



Theme: **ICONIC**

Format: **MPU (Monochromatic, Printed, Unrestricted)**

Synonyms: Image/identity, idol/statue, portrait/design, likeness, cultural representation, symbol, landmark, figure, model.

By this March or the first quarter of 2019, up to 80 of the total 155 members of the entire Club has been to at least one meeting. Not bad considering that about 15 regular and lifetime members of the entire roster cannot be reached, are not responding or are undecided in continuing their membership with the Club. There are still others that are also living abroad and are still considering their status for the future.

Attendance every month has been on the increase. We were 59 in attendance in March, 30 of whom are on track for perfect attendance. March had the most attendance so far in the last 3 months aside from having 8 judges and 3 guests.

Bob Sison is truly off to a good start as he wins best photograph and photographer of the month. His high scores brought him to lead the Master Cup for March which now has 64 members in its

roster. Likewise, Gino Cruz's second photo and photog of the month will ensure that he will be participating this year. There were 54 ICONIC entrants in all.

Congratulations and a warm welcome to Raphael "Evan" Alcover Grabador and Rolando "Boyet" Tanay Mesuga. Sponsors Javi Flores and

Annabelle Chavez were on hand to witness their induction. We thank you for continuing to serve our Club that busy night and the upcoming succeeding months. Thank you Volunteers for March Meeting: Tony Cancio, Dindin Lagdameo, Udsie Villarica, Renee Paraan and Manolo Roxas. Thanks guys! Our probees were swamped!



Bob Sison: Photo of the Month

## In-Town OTS: UP Philip Who?

I met **Philip Yu** in his bike in the UP Oval around 5:45AM on Sunday. His was a folding bike complete with front LED headlights and red blinking back lights. it was 21 degrees celsius! I walked with him for a while and saw him take his winning picture of the OTS. His early start paid off. With the added security of having each other to watch each other's back, it was fun and inspiring to shoot together with fellow members.

**Ruth David** was elated to have the second best scoring photograph considering that she just wanted to get together and have breakfast with other members especially since she lives nearby. Equally inspired was **Manette Benitez** who not only has the third highest scoring OTS picture but is also top scoring Photographer of this OTS. OTS



Philip Yu: OTS Winning Photo

King is officially in the running as **Manny Gaite** fills the second podium while Master Cup contender **Tony Cancio** fills the third. Honorable mention goes to high scoring OTS participants **Narcing dela Merced, Bob Sison, Ruth David** and

new members **Evan Gabrador and EJ Lagrimas**. We welcome them to our CCP family as inducted in March. 32 of the 39 participants are happy to secure this OTS as their first entry for the 2 OTS roster for 2019.



## THE JUDGE'S NOTES:

Invited by **Fred Yuson**, Architect **Remmel Ortiz** is the Estate Manager of 250+ hectare *Asiana City* in Paranaque, home of *Okada, Solaire, Nobu and City of Dreams* with soon-to-open *Ayala Mall* to rival MOA.

Invited by **Rey Ortiz**, past Press Photographer of the Philippines or PPP president **Gerardo "Jerry" N. Carual** is a

former *Manila Times* photojournalist and a 15 year member of the Cinema Evaluation Board under the Film Development Council of the Phil. of the Office of the President. He founded and is now running **SARUF: Search and Rescue Unit Foundation** which has been in operation for the last 10 years. Jerry was looking for "art that looks like it can't be done with a cellphone". Judging only for the second time at CCP, this time for **ICONIC** themed contest, he didn't agree with set-up shots which he determined on his own.

Invited by **Mark Bautista**, **Gerard "Popo" Suanes** is a fellow educator in marketing from the *UP College of Fine Arts*. While at *Citibank* he helped create the first electronic banking system that became the ATMs today. Popo was also "not into set-up shots and was looking for images with a story to tell".

Veteran CCP scorer and 30 year advertising photographer **Rene Mejia** has been judging for the CCP for over 20 years.

**Maria Angelita "Litt" Abad** was the executive assistant for **Jaime**

and **Bea Zobel** for 33 years. After being exposed to works of art in and out of photography, Litt was particular about any striking lighting effect, lighting angles and even reflections of images.

