

2019 Master Cup Winner:

The Recruitment of Boyet Mesuga

When I recruited Boyet Mesuga into the Camera Club of the Philippines, I did not know him that well yet, but I certainly knew of him. I knew that he had won the Discovery of the Year Award in 2017 for the International Photography Awards. When I saw his photographs, I figured that he was no ordinary photographer; he was perceptive and he had depth. It seemed to me at the time that he was a guy who could wait for the right moment and not be tired by waiting.

I had a debate with myself if I should recruit him into the Club. I knew that we only recruited people we knew. That was a cardinal, albeit unwritten, rule. I felt however that people we recruit into the Club should have both talent and values, but first and foremost, they need to have talent, otherwise the Club would be no different from other social clubs. I felt that since we compete with each other on a regular basis, we need to compete with the best out there. This is the only way we will learn. This is the only way we could evolve and be worthy of the name "Camera Club of the Philippines."

I asked Annabelle Chavez – who knew just about anybody who owns a camera – if she knew Boyet, and she said that she also did not, but she might have a friend who does. So, over a year ago, we were finally introduced to him.

When I met him for the first time, I saw that he was the very definition of "low-key", the kind of guy who would not speak unless spoken to. He was not the excitable kind, and I was worried that he might not fit into the culture of the Club. It turned

out that he felt intimidated by the Club. He had the impression that it was full of talented and creative photographers and that he might not be qualified to become a member. I assured him that he had nothing to be afraid of.

After, Annabelle and I asked him to attend a meeting, and he did. He stayed that day, and he came back one more time to observe. When he was inducted as a probationary member, Annabelle and I signed on as his sponsors, having gotten to know him a little more.

I learned that he was a web programmer for *Viva Entertainment, Inc.* which must have given him a background in graphics. He also said that when he was starting out, he had taken courses with the *Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation*, and that he had been competing in the *PhotoWorld Cup*. He had also been an active member of the *Manila Avid Photographers Club*, where he had won the *Photographer of the Year* awards in 2015 and in 2017, and at *Neutral Ground Reborn*, a Facebook page that holds daily photo competitions online. In short, along with his *IPA Discovery of the Year Award*, Boyet was the classic multi-awarded photographer. Despite that, he never put on airs.

In time, I observed that he had become a dependable and hardworking probee, all the while remaining humble. He said that he felt happy that he had gained new friends in the Club, notably his batch mates. He also learned a lot by just being pit against those of his new-found peers.

I asked him how he conceptualizes a shot. He said that he tries shooting from different angles, from adopting a bird's eye view to shooting from a very low angle and sometimes going extremely close. He said he tries to look for the best possible perspective when shooting.

Boyet counts *Darwin Gernale* and *Francis Nollan* as his idols. He has had the opportunity to shoot with the two and they have been gracious enough to share their techniques with him. *Darwin Gernale* has a knack for capturing the right moments on the street. *Francis Nollan* has the capacity to turn an ordinary scene into an extraordinary photograph with the simplicity of his composition, and the use of light and shadows.

Boyet feels that a good photograph is one that has the ability to communicate with its viewers; it should be able to tell a story by its emotion, composition and lighting.

Boyet's journey into becoming a Master Photographer Give was no easy feat. He had problems with being able to balance his time between work and his passion for photography.

This 2019 is the year Boyet finally came into his own. He is now sure of himself, having gotten enough exposure last year. He showed more patience, creativity and willingness to expand his skillset. Finally, he has become a Master Photographer of the Camera Club of the Philippines, but not just any Master Photographer. He is one of the fastest to become one after becoming a member. The bold experiment worked.



