passions: Collectors and Collecting*.

1. Antique stores in Mabini and Ermita; in malls

3. Flea markets like “Segunda Mano” on the ground floor of Makati Cinema Square

4. Garage sales

In closing, Miguel said that collecting is a life-long pursuit that enriches the mind. One finds joy in the hunt. But one must edit periodically, weeding out the not-so-unique items. He reminded his audience that there is a difference between a collector and an accumulator. “Ultimately, we are not possessors, but rather, caretakers for future generations.” □

“Archiving Memory: The Art of Preservation” is an exhibit that will run through June 2005 at the University of Minnesota’s Elmer L. Andersen Library.

During the day, when natural light streams through the windows and the giant transparencies within their frames, the images of the Holocaust survivors take form on the walls and corridors.... In the evening, the library’s interior lights project the faces outwards, turning the building into a 35-foot-tall piece of art.

When you start collecting, always buy things you love and you’ll never regret your investment.

Get a second opinion (and even a third or fourth) if you have a lot of money on the line.

From eHow - Clear Instructions on How To Do (just about) Everything

The Manila Women’s Forum

The Manila Women’s Forum (MWF) is a cross-cultural network for women. It provides opportunities to build friendships, to talk to women of various cultures, and to share information about resources. Our meetings are intended to provide intellectual stimulation and lead to personal and professional development. All women are welcome to join. The current officers are **Lisa Lumbao**, Chair, Programs, Treasurer, and Newsletter. **Susan Nishihira**, Programs. **Heather Davenport**, Database. **Beulah P. Taguiwalo**, Newsletter, Website.

Cost of membership is P300 per year. Members receive a copy of the current mailing list in addition to the newsletter, which is also sent to non-members. A contribution is collected at each monthly meeting: P20 for members, and P40 for non-members. Please contact Lisa Lumbao at Tel. 812-3932, Tel/Fax 813-0168, or at lumbao@mozcom.com for more information about MWF.

Visit our website – a work in progress
www.geocities.com/manilawomensforum

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