

# ARTE+FEMINISMO

P I L I P P I N A S

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ADVOCACY ON  
**WOMEN**  
EMPOWERMENT

**#SHE SAID**

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# ARTE+FEMINISMO

P I L I P I N A S



## ◀ About the cover

Before colonizers came along, Filipino men and women treated each other as equals. Various ethnic groups in the pre-colonial Philippines revered spiritual healers, also known as *babaylan* (a role traditionally for females and feminized men.)

The future is female. And in the Philippines, so was the past.

Title: Past and Future  
Medium: Acrylic on canvas  
Size: 12" x 16"  
Year: 2023  
Artist: Bianca Rojas Brazal

**ARTE+FEMINISMO PILIPINAS:**  
ADVOCACY ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT  
2020 - 2023

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## ART + FEMINISM



Surviving life as an open knowledge advocate is difficult enough coming from the Global South, and it was made twice as difficult by the CoVid pandemic. However, the volunteers of Art+Feminism in the Philippines through its Network Organizer, Mr. Anthony Diaz, made it easy to still be part of a global campaign, making simple contributions for a wider cause amidst the global scare.



Coming from a small group of four advocates to having twenty committed volunteers, the Wiki Advocates Philippines User Group, through the limitless support and initiatives of Art+Feminism, managed to make a meaningful impact on small communities within the remote areas of the Philippines.

After four years of running campaigns and training to promote gender awareness, diversity, and inclusivity, these Art+Feminism advocates were able to empower individuals using their own creativity

from using information technology, digital representation, acrylics, coffee, and their compassion to make a difference.

Let us wander through their stories, personal experiences, and reflections to understand how these volunteers advocated art and feminism with passion, and the belief that if the mission is bigger than the challenges, then the roads will be surmountable, even if they will need to take one step at a time.

**Imelda Brazal**

## From the A+F Network Organizer



To our fellow Wikimedians around the globe:

Distance has never been a hindrance for the Art+Feminism movement to reach the farthest places in the world. As if by an act of fate, the founders of the Wiki Advocates Philippines User Group came into contact with them in Meta-wiki back in 2020, not through the group itself but with the annual Art+Feminism campaign. A year has passed before I officially took on the role of network organizer, and thinking back about how it all started and how it is now, there are indeed a lot of things to be celebrated. Included in this newsletter are our triumphs, struggles, and collaborations;

how the A+F have played a critical role in our organization; and how, despite the distances between countries, we've managed to create programs and projects that benefit the community. As you flipped through the pages, it wasn't only the writers who spoke to you, but the entire community being supported and influenced by this global movement. May this inspire you to reach more underrepresented places, to be compassionate toward the needs of others, and to be a Wikimedia volunteer in your own special ways, within and outside of the movement.

Keep the fire burning.



**Anthony Diaz**

Network Organizer  
Art+Feminism



Kiraface, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

## *From the Executive Director*

Dear Reader,

To celebrate 10 years of Art+Feminism we were very excited to create a “celebration fund.” The Celebration Fund Committee (Paula Domínguez Font, Medhavi Gandhi, Sadik Shahadu, and Zita Ursula Zagej) created a call inviting organizers to produce an openly licensed resource that showcases “how you do Art+Feminism.” With the desire to see how our community, all over the world, joins us in this work so that we can celebrate it.

From the beginning, we’ve championed a Do-It-Yourself and Do-It-With-Others approach and it’s fascinating to learn how various members of our community arrive at this campaign. This newsletter gives us all the opportunity to celebrate Wiki Advocates Philippines and how they work with Art+Feminism. And how they’re embodying the vision to create an internet that reflects diverse global histories of art-making, where communities who have most often been written out of history feel welcome and empowered to participate in writing (and righting) our stories.

Thank you for reading and thank you for sharing!

