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Leading Filipino Canadian artists and scholars showcase culture in the diaspora

Toronto, Ontario (September 21, 2011) –On Thursday, October 13, 2011, six Filipino Canadian artists and scholars will present their work at the University of Toronto. Free and open to the public, the event will take place from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the George Ignatieff Theatre (15 Devonshire Place).

Attendees can expect a night filled with cutting-edge lectures and performances. Featured artists include Dora Award-winning playwright Nina Lee Aquino, musician Alexander The, and photographer Alex Felipe. They will be joined by Eleanor Ty, professor of English and Film Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University; Patrick Alcedo, professor of Dance at York University; and Ph.D. student Marissa Largo of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto.

According to event organizer and University of Toronto professor Roland Sintos Coloma, “Filipino Canadian artists and scholars are boldly asserting their unique, hybrid, and transnational point of view. This event marks the emergence of their combined creative and intellectual force. Anyone interested in race, diaspora, and culture should be prepared to encounter a new form of difference.”

The event is called “*Anihan: Cultures in the Diaspora*.” *Anihan*, which translates to “harvest time,” aims to gather intellectuals, cultural workers, and the community to foster closer collaboration and dialogue.

Caroline Mangosing, executive director of the Kapisanan Philippine Centre for Arts and Culture, said, “We have sown seeds that are now in the process of being and maturing. The most impactful way of leaving a legacy is through the arts. We hope that *Anihan* leads to more events with artists and academics learning from, getting inspired by, and inspiring each other.”

This evening event will open the three-day conference of the Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies, to be held at the University of Toronto. It is co-sponsored by the Asian Institute’s Centre for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Toronto, Kritikal Kolektibo (Critical Filipina/o Studies), and the Kapisanan Philippine Centre for Arts and Culture.

Contact:

Roland Sintos Coloma, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Sociology and Equity Studies in Education

Co-Director, Centre for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies

Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto

Office Phone: (416) 978-0462

Email: roland.coloma@utoronto.ca

Christine Balmes

M.A. Student, Adult Education and Community Development

Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto

Email c.balmes@utoronto.ca

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