



Gateway
GALLERY

COMING TO FORE

A TWO-MAN EXHIBIT featuring

Mierro Castrillo
& Romina Batino

March 18 to 31, 2023 • Gateway Gallery •
5F Gateway Tower, Araneta City, QC •

COMING TO FORE

Batino & Castrillo: Intersecting Light and Shape

Enter into a world where light and shape entwine to create a mesmerizing showcase of creativity and craftsmanship. "Coming to Fore," the eagerly awaited exhibit featuring the exceptional works of Romina Batino-Stiffler and Mierro Castrillo, awaits you at The Gateway Gallery in Araneta City, Cubao, Quezon City. Through the spellbinding photography of Batino and the intricate sculptures of Castrillo, witness the beautiful fusion of two distinct art forms that will leave you in awe. With each click of Batino's camera and each crevice in Castrillo's metalworks, we are transported to a realm of limitless possibilities, where the ordinary becomes extraordinary, and the commonplace is metamorphosed into something magical.

Prepare to be enchanted by the photographic works of Batino, a contemporary digital artist who splits her time between the bustling city of Makati in the Philippines and the charming state of Ohio in the USA. Romina's artistic vision revolves around capturing the hidden splendor of everyday life - those fleeting moments that are often ignored or taken for granted. Each of her photographs is a masterpiece of visual poetry, with every shot conveying a unique story or thought, capturing even the amalgamation of light, rain, and colors on a glass panel. In "Coming to Fore," Romina's lens captures the beauty of daily objects that we often disregard - raindrops on the moonroof of a car, a dry leaf on the ground, the sun's reflection on a dewy morning window, and the flow of water - turning them into something special. Although her images are impromptu and unrehearsed, they are nothing short of spectacular.

Discover the awe-inspiring sculptures of Mierro Castrillo, the eldest son of the legendary Filipino sculptor Eduardo S. Castrillo. Mierro's passion for sculptural art was ignited after the passing of his father in 2016, and he has since honed his skills to create pieces that reflect his personal journey and experiences. His sculptures are born from seemingly usual but very personal objects that have shaped him - a proud rooster, a trusty bicycle, a majestic horse - transformed into works of art that are meticulously crafted and infused with his father's legacy as a master sculptor. In "Coming to Fore," Castrillo's stunning sculptures will take center stage, showcasing his exceptional ability to breathe life into inert materials and capture the essence, and the story, of his subjects.

At the heart of the exhibit lies a powerful message embodied by its title - "Coming to Fore." This phrase captures the very essence of Batino and Castrillo's artistry, as they skillfully illuminate the often-overlooked magnificence of the world around us. With this show, they invite us to join them on a journey of discovery - to see with fresh eyes and to find inspiration in the mundane. "Coming to Fore" is a celebration of their talents and their unique ability to bring to the fore the magic hidden within everything.

MIERRO LUARCA CASTRILLO

ARTIST/SCULPTOR



From Legacy to Journey: The Enduring Self-Discovery of Mierro Castrillo

Mierro speaks to the human condition with a voice that is both personal and universal. His sculptures are a celebration of life and a reflection of the many paths that we walk, and the many stories that we carry within us.

Mierro Castrillo's sculptures are an evocative tribute to his personal voyage and life encounters. Each creation portrays a snapshot of his expedition, providing a glimpse into the artist's innermost being. His multifaceted history, spanning disciplines such as engineering, agriculture, education, humanities, business, community engagement, and social development, infuses his art with a distinct and profound viewpoint.

Interlacing the diverse strands of his experiences, each of Mierro's sculptures is a living tribute to the intricate tapestry of life. With a vast reservoir of insights to draw upon, his creations provide a glimpse into the profound workings of the human mind, an introspective exploration of the mysteries of existence. Each piece exudes a sense of awe and veneration, beckoning the observer to contemplate the beauty and intricacy of the universe that surrounds us.

