

EXHIBIT: *Relevant Rizal?* UP Vargas Museum

This June, the art group CANVAS (The Center for Art, New Ventures and Sustainable Development) celebrates Jose Rizal's 150th birth anniversary with the show *Relevant Rizal?* The show gathers various visual artists, including sculptor Michael Cacnio, Plet Bolipata, Raymond Legaspi, Baguio-based Leonard Aguinaldo, national artist Benedicto Cabrera, among others.

Relevant Rizal? aims to view the national hero – both his works and his person – from a contemporary perspective, in order to reflect if he still speaks to us “today.”

The show opens on June 1 at the Vargas Museum in the University of the Philippines-Diliman.

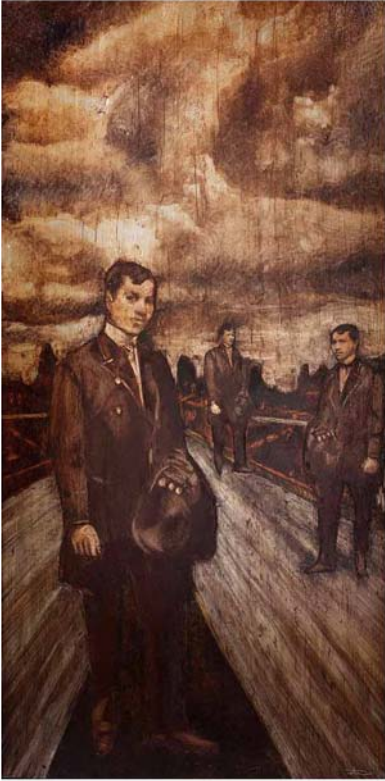
Relevant Rizal? is part of CANVAS' *Looking for Juan Program*, which explores the use of art as a platform for the debate and discussion of selected social issues such as national identity, free expression, technology and culture, and sustainable development.

The artists' original works – paintings and sculptures – will be displayed in the Vargas Museum, while images of their works will line the UP Academic Oval as banners. The idea is to make art (and its messages) accessible to more people in a relaxed and non-intimidating setting.

Simultaneous outdoor banner shows will also be mounted in selected underpasses in the Makati Central Business District as well as in the gardens of the BenCab Museum in Baguio City.

After the exhibit, the tarpaulin banners will be recycled into tote bags, and thus become functional pieces of art. These bags will be sold and the proceeds will be donated to selected charities and activities, as well as support CANVAS' continuing efforts to promote greater awareness and appreciation for Philippine art, culture, and the environment. The art tote bags will be sewn by women's communities that are trained by another non-profit organization in alternative livelihood skills.

For more information on CANVAS, log on to <http://canvas.ph> and <http://lookingforjuan.com>.



THE AWAKENING STARE

Anton del Castillo

The artwork portrays the typical hero in his/her attempt to contribute to controversial and revolutionary change in society without any fear of hearing “Fuego!”



MI ULTIMO ADIOS

Mark Arcamo

This will define the meaning of courage and sacrifice. His willingness to die and suffer for his motherland brings hope and new life to every Filipino.

PATRIA

Lina Ciani

“Patria” I think speaks for itself, from the title to its images. Even Rizal appears “in person.” One sees here a lot of inspiration coming from our hero.



LA ULTIMA BARAJA

Leonard Aguinaldo

This reverses everything we know about education, religion, and our origins. Rizal’s vision of hope for the Filipino turns out to be just a card game played by our colonizers.





IN UNDERSTANDING THE RELEVANCE

Michael Vincent Manalo

He is the biggest hero the Philippines has ever known, but have all the things that he was able to accomplish been in vain? Do we really still have pride in our culture when we evidently and subconsciously “follow” the culture of those we had wanted to escape from?

AKO’Y BABALIK

Jim Orencio

Leonor was Rizal’s sweetheart for 11 years. Unfortunately, her mother disapproved of her relationship with him, a *filibustero*, and hid all his letters from Leonor. Believing that Rizal had already forgotten her, Leonor sadly consented to marrying Englishmen Henry Kipping, who was her mother’s choice.

OFTALMOLOGO

Ramel Villas

Nakikita mo ba ang aking nakikita?



THE VISIONARY

Pam Yan-Santos

There has always been a debate whether he was a reformist or a revolutionary. I chose not to take either side and focus instead on how he thought, what he did, and how much he loved his country and how relevant his deeds are to our present time.

