

# Manila Women's Forum

A Network of Women Professionals

December 2010

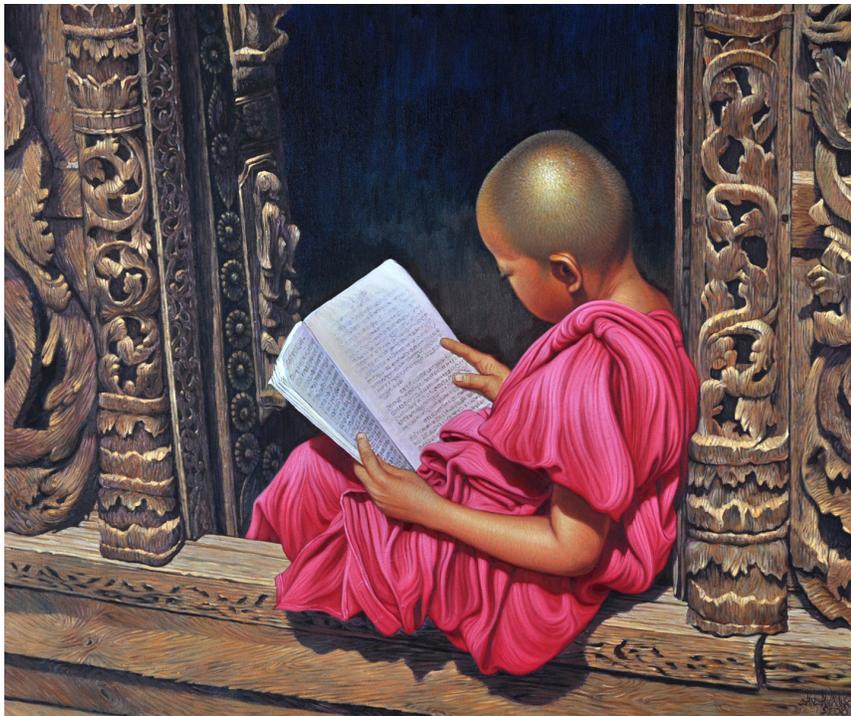
## The Art of Educating Children

By Anna McKay



*Two paintings by Burmese artist Zaw Zaw Aung*

*He was born in 1971 in the town of Danubyu and graduated from the Yangon (Rangoon) School of Fine Arts in 1990. His work is realistic and depicts scenes from daily life with some focus on Buddhist themes. He is one of the most highly regarded young artists in Burma and has exhibited extensively overseas and at home.*



Our speaker last November 17 came all the way from Singapore to share her two passions: helping others and art. Rachel Wee has traveled and lived all around Asia. She currently lives in Singapore, but also has lived in Indonesia for 10 years and Korea for 3 years and travels often to neighboring countries like Myanmar (formally Burma).

By chance, Rachel met an extremely talented Burmese artist by the name of Zaw Zaw Aung and since then, her love for the arts bloomed. With a dire need to spread the good works of Zaw Zaw Aung, Rachel held numerous

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*“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”  
(William Butler Yeats)*

### **December MWF Meeting** ■

**When:** 6:30 p.m., Monday, December 6. **What:** Julian Fowler, a volunteer from Virlanie Foundation, will talk about how Virlanie gives back the smile to street children. The Virlanie Children's Choir will join to celebrate the Christmas season. **Where:** Pilar Martinez-Miranda's home, 5400 Amorsolo corner Tamarind Road, Dasmarias Village, Makati. **Bring:** Something to share for the potluck dinner (we will also collect donations for Virlanie). **January Meeting:** Monday, 2011 January 17.

*(The Art... from page 1)*

exhibitions to sell his paintings and to raise funds for charitable organizations—including her current main involvement with Katilingbanong Tubag alang sa Edukasyon sa Kabataan (KATEK), a non-profit organization in Davao managing five schools for over two hundred children.

Rachel became well acquainted with the Philippines several years ago when she did work as a consultant here. Since then, she has continued to visit this country off and on. Several years ago, she was encouraged by a priest friend of hers to visit a group of children in Davao. The priest is involved in the management of five schools for children that were formally funded by an Austrian foundation for more than fifteen years. Recently they lost their funding and Rachel was asked if she could help raise money for the education of more than 200 children attending those schools. In order to meet this goal and others like it, Rachel and some of her contacts set up the Jesus I Trust in You (JITIY) Foundation to fund projects throughout Southeast Asia and Australia.

The schools are supported by KATEK. Rachel and the people involved with KATEK have a goal of raising at least US\$30,000 per year for the five schools in Davao. KATEK was started in 1992 and is the education for peace project in Davao, offering free education to over 200 children ranging from three to six years old, regardless of gender, socio-economic status, and religious affiliation. Its vision is “To nurture the young in a peaceful community and to

help them grow in love and care.”

“KATEK’s mission is to reach out and provide economically disadvantaged children in the most remote mountain villages with opportunities for a better future. KATEK achieves this by adopting the philosophy and methods of Dr. Maria Montessori; starting the children on early childhood education programs taught by a team of trained and dedicated teachers. Besides academia, each child is taught about the interconnectivity of life and their roles as stewards of Creation. The initial emphasis was on the psychological rehabilitation of the children, given the region’s turbulent past, but the mission gradually expanded to peace-building for the community.” (From the JITIY publication materials.)

Thank-you to Rachel for sharing her passions and caring nature with our group. And thanks so much to for JeanMarie for hosting!

If you are interested in supported KATEK, you may contact Rachel at Rachel.We@uni-global.com. To purchase one of Zaw Zaw Aung’s paintings to support KATEK, you may view them at the website [www.simonandhelenarts.com](http://www.simonandhelenarts.com).

The JITIY Foundation contact information is:  
324 Boundary Road  
Breakwater, Victoria 3219, Australia  
Telephone (61) (352) 480 148  
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Website: [www.jitiy.org.au](http://www.jitiy.org.au)

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*“An education isn’t how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It’s being able to differentiate between what you know and what you don’t.”*  
(Anatole France)

*“Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army.”*  
(Edward Everett)

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## Manila Women’s Forum

Manila Women’s Forum (MWF) is a cross-cultural network for women. It provides opportunities to build friendships, talk to women of various cultures, and 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: **Amy Alexander**, Message Board. **Julia Holz**, Treasurer, Membership and Programs. **Lisa Lumbao**, Chair. **Junie Navarro**, Message Board. **Lisa Stuart**, Message Board Moderator. **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 P50 for non-members. For more information about MWF, please contact Lisa Lumbao at Tel. 813-0168, or at [lumbao@mozcom.com](mailto:lumbao@mozcom.com).

Visit our website – a work in progress  
[www.geocities.com/manilawomensforum](http://www.geocities.com/manilawomensforum)

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MWF Newsletter  
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