Invited by **Fred Yuson**, businessman and photo hobbyist **Renato "Ato" Yap** is the *Founder of Pacific Internet*, a service provider, which was eventually bought out by Smart. He was looking for the most emotionally appealing image.

Architect **Popi Laudico** is a photo hobbyist and is the author and photographer of her own book, *Shaw Boulevard*, recently published by UST about her family home and story that revolves around this historic boulevard.

Architect **Bart B. Vista** is back in Manila from Malaysia where he has been practicing architecture since 1989. He was particularly looking for architectural design and compositions "that must speak to you or with a message to convey".

Some judges did not fancy set-up or set-up looking compositions. 7 OTS participants had a failed entry in the OTS.

## Reflections

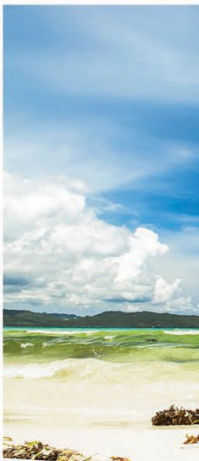
by Kiko Balagtas

I am so blessed to have been mentored by two of the great photographers in our Club; Mang Rudy de Leon and Emil Davocol.

Mang Rudy, my sponsor, printed all my entries during the film days. Saturday mornings before the first Monday contest, I would go to their house in PhilamLife Village in Las Pinas with my wife Bebot and our youngest son Ian, who was still breast feeding from his mom then, in tow. I would pre-select four to six photos for entries earlier that week but would still bring my whole bodega because six out of ten, Mang Rudy, after looking at my selection, would blurt, "Wala ka nang iba?". He would then proceed to tell me that the photo I showed him was either "magulo" or "washed out" or "hindi matalim" or "hindi malinaw ang subject". But what I dreaded most was when, after going thru my bodega, Mang Rudy would look at me sullenly and say, "Kiko, shoot ka pa!". That would mean scurrying back home, picking up my camera, asking Bebot to drive the car, who would oblige with Ian latched on to her breast most of the way, and go around looking for the right shot. That was how I learned my photography 101.

From Davoks, my other sponsor, I learned thru observation mainly because he does not talk much. One has to watch and learn. I would hang out in his studio in Mile Long and watch him shoot products. From these I learned perspective and lighting. During OTS's, I would call him a few days before the date and offer him ride just to make sure I will be in his company. Invariably, that meant Davoks, Mang Rudy, the late Waldy Cruz, the late Paul Yan and me ending as a group. I noticed that even if we were just feet apart while shooting, Davoks would come out with amazing photos that I did not see or found remarkable when we were in the field. I realized that he can read light and shadow just like the way a film will record it. I tried to learn this, but I am nowhere near Davoks' ability.

I owe my Master Photographer Cup to Davoks and Mang Rudy. Around April 2000, I was on top of the MPC leaderboard and in one of our conversations, Davoks told me, "Pag number one ka pa din ng June, pangatawanan mo na". And so, I did, with him and Mang Rudy morphing intomy de facto coaches. We discussed what to shoot and how to execute the remaining themes in the contest. They both vetted my entries and asked me to shoot again