Mierro Luarca Castrillo is a name that resonates with a profound artistic heritage. As the eldest scion of the legendary Filipino sculptor Eduardo S. Castrillo, Mierro has been steeped in the world of sculptural art from an early age. Mierro's artistic ingenuity bears a distinct mark of his father's teachings, evident in the elaborate lines and curves that define his creations. Mierro's deep reverence for his father's craft is palpable in his own works, which are imbued with a sense of devotion and respect. Yet instead of being restrained by the weight of his father's influence, Mierro has turned it into a springboard to forge his own artistic identity. His works are a fusion of an array of techniques and inspirations he's picked up from diverse sources, resulting in a style that is entirely his own. Mierro has created a body of work that is both innovative and timeless, a tribute to the rich artistic heritage that he inherited.

Under Eduardo Castrillo's studio, Mierro managed numerous of his father's monumental works, including the iconic Gat Andres Bonifacio Shrine, The Heritage of Cebu, The Heritage of Misamis Oriental, The GMA-7 headquarters sculpture, and the ethereal Spiral found in the Hotel Sofitel Philippine Plaza.

The passing of his father in 2016 was a pivotal moment in Mierro's artistic journey, igniting a passionate flame that continues to burn bright to this day. In honor of his father's enduring vision, Mierro and his siblings established Castrillo Legacy Art Studio Inc. as a collaborative endeavor to carry on their father's artistic legacy and bring his designs to fruition, and beyond.

Mierro is a man with a relentless spirit. He is determined to achieve more and is not ready to settle for less. His future holds enormous potential, and he is resolute to keep pushing forward. One of his grand ambitions is to construct magnificent edifices that could serve as public art, designed to motivate and enlighten. Having been a teacher in the past, Mierro knows the value of education and the importance of seizing every opportunity to learn. He believes that anything and everything can be turned into a valuable lesson. Therefore, his ultimate goal is not only to create awe-inspiring structures but also to use them as a tool to educate and inspire people.

Mierro embodies the quintessential qualities of an artist: a private, introspective nature, yet always fascinating and engaged, with an insatiable curiosity about the world and his endless quest to understand himself and others. Mierro's artistic pursuits reflect his constant desire for personal growth, as he seeks to uncover new depths of expression and meaning in his work. His commitment to expanding his creative vision and exploring the world around him is a testament to the enduring power of art to inspire, transform, and connect us all.

ROMINA BATINO-STIFFLER

PHOTOGRAPHER/ARTIST



Reimagining and Unraveling: The Photo-Vision of Romina Batino-Stiffler

Romina Batino-Stiffler is an emerging artist making waves in the world of Photography, with her works showcased in exhibitions spanning continents, from the bustling streets of London, England to the heartland of Ohio and Pennsylvania.

At the core of Batino's artistic expression lies a mission to unveil the hidden marvels of our world, the moments that fleetingly pass us by. With each photograph, she weaves a masterful tapestry of visual poetry, imbued with a distinct narrative or idea. Whether it's the fusion of light, rain, and colors on a transparent surface or the hushed elegance of a solitary leaf resting on the ground, Batino's camera detects magic in the most unexpected spaces. Her ability to uncover beauty in the unremarkable is a testament to her artistry and creativity.

Batino's photographic work is a celebration of the extraordinary that can be found in the ordinary. With a keen eye for detail, she captures passing moments that are often overlooked, weaving them together into visual poetry that speaks to the beauty of everyday life. Her images are a testament to her ability to see the world through a unique lens, revealing hidden splendors that would otherwise go unnoticed. From the play of light and shadow on a textured surface to the simple elegance of a single flower, Batino's photographs evoke a sense of wonder and awe in the viewer. Her work inspires us to slow down and take notice of the small moments that make life meaningful, reminding us that there is magic all around us if we only take the time to look.

From painting and drawing to sculpture and music, people have embraced art as a way to express their emotions and alleviate the stress brought on by the lockdowns. Romina took advantage of the situation by pursuing and honing her craft in photography, as she traveled through the continental United States. "It's always been something at the back of my head," she says, "Something I never thought I could really pursue." Having been an office manager of their family's law firm for almost 3 decades, she started pursuing arts and crafts by attending various workshops until she decided to organize her own company in the Philippines, which was only halted by the pandemic. With a noble aim in mind, she endeavors to establish a novel initiative aimed at aiding those who have limited means in life. Her vision is to offer art-centric programs for orphans and impoverished mothers. By doing so, this undertaking would enable them to discover fresh opportunities to earn a living through artistic pursuits. On this project, she says, "Creating art has brought me immeasurable happiness and a profound sense of self-expression. I am eager to share this passion, and hope to help others discover the same."