Onward,

**Kira Wisniewski**

Executive Director  
Art+Feminism

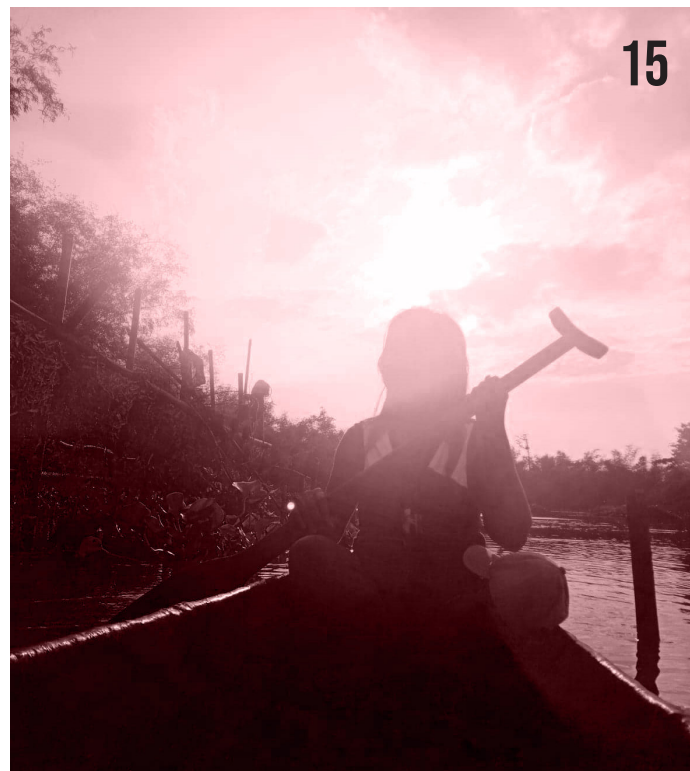
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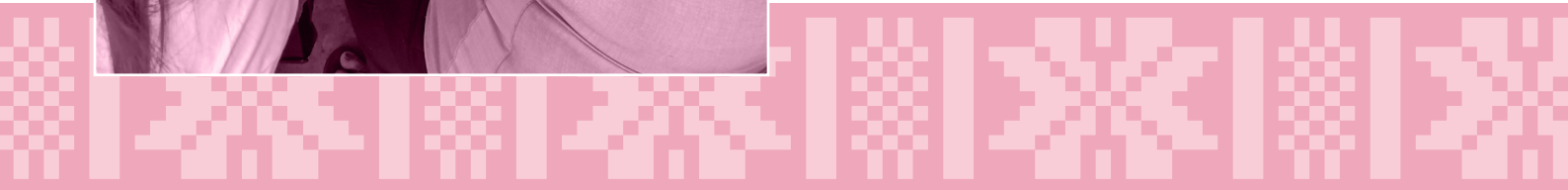
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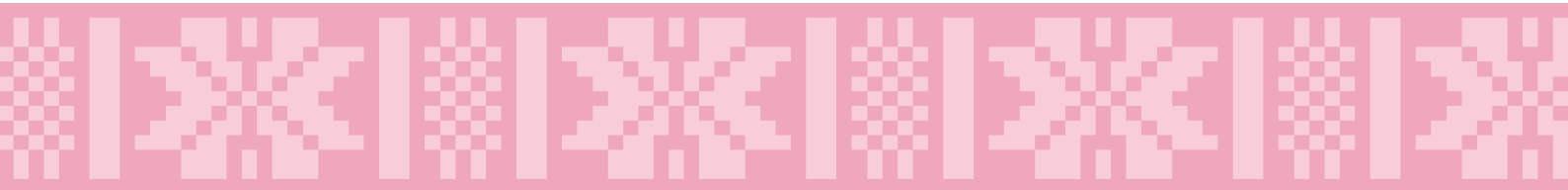
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# STUMBLING TOWARD THE DOORS OF *Art+Feminism*

by Anthony B. Diaz - Network Organizer, *Art+Feminism*

I have always been an advocate for promoting women's rights and equal gender representation. From being a fan of essays, novels, and art that focus on feminism, to writing my own literary pieces and novels with women as the protagonist, Having found Wikipedia inspired me to be an editor and made me feel that being part of the Wikimedia Movement will serve my calling as a writer and an advocate of feminism.