## CONTEST

### ICONIC

### B&W PRINT

RANK	PHOTOGRAPHER	ENTRY 1	ENTRY 2	TOTAL
1	Sison, Bob	4.8800	4.1000	8.9800
2	Cruz, Gino	4.1666	4.6333	8.7999
3	Mesuga, Boyet	4.3000	4.4500	8.7500
4	Lagrimas, EJ	4.2666	4.3800	8.6466
5	Roxas, Manolo	4.3500	4.2500	8.6000
6	Sto. Domingo, Raymund	4.2966	4.3000	8.5966
7	Quimel, Lito	4.0966	4.4433	8.5399
8	Santos, Raffy	4.6833	3.8300	8.5133
9	Cumagun, Jaime	4.0300	4.4500	8.4800
10	Roces, Miles	4.2466	4.2333	8.4799
11	Bautista, Emir	4.4800	3.9666	8.4466
12	Gutierrez, Gutch	4.1133	4.3000	8.4133
13	Yuson, Fred	4.4500	3.9500	8.4000
14	Del Rosario, Fred	4.1166	4.1966	8.3132
15	Villarica, Udsie	4.1300	4.1800	8.3100
16	Riingen, Leo	3.8666	4.4000	8.2666
17	Yu, Philip	3.9000	4.3333	8.2333
18	Cruz, Erikk	4.3666	3.8500	8.2166
19	Lilles, Tony	3.9666	4.1966	8.1632
20	Samson, Juni	3.9500	4.1833	8.1333
21	Bautista, Bien	3.9800	4.1500	8.1300
22	Hettige, Tilak	4.6133	3.4833	8.0966
23	Grabador, Evan	4.2833	3.8000	8.0833
24	Apuya, Armand	3.8166	4.2500	8.0666
25	Ocampo, Nesty	4.0666	3.9733	8.0399
26	Lagdameo, Dindin	3.8000	4.2133	8.0133
27	Castillo, Quincy	4.2500	3.6966	7.9466
28	Valmonte, Cha	3.8800	4.0433	7.9233
29	Garrido, Jun	4.0800	3.8300	7.9100
30	Buenaventura, Jorge	4.2300	3.6466	7.8766
31	Montalban, Joey	4.1600	3.7133	7.8733
32	Valera, Stephen	3.8300	4.0333	7.8633
33	Santos, Tito	3.8933	3.8833	7.7766
34	Guingona, Jojo	3.7500	3.9800	7.7300
35	Paraan, Renee	3.8833	3.7800	7.6633
36	Balagtas, Kiko	3.7966	3.8633	7.6599
37	Viñas, Chito	3.3666	4.2833	7.6499
38	Abejo, Tim	3.5800	3.9833	7.5633
39	Ortiz, Rey	3.6800	3.8766	7.5566
40	Serrano, TG	3.8966	3.6600	7.5566
41	Antonio, Joey	3.8366	3.6633	7.4999
42	Benitez, Manette	3.6500	3.8333	7.4833
43	Uy, Patrick	3.9666	3.5033	7.4699
44	Dela Merced, Narcing	3.8300	3.6366	7.4666
45	Rodriguez, JR	3.6266	3.8000	7.4266
46	Cachero, Eric	3.7966	3.6133	7.4099
47	Lagonera, Jake	3.7300	3.6133	7.3433
48	Garbanzos, Gino	3.6466	3.6833	7.3299
49	Cancio, Tony	3.7033	3.5000	7.2033
50	Banaga, Ed	3.4633	3.7000	7.1633
51	Chavez, Annabelle	3.2500	3.9133	7.1633
52	Hermogenes, Jimmy	3.7066	3.3900	7.0966
53	De Leon, Rudy	3.3800	3.5000	6.8800

## CONTEST

### UP OTS

### DIGITAL FILE

RANK	PHOTOGRAPHER	ENTRY 1	ENTRY 2	TOTAL
1	Benitez, Manette	4.0166	4.6833	8.6999
2	Gaite, Manny	4.6166	4.0666	8.6832
3	Cancio, Tony	3.9833	4.5333	8.5166
4	Yu, Philip	4.9400	3.4500	8.3900
5	Dela Merced, Narcing	4.5333	3.8000	8.3333
6	Sison, Bob	4.2500	4.0166	8.2666
7	David, Ruth	4.6833	3.4166	8.0999
8	Grabador, Evan	3.8500	4.1166	7.9666
9	Lagrimas, EJ	3.6500	4.0500	7.7000
10	Yuson, Fred	3.3166	4.3333	7.6499
11	Chavez, Annabelle	3.9500	3.5500	7.5000
12	Bautista, Emir	3.8833	3.6000	7.4833
13	Villarica, Udsie	3.9500	3.5166	7.4666
14	Viñas, Chito	4.1500	3.3000	7.4500
15	Banaga, Ed	4.0166	3.4000	7.4166
16	Sto. Domingo, Raymund	3.4033	3.9666	7.3699
17	Castillo, Quincy	3.2500	4.0666	7.3166
18	Apuya, Armand	3.6500	3.6166	7.2666
19	Hermogenes, Jimmy	3.7166	3.4833	7.1999
20	Dela Merced, Melissa	3.2333	3.9166	7.1499
21	Del Rosario, Fred	3.3433	3.7666	7.1099
22	Mesuga, Boyet	3.1666	3.9333	7.0999
23	Roxas, Manolo	3.0166	3.9500	6.9666
24	Ortiz, Rey	3.1833	3.7333	6.9166
25	Abejo, Tim	3.3166	3.5500	6.8666
26	Garbanzos, Gino	3.3500	3.5166	6.8666
27	Lagonera, Jake	3.7166	3.1166	6.8332
28	Paraan, Renee	3.2833	3.2333	6.5166
29	Santos, Tito	3.3500	3.0500	6.4000
29	Santos, Raffy	3.0166	3.3833	6.3999
31	Jaucian, Jay	3.0333	3.3666	6.3999
32	Valmonte, Cha	3.1833	3.0833	6.2666
33	Lilles, Tony	0.0000	4.1000	4.1000
34	Lagdameo, Dindin	3.7833	0.0000	3.7833
35	Quimel, Lito	0.0000	3.5833	3.5833
36	Balagtas, Kiko	0.0000	3.3666	3.3666
37	Cruz, Erikk	3.1500	0.0000	3.1500
38	Hettige, Tilak	0.0000	3.0166	3.0166
39	Ocampo, Nesty	3.0000	0.0000	3.0000





