

Ria Pacita Maisano-Torres

Artist Bio

Lives are sown into the fabric of Ria Pacita's storytelling. Their work is the reflection of the coming-together of the people, in collective struggle and in victory, to cultivate human relations rooted in love and care. Uplifting and honoring communities and peoples, Ria Pacita wields a pointed, political brush to create evocative, optimistic, and both action and thought-provoking artwork. At their core as an artist, Ria Pacita experiences art as a powerful and necessary tool in the struggle for genuine change because of its power to give rise, form, and shape to collectives and communities, especially amongst those feeling lost in diaspora and forced migration.

Ria Pacita is a second generation Filipino-American originating from the Central District and graduating Garfield High School in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. She began as an artist as a young child, drawing to understand the world and her place in it. Inspired by her Lolo in both his life and passing, art continues to be Ria's way to navigate lifelong grief, mourning, and honoring, as well as the love that exists at the heart of this loss. Art also remains central to Ria Pacita's life and identity as she works to serve the community, organizing amongst Filipino youth and students at the University of Washington. Ria Pacita understands and upholds the role of the youth in the creation of art that will truly make a difference: to give rise to a new, transformed, truly pro-people culture for their ancestors, families, and the generations to come.

Always enthusiastic to learn and create more, Ria Pacita creates paintings, charcoal drawings, clay ceramics, film photography, linoleum stamps, screen printing, jewelry, and rug-making. Ria Pacita has been featured in two galleries, an artist talk, and in interviews. They have been commissioned for book graphics, paintings, and designs by non-profits, local businesses, individuals, and more. Their enthusiasm is rooted in their understanding that art is meant to be shared, and that everyone has a place in it. To them, the strongest artists inspire other artists.

CARLMELO IBANEZ  
&  
RIA TORRES

















Alia 23.47.22



















Philippine  
Saw Company  
Ground Pillar

Guiding  
vision to  
improve the  
needle

and becomes  
children's  
clothes

modern garment

Timeline 1800-1975

Philippine  
American War  
- Filipino and  
defected soldiers  
invading US

1898  
Treaty of Paris  
- Philippines with a  
price tag on it  
alongside Cuba,  
Puerto Rico, Guam  
and other  
islands

Pensionados  
organized  
members in  
modern-day  
FAJA  
in Australia

- Payne-Aldrich  
Act of 1909  
- Pensionado Act  
- Alaska-Yukon-  
Pacific Exposition  
1909

PH Independence  
Act

Corros  
Bullisan and  
Lulu labor  
organizing

Tydings-  
McDuffie Act  
1934  
- "No Filipinos  
Allowed"

1946-51  
- World War II  
- Several military  
and economic  
loans funded  
that farmer  
had the 11%

United  
Farmworkers  
movement  
organizing  
strikes

Welder  
organizing

Slime and  
Drome  
organizing

Alaska  
canneries  
organizing

Marshall  
Lund declared  
under  
Ford and  
Mondak

Labor  
Exportation

Royal Commission

Business  
people

State

Flag fabric  
continues

1800

1898

1909

1934

1946