When I was looking for initiatives to run as a first-time community organizer in the Philippines, I stumbled across the Art+Feminism Campaign by chance. Though I had previously participated in gender-related campaigns and was well aware of the gap of gender representation within Wikimedia projects, my understanding of the word *feminism* was never the same as what I would learn after three years of running the campaign.

### In 2020, I had to start things from scratch...

Back then, I didn't have any communication with the A+F community. What I only have is the passion and purpose to conduct a series of edit-a-thons to help bridge the gender gap in Wikipedia.

Our project ran smoothly at first. We were a week ahead of our planned date of running our scheduled events. On March 12, 2020, I received an email about "COVID-19 Wikimedia Foundation Grants for public events," and as a result, scheduled events were canceled. Because there were still articles that needed to be improved, I encouraged the editors to conduct the editing from their own places.

### CoVid Pandemic and the challenges of being a volunteer...

Aside from the pandemic, there were also other factors that affected the actual expectations I had for the event. The majority of the activities took place in a computer shop. We were on the seaside, and the Internet connection was mostly down or slow. Also, new participants require a lot of coaching and follow-up in order to complete their edits. The majority of them are hesitant to use Wikipedia, and this has been a long-standing problem in the Philippines. Due to the cancellation of the offline events, we transitioned to one online activity (that we were not yet familiar with). There were technological challenges that we had to deal with.

### Learning opportunities from the A+F Community

With the Art+Feminism Community now assisting me all throughout the campaign, we were able to create other alternatives as to how interested participants can join in. This created open opportunities for us to conduct interviews with feminists in the region, and also host an online exhibit of artwork by visual artists in the Philippines. The Community hours conducted by the A+F community were a huge help in the overall brainstorming of our 2nd-year event, together with the WMF Community Resources team. It has been a learning experience to learn how to create your proposal on Meta-Wiki and how to incorporate activities beyond Wikipedia editing.



▲ Art+Feminism volunteer editors during the 1st Art+Fem Campaign in 2020





◀ (top) Kunokuno and Wiki Advocates PH Volunteers (bottom), during the Art+Feminism and Wiki Advocates PH Virtual meet up, (Kunokuno, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons)

### *Why would a man lead the Art+Feminism Campaign?*

One significant comment I had with the local feminists was the question, Why would a man lead a certain event such as this instead of a woman? I took that as a legitimate question and have seen that we still need to work on the many faces of feminism, including its aspects of diversity and inclusion. That is what leads us to create a more open space for every year's Art+Feminism campaign.



### **From one, to many...**

With me in the role of a Network Organizer at Art+Feminism, I decided to increase the reach and participation of our local volunteers. If we want to sustain the advocacy and involve a lot of people in this movement, the work should not be solely done by me. I was grateful that a group of eight new volunteers and three experienced Wikimedians were eager to work on different aspects of the projects, including edit-a-thons, interviews, and other forms of Wiki outreach activities. Some recent activities we had were the development of Wikiquote incubator projects in our local languages (Central Bikol and Tagalog), wherein we visited libraries in search of references. The team also participated in the Earth Day Celebration through a Coffee painting workshop attended by 21 female participants and 12 volunteers. And we are happy to highlight the outreach activity we had on Catanduanes Island, donating a Kiwix device to a public school and sharing the wiki projects with teachers there.

Little did we know that our first participation in the A+F campaign would grow into this over the years. And we are all grateful for the support the A+F community has given us along the way.



Danbarrameda, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

▲ White sand in Twin Rock Beach Resort in Catanduanes Island

# GREAT SENSE OF THE WIKIMEDIA MOVEMENT: *Bringing Wiki Projects in Catanduanes Island*

by Daniel H. Barrameda - *Committee Lead, Language Preservation, Wiki Advocates PH User Group*

Wiki Advocates Philippines has always been dedicated to achieving our mission and vision through outreach and participation in various campaigns that support community growth. We have always dreamed of broadening our scope by welcoming new volunteers and members, and being able to organize events and make them unfold with the support of all volunteers.