In a world that can often feel chaotic and overwhelming, Romina's artistic vision reminds us to pause and appreciate the beauty that surrounds us. Her dedication to capturing the overlooked wonders of the world through photography is an inspiration. Even in the face of adversity, Batino followed her passion and found ways to give back to her community through the classes she organizes. Her commitment to helping others find their own creative expression is a testament to the transformative power of art. As for artists who are just starting out, Romina, who found her way into the craft at age 50, has this to say: "Find the courage to pursue your passion and find yourself falling in love with life all over again!"

Her journey is a testament to the power of perseverance, reminding us that with enough grit and determination, anything is possible. As Romina persistently delves into her passion and generously showcases her abilities, she motivates us to chase our aspirations and remain steadfast in our pursuit of the things we cherish.

Romina Batino truly is coming to the fore.

MLC Artwork



SALIG

Abstract sculpture
Stainless steel with concrete base
3-2023
45”x 37” x 23”
Php 130,000.00

LAGDA

Abstract sculpture
Black iron sheet with concrete base
3-2023
40” x 28” x 28”
Php 130,000.00



mierrocastrillo

MLC Artwork

MIERRO CASTRILLO COMING TO FORE GATEWAY ARANETA



ALAY

Figurative wire sculpture
Round iron rods, corrugated bars on
Black iron sheet metal base
3-2023
13" x 18" x 10"
Php 40,000.00

PAKO, KAHYOY, KARPINTERO

Figurative wire sculpture
Formed nails on repurposed wood base
3-2023
12" x 11" x 6"
Php 25,000.00



MLC Artwork



SISSIES

Abstract sculpture
Stainless steel and brass
on repurposed wood base
3-2023
15" x 21" x 8 1/2"
Private Collection

LAYAT

Figurative wire sculpture
Round iron rods
on stainless steel sheet base
3-2023
12" x 7 1/2" x 7 1/2"
Php 18,000.00



MLC Artwork



RIO DE CAGAYAN

Figurative sculpture
Black iron sheet metal on concrete base
3-2023
32" x 15" x 35"
Php 150,000.00

NUNG 'SANG SABADO

Figurative sculpture
Round steel bars on repurposed wood base
12-2021
11" x 14" x 6"
Private Collection



MLC Artwork



PAGHANGA (SA ANINO NI ERPATS)