## CAMERA CLUB Meeting March 4, 2019



when these do not pass their scrutiny. But more than this, I felt that they purposely pulled back on their own entries to increase my chances of winning. They will not admit this of course but I know in my heart they did. I felt there was no shame in that because I know that I won the Cup on the shoulders of two great friends.



Volunteers for March Meeting: Tony Cancio, Dindin Lagdameo, Udsie Villarica, Renee Paraan.  
Not in picture: Manolo Roxas. Thanks guys!  
Our probees are over worked!

# MASTER PHOTOGRAPHER'S CUP MARCH

RANK	PHOTOGRAPHER	TOTAL
1	Sison, Bob	23.8599
2	Cancio, Tony	22.8795
3	Mesuga, Boyet	23.8014
4	Grabador, Evan	22.8405
5	Benitez, Manette	22.0208
6	Bautista, Emir	22.8851
7	Sto. Domingo, Raymund	22.3903
8	Apuya, Armand	22.3000
9	Dela Merced, Narcing	20.9590
10	Ortiz, Rey	22.3533
11	Santos, Raffy	22.8393
12	Garbanzos, Gino	22.1088
13	Lagonera, Jake	21.3370
14	Lilles, Tony	23.1934
15	Santos, Tito	20.8660
16	Paraan, Renee	20.1850
17	Del Rosario, Fred	19.5507
18	Yuson, Fred	18.9337
19	Villarica, Udsie	18.7180
20	Cruz, Erik	22.8793
21	Lagrimas, EJ	18.2643
22	Castillo, Quincy	18.2948
23	Roxas, Manolo	18.5842
24	Lagdameo, Dindin	21.7495
25	Chavez, Annabelle	17.9963
26	Hermogenes, Jimmy	17.3866
27	Valmonte, Cha	18.1258
28	Banaga, Ed	16.8878
29	Yu, Philip	14.9533
30	Gaite, Manny	14.6415
31	Quimel, Lito	19.6393
32	Cumagun, Jaime	22.9599
33	Riingen, Leo	22.8900
34	Balagtas, Kiko	19.1721
35	Bautista, Bien	22.4740
36	Samson, Juni	22.2548
37	Antonio, Joey	22.1444
38	Viñas, Chito	14.6499
39	Garrido, Jun	22.0842
40	Gutierrez, Gutch	22.0712
41	Roces, Miles	21.8036
42	De Leon, Rudy	20.5525
43	Hettige, Tilak	15.3691
44	Guingona, Jojo	18.0737
45	Valera, Stephen	18.0665
46	Serrano, TG	17.9486
47	Ocampo, Nesty	14.9299
48	Uy, Patrick	17.6508
49	Cachero, Eric	17.4333
50	Cruz, Gino	15.3661
51	Montalban, Joey	14.9808
52	Buenaventura, Jorge	14.6341
53	Abejo, Tim	7.5633
54	Rodriguez, JR	13.4491
55	Montifar, Miko	10.9935
56	Montifar, Raul	10.2755
57	Reyno, King	7.5705
58	Bernardo, Aimee	7.2844



# A Talk with Xyza Bacani:

From DH to Magnum Foundation NY Fellowship Awardee (2015).