Since the pandemic travel restrictions ended, and travel has been approved, the project of bringing the Open Access Learning Portal project to Bislig Elementary School on Catanduanes Island was at last come to fruition on May 14, 2022. Shortly after planning it for a year. We prioritized this project to help the community with limited to no data connections, to experience another culture, and understand its need to help reform our mission. The altruistic idea of this project was to train teachers in Wikimedia projects and offline Wikipedia, and to provide a Kiwix device with a built-in offline browser for Wikipedia and other learning websites. This project likewise provided us with a remarkable learning opportunity and allowed us to give back by achieving our beneficial goal of spreading free knowledge accessible to all the school's students and teachers.

This experience has been an eye-opener for me. On the day we traveled to Catanduanes Island, it proved that experiencing new things through travel also rewires how our minds work and makes us more open to new ideas, and offers



▲ (top) Wiki Advocates PH members boarding the Calixta VI Ferryboat, (Kunokuno, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons); (bottom) Bislig Elementary School, San Andres West District, Catanduanes, (Danbarrameda, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons)



▲ Teachers and Wiki volunteers at Bislig Elementary School during the Wiki Advocates PH Outreach Activity

us fresh perspectives and experiences that we can impart to further enhance others' own learning. Similar to how traveling allows us to meet many new people, it also helps us learn additional facts that we can apply and pass on through contributing to various content for free sharing, indeed the various wiki projects. Being part of the movement gives us a sense of purpose to contribute more in a community where free knowledge is relatively rare, especially in some areas of the Philippines where access to information is poor because only a few individuals are able to have access to it. Being part of this project made me feel proud of myself for accomplishing my task as one of the organizers and effectively interacting with the teachers from this remote community. I remember feeling somewhat anxious, because, as a student I thought that I would fail in my tasks knowing that the people we were going to assist were professionals. This opportunity has taught me again that learning has no age limit, and that everyone can also be a teacher to someone.

Whenever I think of this project we accomplished to provide open opportunity for the students and teachers of Bislig Elementary School to have free access to various knowledge, it always reminds me of the primary objective of Wikipedia, which says,

*“Imagine a world where every single person on the planet is given free access to the entirety of all human knowledge.”*

As it serves as the compass that we use within the Wikimedia Movement, we are thrilled to have fulfilled the related goal of promoting free knowledge through various Wikimedia projects that encourage the use of the different Wiki projects.

I am fulfilled with how this project has molded me to connect with others as well as to have the courage to deal with the challenges we are bound to face there. Through this activity, I came to comprehend that there are various reasons for me to consistently embrace challenges and not be afraid to take risks because these are the things that help us develop as

a person and as a volunteer. By doing this, it will additionally provide us a chance to help the community and the people in it some more.



▲ A teacher accessing a photo from an article from the Kiwix device

# ART+FEMINISM PH VOLUNTEERS JOIN WIKIFORHUMANRIGHTS ON *Earth Day Celebration*

by Daphne Boncodin - Program Support, Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity, Wiki Advocates PH User Group

In celebration of Earth Day, Wiki Advocates Philippines together with the Art+Feminism volunteers conducted a hybrid workshop with a fun coffee painting session and lightning talks on supporting campaigns like information on environmental awareness and feminism entitled "Summer Coffee Painting Workshop" during the celebration of World Earth Day on April 22, 2022 at Caranan, Pasacao Camarines Sur. The said event was participated by the local artist Alberth Pado Serrano, 21 young female volunteers from the community and 12 active members of Wiki Advocates Philippines.

Ms. Imelda Brazal, one of the founders of Wiki Advocates Philippines, led the opening remarks. Mr. Albert Pado Serrano, the guest speaker for this Coffee Painting Workshop afterwards.