Figurative sculpture
Formed brass sheets
10-2018
30" x 30" x 8"
Php 110,000.00

ANG KABAYO KONG SI APOLLO

Figurative sculpture
Formed brass sheets
10-2018
30" x 30" x 8"
Php 110,000.00



Sowing the Seeds Series



REVERIE

Framed Photograph
20" x 20"
2021

P15,000.00

MERAKI

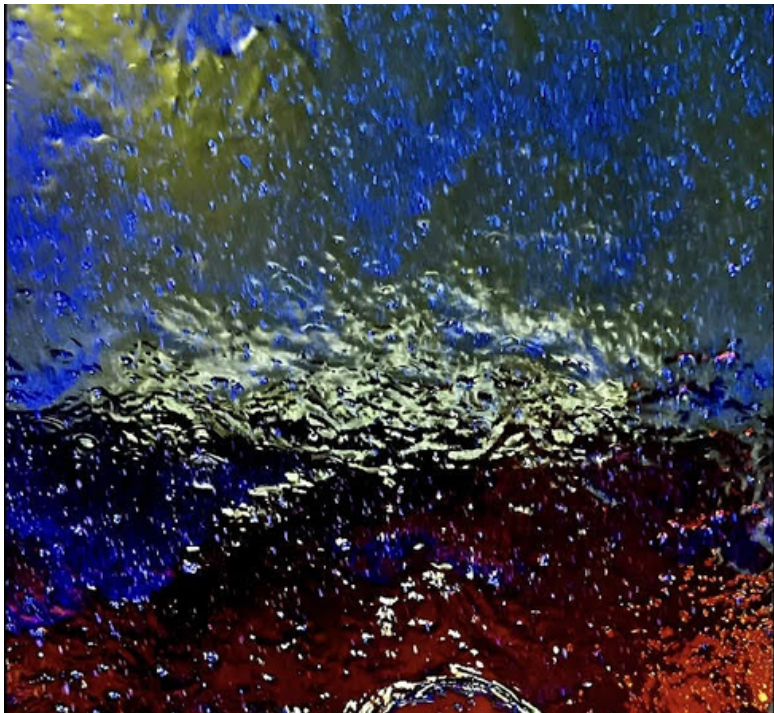
Framed Photograph
22" x 25"
2021

P15,000.00



Carwash Series

ROMINA BATINO COMING TO FORE GATEWAY ARANETA



PAG-ASA

Framed Photograph
18" x 18"
2022

P12,000.00

AGATE

Framed Photograph
21" x 24"
2022

P15,000.00



Carwash Series

ROMINA BATINO COMING TO FORE GATEWAY ARANETA



AMETHYST

Framed Photograph
23" x 26"
2022

P15,000.00

TOPAZ

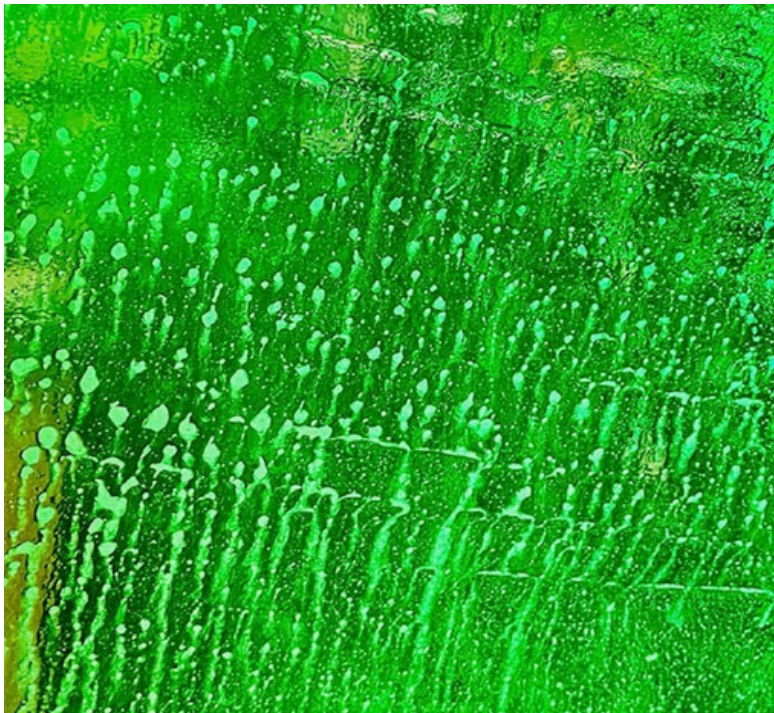
Framed Photograph
24" x 24"
2021

P15,000.00



Carwash Series

ROMINA BATINO COMING TO FORE GATEWAY ARANETA



JADE

Framed Photograph
24" x 24"
