

MESSAGE

E. San Juan, Jr.
Philippine Cultural Studies Center

Since its inception, *Kritika Kultura* has contributed immensely to the historic project of converting the nation's in-itself existence into a for-itself identity. Such a project involves the growth of self-consciousness of the nation's organic intellectuals grounded on the recognition of Others as part of their universal commitment and responsibility. *KK* has pioneered in developing the self-consciousness of these intellectuals. It has opened up the space for the Others' voices to be heard. It has dared to challenge orthodoxies and hegemonic doxa in the interest of recognizing differences, specifically the marginalized and oppositional concerns of subalterns all over dominated by global capitalism and its commodifying State-apparatus. I am grateful for *KK* in welcoming contributions that depart from the current vogue for nihilistic deconstructions and relativist neoliberal dogmas that ironically continue to perpetuate logocentrism, phallocentrism, and other mystifying performatives that they claim to combat. I hope *KK* perseveres in its task of reminding its audience that all cultural documents share its origins from both barbarism and civilization, as Walter Benjamin reminded us, and that in the drive to counter the Enlightenment's principles, we need to remind ourselves that our country, the Philippines, has suffered from the white-supremacist absolutism of Western progress and that our struggle for genuine national liberation cannot be achieved without critical deployment of the weapons of the enemy, as well as the wit, humor, and cunning of the "Wretched of the Earth," peasants, women, workers, *Lumads* and indigenous communities, and especially the millions of OFWs (Overseas Filipino Workers) whose diaspora marks the advent of a new messianic, even planetary, agenda sprung from native roots. *Mabuhay at Makibaka!*