By **Tony Lilles**, CCP Correspondent

*First and foremost, "I am an observer", says Xyza. "I shoot with feelings for my subject and love to tell the story of our people".*

Remarkable and uplifting is this story of a domestic helper turned professional photographer. Xyza Cruz Bacani is a second-generation domestic helper. She declares: Separation of families due to an occupation is the biggest sacrifice a person can make for their family. *"Migrant workers working abroad and alone commonly took pictures (and sent to their families) of their assigned households, employer's homes, destinations, beautiful places and great food on the table to show their families they were okay and living fine but they, in fact, really did not have time to enjoy where they were and did not really eat those food in their Master's table."* Her mother, for example, never went out while working in Hong Kong for 7 years. She didn't even bother to learn how to train or bus. When Xyza realized this, on her first visit to her mom, she borrowed a camera and started taking pictures of HK so she could

She continues to expound and describe how migrant workers take on the little tasks in the home that allows their employers to live comfortably in order to carry out their own essential duties in their own workplace. The DH's service becomes paramount when they are raising, nurturing and caring for the very children of their employers on a daily basis. She goes on to emphasize how Filipino OFWs fill in the undesirable jobs, yet essential to completing the proper function of vital services around the world. Like the air we breathe, we die without it. Yet we take it for granted in this busy and chaotic world. *"Without them (the OFWs), the world could stop"* she exclaimed!

She describes herself as a **Documentary photographer** and says she *"still doesn't understand the art world. Not yet."* She just wants to present situations and stories. When she was told that her pictures were good because *"these depicted stories of people similar in their plight as hers"* was when she realized that she was capturing the individual stories or hardships of those she identified with.

Xyza finished high school and 2 yrs of college but learning in an institution is not in her. To her *"learning"* is in the interaction with

people. She thrives by *"always asking why and always searches for the context of things."* Born in 1987, she started raising her two younger siblings when her mother first left. She was 8! She doesn't want to demean her father for staying in Manila to be their Mr. Mom and feels his father also did the ultimate sacrifice for a Filipino man: to stay home and raise their family while the mother was (more suitable to be) a DH. She is proud of her father's sacrifices. A good man, loyal to her mother and her family, and taught them correct values even though they lived a very poor life in their barrio. But being raised by a father had its deficiencies: When she had her first menstruation, she thought she was going to die! Nobody educated her about puberty and women's cycle!

Her popular posts in social media eventually earned her a Magnum Foundation Fellowship in New York (which offers mentorship and stipends to early-career practitioners who are at a critical moment in their development as photographers). At first, Xyza didn't want to take up this fellowship because she wanted to continue to work and send her income home to support their family. She didn't tell anybody. Her employer had to find this out in the local news! When her boss found out about her circumstances, she fired Xyza to make her go to New York and receive her fellowship! Xyza always felt she was destined for bigger things primarily because of *"the empty life her family sacrificed for her and her 2 siblings"*. This lifelong search finally gave way to her finding her mission in life: **To Uplift the Lives of Migrant Workers.**

When asked about the Oscar's Academy-award winning film, **Roma**, Xyza said it *"was made by the privileged, for the privileged"*. A movie from the perspective of the rich viewer. I can't wait to see her version of *Roma*. Maybe one day she will tell her story. Her present projects are behind a movie camera!

Source: **CHANGING THE NARRATIVE: An Intimate Conversation on Transformation and Photography.** With Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala. Held Tuesday, March 5, 2019. At Manila House.



Xyza Bacani:

show her mom the world outside her workplace. This started her interest in photography as she also became a DH in HK. She was self-taught in her camera skills and it took her a decade to get the recognition she deserved.

**Her new book is titled We Are Like Air.** "Our *amo* needs us like the air we breathe! We are indispensable in their daily life. Yet, we are easily taken for granted."