Mr. Serrano introduced the concept of coffee painting and demonstrated some techniques, like achieving a light to dark color using coffee as a paint material and the gradient technique. After a short demonstration of how coffee paintings were made, participants began making their own art. Members of the User Group are guiding participants throughout the event.



▲ Albert, local visual artist, teach the basics of coffee painting

After showcasing their ingenious talent, Mr. Anthony Diaz awarded the certificate to each participant. A special token was awarded to Camele Borres, as she was the lucky one to receive the painting of Mr. Serrano, the guest speaker for this coffee painting Workshop. While other participants have their tote bag as their token as well.

This event was organized by Wiki Advocates Ph in the pursuit of supporting environmental awareness campaigns with youth volunteers to educate them about the importance of understanding our environment's vulnerability and protecting it. Events like this will not only be beneficial to the environment but also to the community, as it engages young people and connects them to a better tomorrow.

To put an end to the said event, Mr. Anthony Diaz, Network Organizer of Art+Feminism, and founder of Wiki Advocates PH, led the closing remarks by acknowledging the presence of all people involved in this event, including young volunteers and Mr. Albert Pado Serrano as a guest speaker.



▲ Imelda giving a short talk on Wiki projects

Kunokuno, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Kunokuno, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



(right) Summer Coffee Painting Workshop Poster, (by Bianca Brazal); (middle left) Volunteers assisting the participants during the session, (middle right) Participant receiving her certificate after the workshop, (bottom) Group photo of organizers and participants, (Kunokuno, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons)



# HEARING FROM WOMEN FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE

by Steven L. Barrameda - 2022 - 2023 President, Wiki Advocates PH User Group

One of the main goals of Art+Feminism is to be an instrument for all women to be heard. For every iteration of this campaign, the Wiki Advocates Philippines User Group conducts an interview with women from different professions to raise their voices and struggles as they navigate through all walks of life.

On March 8, 2022, as part of the International Women's Day Celebration, the group was able to speak with 22 women, 7 of them were mothers, 6 were teachers, 7 were writers and social activists, and 2 were students. The question asked was, *'Where do you see women as part of a society?'* and we were able to receive a variety of answers depending on their individual experiences in work, family life, economic status, and political beliefs. The social media post was able to organically reach 2,591 people across the platform.

*"Women, in general, have no fixed role in society. We, as women, refuse to be put in a box. We refuse to end up victimizing ourselves. It has to stop being the norm. Each and every woman has an individual journey to embark on and whatever or whoever they choose to become as long as it is not anchored on any forms of violence, they must be served respect, they must be heard, and they must be seen as human beings."*

*-Shanelle Escuro, Visual Artist*

*"I see women crossing the road, dodging the passing vehicles. I see the woman among the jeepney drivers patiently waiting to gather passengers. I see the woman among those carrying cement, among those having coffee at dawn, among the drunks on the street. I see the woman in what I do every day, going on, sharing themselves, falling in love, and being loved."*

*-Roxanne Berido, Writer*

*"I have been seeing women in the workforce. It is based on my everyday riding in a jeepney, everyday they are rushing to get into the jeepney while wearing their uniforms at their work. Most of the passengers in the jeepney are women, back and forth. If we have seen them as a homemaker before inside the house, now aside from being a homemaker, they are also in the workforce."*

*-Leziel Bermudo, Teacher*

*"There's no limitation to what women can do. The truth is, we are taking the lead in different areas and this is no longer a surprise. But if a poor man is already being exploited, the greater the exploitation there is towards women. In the majority of the Philippine society that is composed of farmers, peasant women are at the forefront. We can see them in the thousands of organizations in the country, fighting for genuine agrarian reform. When it comes to workers, working women are part of the struggle for humane and sufficient wages. This is an essential role of women because the freedom of all genders is the freedom of all classes. To answer the question: a woman's place is in the struggle."*

*-Sasah Sta. Rosa, Jovenes Anakbayan Regional Secretary General / Kabataan Partylist Bicol Spox*

