

The Quadricula/ Hocus Exhibit



(From Left): Joshua Benjamin Lo, Atty. Saul Hofileña, Jr. Kerwin Lo, Daniel Hofileña, Lilibeth Lo, and Elizabeth Hofileña

Last year, the QUADRICULA (HOCUS II) exhibit was opened in the National Museum of Fine Arts headed by Director Jeremy Barns and Assistant Director Ana Maria Theresa Labrador. The exhibit is curated by Gemma Cruz Araneta. The Quadricula refers to the squared grid built by Spain in its conquered colonies. It was designed so roads could be traversed in straight lines, whether one came from the North, East, West or South.

HOCUS is an acronym for HOFIleña and CUSTodio. Saul Hofileña, Jr. is a lawyer-historian who can neither draw nor paint but is obsessed with Philippine colonial history, haunted by the Patronato Real and how, "the lowly indio was tied to the Spanish escutcheon and the Cross."

Guy Custodio, the painter, is unaware of history although he is a restorer and conservator of ecclesiastical treasures. He once visited Bohol and he was smitten by the place and decided to stay. When Hofileña met him, Custodio "was hanging precariously like a bat" while restoring the paintings on the ceiling of the Alburquerque Church. That was before the devastating earthquake.



Atty. Saul Hofileña Jr., Atty. Michael G. Aguinaldo, Chairman of COA; Rep. Naealla Baiton Aguinaldo and Mr. Kerwin Lo



Atty. Gianna Montinola, Ms. Marides Fernando & friend, Ms. Gemma Cruz Araneta and Mr. Bayani Fernando



Atty. Severino Sumulong, Samantha Marie Sumulong and Atty. Gianna Montinola



Carla Delgado Araneta, Uma Araneya, Leon Araneta and Ms. Gemma Cruz Araneta



Dr. Elizabeth Hofilena, Atty. Daniel Hofilena, Mrs. Luli Arroyo Bernas & son, Atty. Saul Hofilena, Jr. and Mr. Francis Corona



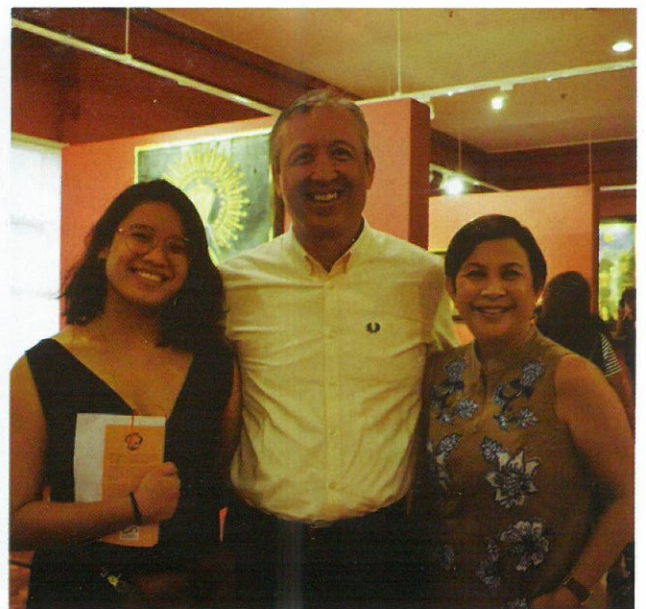
Mr. and Mrs Buddy Campos and Atty. Saul Hofilena Jr.



Atty. Saul Hofilena, Jr. and Mr. Jose Armando Eduque



Mrs. Tessie Jose, Carla Delgado Araneta & National Artist F. Sionil Jose



Samantha Marie Sumulong, SP Sumulong and Gianna Montinola



Atty. Saul Hofileña Jr., Dr. Elizabeth Hofileña, Marlen Ontog, Gen. Ager Ontog



Mr. Jess Hofileña, Chielo Hofileña, Ms. Jenny Ortuoste and Ms. Emilie Protacio Valdivia

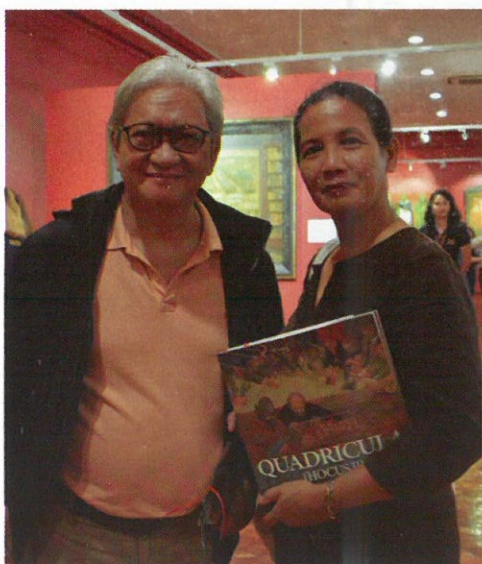
There is a unique synergy between Hofileña and Custodio: The former has nightmarish visions rooted in our colonial history which the latter painstakingly paints on wood or canvas, in Filipino colonial style. In fact, during the opening of HOCUS, guests would ask where are the creators' signatures? Hofileña pointed to the "Anghel de cuyacuy", an indio angel dressed in white tunic with a squash hat, and always seated, reading a book while jiggling (cuyacuy) a leg. That icon is the HOCUS signature.