By Javier Flores



CAMERA CLUB WINNING ENTRIES Year 2019

OTS Winners



1. Philip Yu: *UP OTS*



2. Gutch Gutierrez: *EL NIDO OTS*



2. Manolo Roxas: *EL NIDO OTS*



3. Rudy de Leon: *MYANMAR OTS*



4. Evan Grabador: *QC CIRCLE OTS*



5. Rey Ortiz: *SIARGAO OTS*

Monthly Winners



JANUARY: Tony Cancio



JUNE: Tito Santos



FEBRUARY: Tony Lilles



JULY: Bob Sison



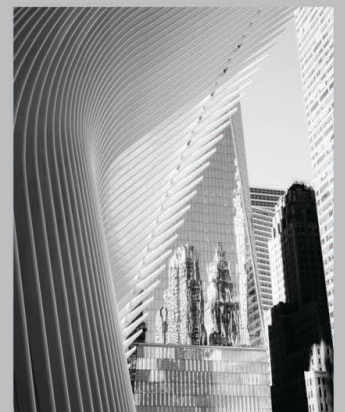
MARCH: Bob Sison



AUGUST: Jaime Cumagun



APRIL: Boyet Masuga



SEPTEMBER: Manny Gaité



MAY: Erik Cruz



MAY: Jun Garrido

Master Cup Competition 2020 2020 Monthly Themes

January	CPG	Serenity/Peace
February	CPrU	Vanishing Profession
March	BWPU	Elderly
April	CPG	Geometric
May	CPrU	Still Life
June	BWPU	Bodyscapes
July	CPG	Rural Scene
August	CPrU	Places of Worship
September	BWPU	Mother & Child

CPG: Color Print Global
CPrU: Color Projected Unrestricted
BWPU: Black and White Print Unrestricted

All Filipino OTS Schedule:

January 24-27: Dinagyang Iloilo
March 2nd Week: Pasig River
May(4th week) or (1st Week) June: Banaue
July (2nd week): City of Manila



CAMERA CLUB WINNERS Year 2019

MONTHLY COMPETITION PHOTO OF THE MONTH

January	Open	CPG	Antonio G. Cancio
February	Natural Pattern	CProjU	Antonio D. Lilles
March	Iconic	MPU	Roberto B. Sison
April	Dance	CPG	Rolando T. Mesuga
May	Flora & Fauna	CProjU	Erikk O. Cruz
May	Flora & Fauna	CProjU	Wilfredo M. Garrido Jr.
June	Surreal	MPU	Jose F. Santos
July	Perfectly Timed	CPG	Roberto B. Sison
August	Worm's Eye View	CProjU	Angelo Jaime T. Cumagun
September	Diversity	MPU	Manuel B. Gaité

MONTHLY COMPETITION PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE MONTH

January	Open	CPG	Antonio G. Cancio
February	Natural Pattern	CProjU	Federico M. Ortiz
March	Iconic	MPU	Roberto B. Sison
April	Dance	CPG	Rolando T. Mesuga
May	Flora & Fauna	CProjU	Gino G. Garbanzos
June	Surreal	MPU	Wilfredo M. Garrido Jr.
July	Perfectly Timed	CPG	Armando G. Apuya
August	Worm's Eye View	CProjU	Raphael L. Santos
September	Diversity	MPU	Manuel B. Gaité

OTS TOP PHOTO

February 16-17, 2019	UP	Philip Clayton S. Yu
April 26-29, 2019	El Nido	Anthony R. Gutierrez
April 26-29, 2019	El Nido	Manuel R. Roxas
June 21-24, 2019	Myanmar	Rodolfo M. de Leon
August 10-11, 2019	Quezon City Memorial Circle	Raphael Evan A. Grabador
September 11-14	Siargao	Federico M. Ortiz

OTS TOP PHOTOGRAPHER

February 16-17, 2019	UP	Maria Carmen R. Benitez
April 26-29, 2019	El Nido	Manuel R. Roxas
June 21-24, 2019	Myanmar	Rodolfo M. de Leon
August 10-11, 2019	Quezon City Memorial Circle	Raphael Evan A. Grabador
September 11-14	Siargao	Manuel B. Gaité

100% Qualifier

Monthly Themes	OTS (5)
Rolando T. Mesuga	Raphael L. Santos
Raphael L. Santos	Armando G. Apuya
	Manuel B. Gaité
	Federico M. Ortiz
	Patrick L. Uy

CONFERENCE AWARDS (Claude Tayag Trophies)

First Conference	1st Place	Roberto B. Sison
First Conference	2nd Place	Rolando T. Mesuga
First Conference	3rd Place	Antonio D. Lilles

Second Conference	1st Place	Rolando T. Mesuga
Second Conference	2nd Place	Bonifacio P. Viñas Jr.
Second Conference	3rd Place	Wilfredo M. Garrido Jr.