Artist/Photographer: Shanelle Escuro

*\*Selves you encounter when you don't look in the mirror  
(Raw image to Manipulated image, Mobile photography)*

On June 7, 2023, as part of the 10th anniversary of Art+Feminism, and the Wiki Advocates Philippines User Group's aim to be a vital instrument for making the voices of women from all walks of life heard, the User Group wanted to highlight the triumphs, struggles, and unique experiences of every woman we interviewed and inspire the community with their stories. Volunteers interviewed women with different roles in our society to share their stories and experiences that will inspire, support, and encourage every single woman who plays a vital role in the community to be empowered.

Through the use of online survey forms and various social media platforms, sixteen (16) respondents participated in this hybrid interview. This time the interview focused on these questions: How do you empower yourself and the women around you? What makes you a strong woman? What fulfills you?

*“ I always pour love in myself, I put so much effort in improving myself and I always put in my mind that I am capable of doing everything. By giving support, by respecting their choices, and by not dragging another woman down. It is by accepting challenges life has thrown. Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, but it is about how we dance in the rain. What fulfills me is seeing myself being proud of how I handle things.”*

*- Pats Hermueno, Teacher*

*“ I empower myself by being positive in all things that I'm doing because positivity has the power to make impossible things turn to possible. Being an independent woman because I know I can stand up on my own. It fulfills me when my doubts turn into achievements when I think I can't do it but eventually I can.”*

*-Romalie B. Subastil, Administrative Aide I*

*“ Educating myself and having self confidence can help to encourage other women to do what they can and what they want.. Encourage them to raise their flag as a strong woman with dignity and power to face different circumstances and problems in life. My parents give me the opportunity to live in this world, however, living here is not easy there's a lot of problems we may encounter but the PROBLEMs and CHALLENGES that come in my life make me stronger than who i am before. I can proudly say that I am a stronger person now because life challenged me and molded me to be independent and strong no matter what happened. My family and friends fulfill me because everytime i'm with them I feel secure,complete and grateful in life. Even though I experience different challenges in life I still have those people who trust me and motivate me always.”*

*-Joan T. Bañaria, Student*

Volunteers of Art+Feminism in the Philippines take pride in being part of this effort to listen to and understand women's struggles, challenges, and inspirations as they steer into a life full of prejudices, preconceptions, and unequal opportunities. These responses from the important people in our lives, our mothers, sisters, and partners, shape the visions and core values of the Wiki Advocates Philippines User Group, as an advocate of Art+Feminism.

Artist/Photographer: Shanelle Escuro

*\*Selves you encounter when you don't look in the mirror  
(Raw image to Manipulated image, Mobile photography)*

# #SHESAID

by Anthony B. Diaz - Network Organizer, Art+Feminism

In the Philippines, women are traditionally seen as someone who takes care of the family, does household chores, and disciplines the children. Locally, they are called “Ilaw ng tahanan”. But this stereotyping is not always true in some parts of history, especially when women play a high role in spiritual hierarchy, as in Babaylan. They are seen as entities that link the material world to the immaterial realm, acquire wisdom through nature, and are able to bless warriors with strength during battles. The Spanish era and Catholicism have played a huge part in reversing the practices, but knowing few women like Gabriela Silang, Gregoria de Jesus, Agueda Kahabagan, Teresa Magbanua, Melchora Aquino, and Trinidad Tecson, who have fought together with the Katipuneros (Filipino warriors), during the Philippine Revolution era, we can claim that the highest respect and trust were still embedded in the women's force. Their roles as soldiers, messengers, nurses, guards, mothers, spies, fund-raisers, and strategists during the foreign invasions were instrumental to the liberation of the Philippines. We knew that the voices of these powerful women should not be contained in old books only to be understood by Filipino speakers. The Wikiquote project has served as a strategic entry point for documenting parts of their speeches, their memorable lines, and their battle cry as they charge through the enemy's front line.