2021

P15,000.00

ONYX

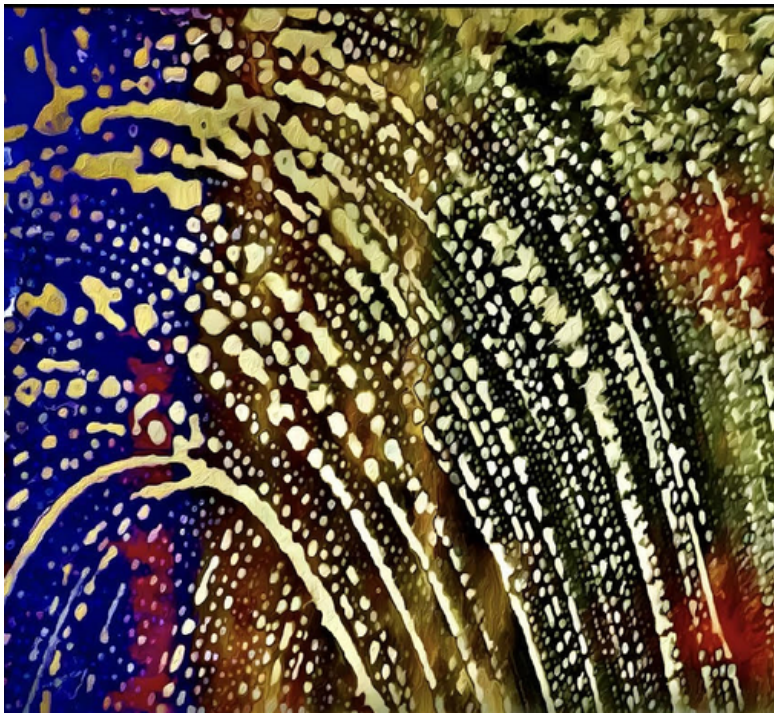
Framed Photograph
22" x 22"
2021

P15,000.00



Carwash Series

ROMINA BATINO COMING TO FORE GATEWAY ARANETA



SYNERGISM

Framed Photograph
26" x 30"
2022

P24,000.00

EBULLIENCE

Framed Photograph
27" x 31"
2022

P24,000.00



Tree Series

ROMINA BATINO COMING TO FORE GATEWAY ARANETA



MAUDLIN MADNESS

Framed Photograph
17" x 20"
2022

P12,000.00

AMITY

Framed Photograph
16" x 19"
2021

P12,000.00



Sun Series



DEW DROPS

Framed Photograph
16" x 16"
2021

P12,000.00

SOLEIL

Framed Photograph
22" x 22"
2021

P15,000.00



Sun Series

ROMINA BATINO COMING TO FORE GATEWAY ARANETA



AWAKENING

Framed Photograph
23" x 23"
2023

P15,000.00

URBAN

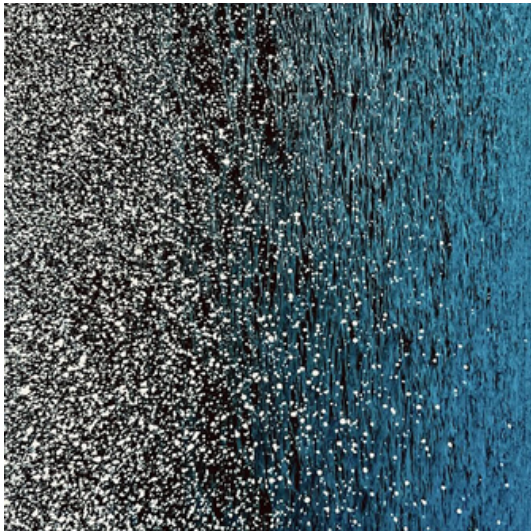
Framed Photograph
23" x 33"
2021

P24,000.00



The Seas Series

ROMINA BATIANO COMING TO FORE GATEWAY ARANETA