Third Conference	1st Place	Rolando T. Mesuga
Third Conference	2nd Place	Bonifacio P. Viñas Jr.
Third Conference	3rd Place	Raphael L. Santos

ANNUAL AWARDS 2019

PHOTO OF THE YEAR

Color Print/Global Photo of the Year 2019 1st Place	Norlito S. Quimel
Color Print/Global Photo of the Year 2019 2nd Place	Armando G. Apuya
Color Print/Global Photo of the Year 2019 3rd Place	Raphael L. Santos

Colored Projected Photo of the Year 2019 1st Place	Raphael L. Santos
Colored Projected Photo of the Year 2019 2nd Place	Rolando T. Mesuga
Colored Projected Photo of the Year 2019 3rd Place	Antonio D. Lilles

B&W Monochrome Photo of the Year 2019 1st Place	Francisco J. Guingona
B&W Monochrome Photo of the Year 2019 2nd Place	Erikk O. Cruz
B&W Monochrome Photo of the Year 2019 3rd Place	Armando G. Apuya

OTS Photo of the Year 2019 1st Place	Manuel B. Gaité
OTS Photo of the Year 2019 2nd Place	Raphael Evan A. Grabador
OTS Photo of the Year 2019 3rd Place	Rodolfo M. de Leon

TOP 10 MASTER PHOTOGRAPHER CUP 2019

10th Place	Antonio D. Lilles
9th Place	Roberto B. Sison
8th Place	Gino G. Garbanzos
7th Place	Angelo Jaime T. Cumagun
6th Place	Erikk O. Cruz
5th Place	Federico M. Ortiz
4th Place	Raphael Evan A. Grabador

3rd Place	Maria Carmen R. Benitez
2nd Place	Raphael L. Santos

1st Place
Rolando T. Mesuga

KNOW YOUR FELLOW MEMBER:

by Tony Lilles

Raphael L. Santos: 2nd Place Master Cup Winner 2019



Raffy Santos joined as an applicant in 2001, became a probee in 2002 and a member in March 2003. Consequently, he served under 3 presidents and started during my own term titled “2001: A Photographic Odyssey”. The highlight of which was the introduction, or test for that matter, of the first Digital Photo

Competition in the CCP which ran parallel but secondary and inconsequential to the Master Cup Competitions. So Raffy was able to immerse himself in almost all aspects of the Club functions, activities and was part of the development of the digital competition format. The challenges of those days enabled him to develop a keen understanding of what the members liked and what systems worked through the years. Determined to keep up with the club despite his hectic professional work as an architect and while taking breaks from serving in the Board between years, his love for photography and fellowship in the Club keeps him close by and active.

In 2003, freshly inducted as a regular member, he recalls being #1 in the Masters Cup until July but a failed entry thereafter had him drop down to 8th place at the end of the year.

In 2004, Raffy actually received notice that he was in 3rd place. The trophy was actually made with his name on it. Then after recalculations at the awards night, he ended up 4th, with Leo Riingen in 3rd.

Raffy has always competed since his probee years. 2010 was his winningest year with the most awards and finished 2nd place, his highest achievement then. He remembers being in the top ten in almost the first 10 years as a regular member with the exception of 2012. 2013 was the last time he was in the top ten and finished in 9th place. The only time he didn't complete a year of submissions was in 2016, when his January entry was left behind at the printers. But he still joined the remaining months till the bitter end. Now that's dedication year in and year out.

This year he calls himself an accidental 2nd placer. He never planned on anything and only wanted to be back in the top 10 since the last time he was within it was 5 years ago. He says “Consistency is still the key!”

Maria R. Carmen Benitez 3rd Place Master Cup Winner 2019



Known as Manette and almost always seen with her partner Gino Garbansos, these 2 are a team when it comes to traveling, dining and photography. Both are excellent photographers as we usually see their names up in the scoreboards. Manette became a probee in 2004, a member in 2005 and has been a regular member for 14 years. Out of which, she's been in the top 10 for 5 to 7 years. Any years missed? None. In all those years, she says she has been competing every year!

“My Daddy lent me his Pentax Spotmatic when I was in high school and I've never stopped taking pictures since. I started taking photos for the STC QC, high school paper, The Gazette. I wanted to be a photojournalist but Dad said it was dangerous for a girl and that it won't pay enough, so I became an Accountant and took photography as a constant hobby.”

“Ever since I started with the Club, I've learned a lot of techniques just by watching The Masters at work. I don't mind being the apprentice because I learn from many of the seniors. Ask and they will answer you and if they don't answer, watch and you will learn!”

“This 3rd place was a total surprise. I started out just submitting the photos based on the themes and not really keeping track of the scores. One thing I did differently though, was to not overly think of the themes. I picked my shots based on my interpretation of the theme, asked Gino about it and took a poll from my friends then finally pick for the submissions.” And that's exactly what the seniors and winners did all the time: get the advice of fellow members and past champions. This also meant there were a lot of choices to choose from, otherwise one could also get that proverbial expression: “Wala na bang iba?” For Manette, as all CCP winners exclaim, you have to be “Lucky and Blessed, at the same time, I guess.”