The HOCUS collection is not for sale, although during the first exhibit of HOCUS (HOCUS I) which was held in the National Museum in 2017 and which ran for six months, there were a number of inquiries from private collectors. When the exhibit ended, six of the paintings were donated to the National Museum of Fine Arts, a fitting closure of both the exhibition and Museum Month of 2017. The rest of the paintings are now the subject of a letter of donative intent addressed to the National Museum. On the 4th floor, in the main corridor leading to the Director's office, the six HOCUS paintings are permanently on display for the pleasure and enlightenment of hundreds of thousands of museum visitors.

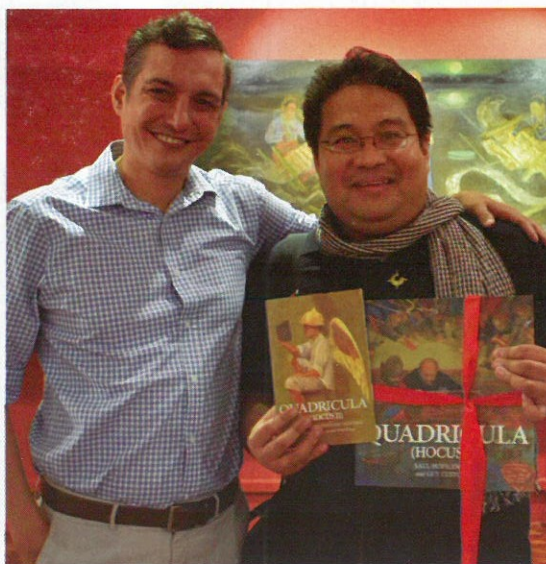
Most Art is a form of self-expression, so that the artist may, through his well-meaning brushstrokes, define himself and present his soul to his audience. The QUADRICULA/HOCUS paintings differs from this mode of self-expression because each work is an expression of how our past has defined our souls conveyed through the medium of oil applied on stretched canvas or ancient wood. Each painting tells our stories as a people, and in the end unravels and reveals who we are and who we will be.



Mrs. Cristina Corona and Ms. Gemma Cruz Araneta.



Mr. & Mrs. Marne Kilates



Mr. Jeremy Barns and Mr. Xiao Chua



Mr. Eddie Chua and friend



The National Artist F. Sionil Jose, Jette Jose and Mrs. Tessie Jose



Sally Montinola Hofilena and Felix Hofilena



Atty. Ma. Cecila Tirol of the National Museum, Mr. Francis Corona and Mrs. Christina Corona



Ms. Gemma Cruz Araneta, Guy Custodio, Atty. Saul Hofilena, Jr., & Ms. Ana Maria Theresa Labrador



Ms. Gemma Cruz Araneta, Mr. Xiao Chua, Mr. Edison Chua, Atty. Saul Hofilena, Jr., Judge Rommel Baybay, Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie Siasoyco



Rep. Naealla Baiton Aguinaldo, Atty. Saul Hofilena Jr., Atty. Michael G. Aguinaldo, Chairman of COA, Ms. Ana Maria Theresa Labrador and Mr. Jeremy Barns



Michael Rodriguez, Guy Custodio, Ruby Escosa, Monica Custodio and Rita Almeniana



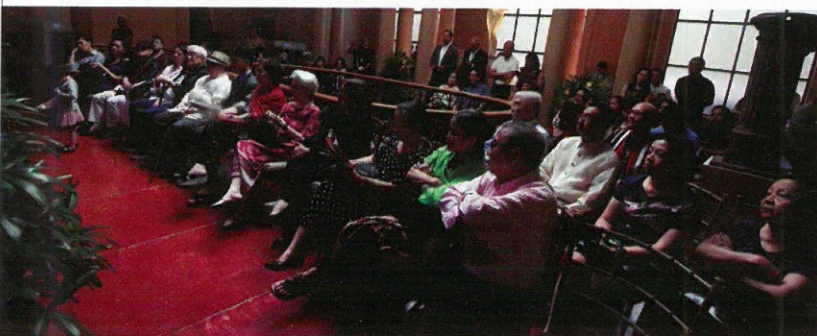
Ms. Ana Maria Theresa Labrador and Ms. Gemma Cruz Araneta



Ms. Marides Fernando & friend



Ms. Ana Maria Theresa Labrador, Ms. Luli Arroyo Bernas, Ms. Gemma Cruz Araneta & Mr. Jeremy Barns



The crowd



National Museum staff members, Cyril Santos, Danelyn Sumaylo and Carole Duque