CONSTANCY

Framed Photograph
21" x 24"
2022

P20,000.00

TO AND FRO

Framed Photograph
22" x 25"
2022

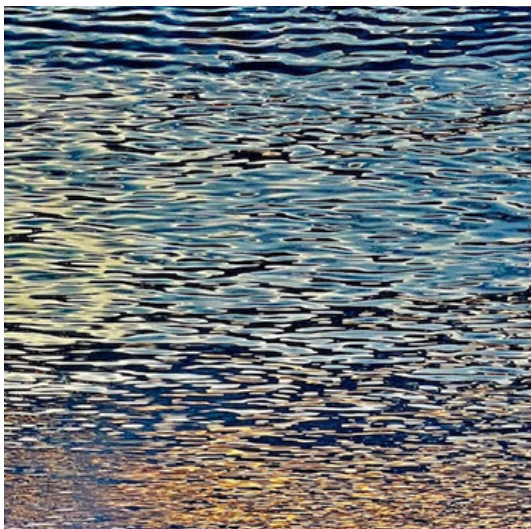
P20,000.00



NOSTALGIA

Framed Photograph
27" x 31"
2022

P20,000.00



The Seas Series

ROMINA BATINO COMING TO FORE GATEWAY
ARANETA



EUNOIA

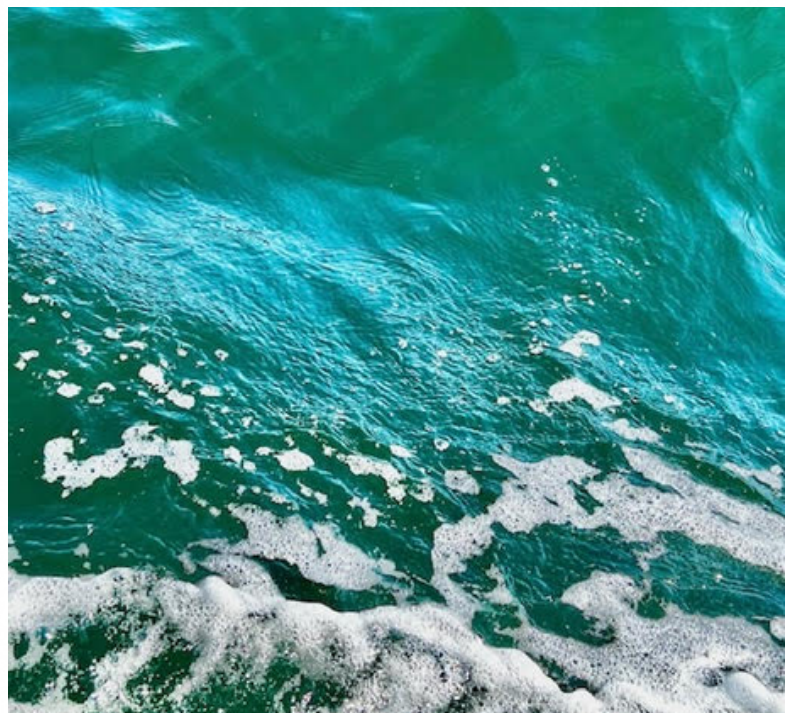
Framed Photograph
22" x 32"
2022

P24,000.00

APPASSIONATA

Framed Photograph
27" x 31"
2022

P24,000.00



Leaves Series

ROMINA BATINO COMING TO FORE GATEWAY ARANETA



GRACE

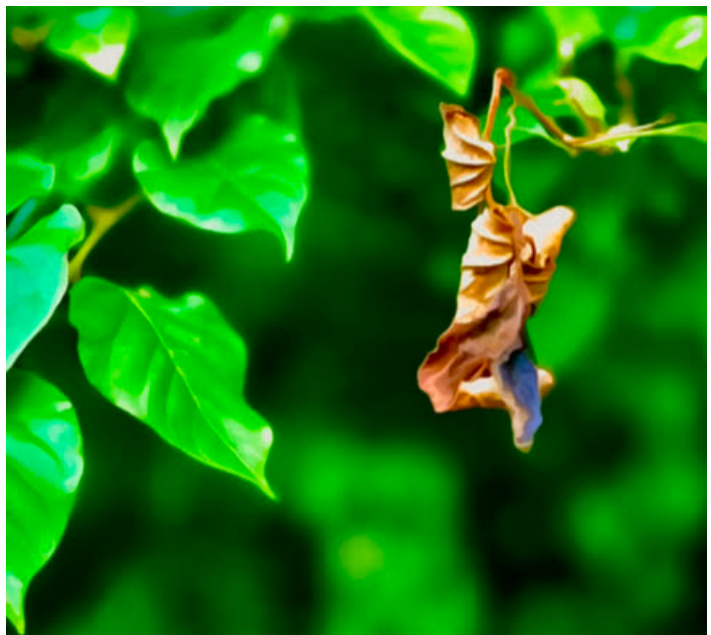
Framed Photograph
16" x 19"
2022

P12,000.00

HOPE

Framed Photograph
13" x 13"
2023

P8,000.00



Everyday Series

ROMINA BATINO COMING TO FORE GATEWAY ARANETA



DYIP (Para kay Mierro)

Framed Photograph
18" x 18"
2023

NOT FOR SALE

INTERLUDE

Framed Photograph
14" x 16"
2022

P8,000.00