As advocates of Gender and Women empowerment, the Wiki Advocates Philippines User Group have always been supportive of global campaigns that has the same objectives such as the WikiGap, Art+Feminism, Visible Wiki Women, and the #SheSaid Campaign. For the past two years, 2021 and 2022, the group has been part of the #SheSaid, creating and improving quotations about women and feminism in two wikiquote projects, the Central Bikol and Tagalog Wikiquote project. A total of 15 editors have been involved in the 2021 edit-a-thons, resulting in 152 new pages in Central Bikol Wikiquote and 572 pages for Tagalog Wikiquote. For 2022, a total of 2287 pages were created and improved in both projects. The two-year involvement in the campaign was like hitting two birds with one stone. While we are continuously adding entries for women and bridging the gender gap in wikiprojects, we are also able to hatch both projects in their incubator status. By January 2023, two local language projects were able to have their own domain, the Central Bicol and Tagalog Wikiquote projects.

Four portraits of women were also created by two volunteer visual artists, who used them as templates for posters. The voices of women were not only amplified in wiki projects but also on social media pages. We may not be able to do the same heroism these Filipina people have done in our history, but as digital activists and feminists, part of our goal is to write their stories on every platform we have. It's not documenting the dead past but reliving each moment these amazing women have offered their lives for the freedom we own today.



▲ (left) Angelica, a newbie volunteer, creating Wikiquote entries, (right) An editor creating entry for the Wikiquote during the SheSaid Campaign in PH 2023, (Kunokuno, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons)



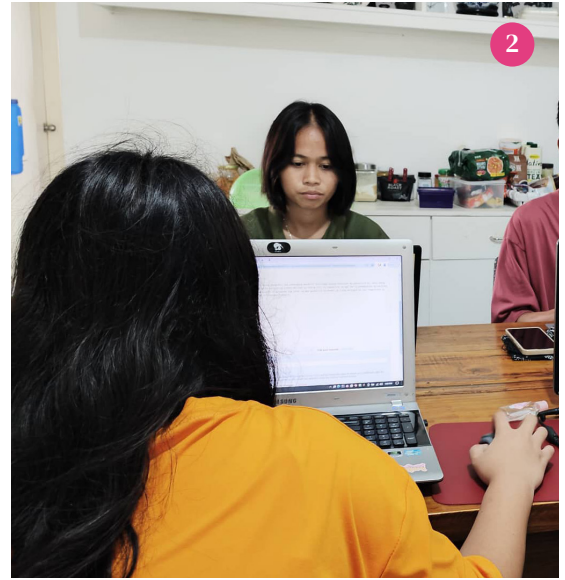
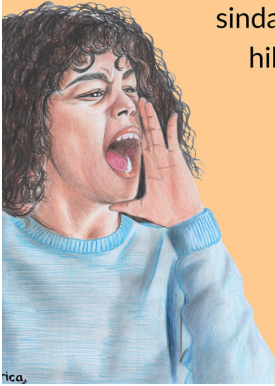
# #SheSaidPH2021

1

"An Feminismo bako man manungod sa kun pano magigin makusog an mga kababaihan. Dati na sindang makusog, manungod ini sa kun pano hihilingon kan kinaban an kusog na ini."

- G.D. Anderson

An saiyang tingog kaibahan sa Wikisambit. Makipagtabangan sa pagbalangibog kan tingog kan kababaihan .



2



3

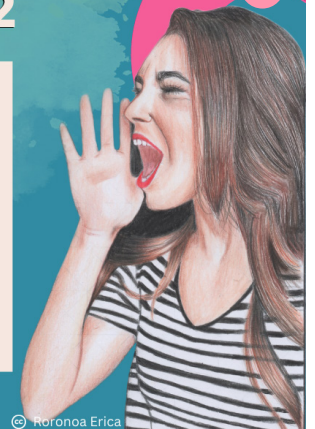
# #SheSaidPH2022

4



Nagpapasalamat ako sa aking mga pinagdaraan, dahil kung wala ito, hindi ko sana matatagpuan ang aking kalakasan.

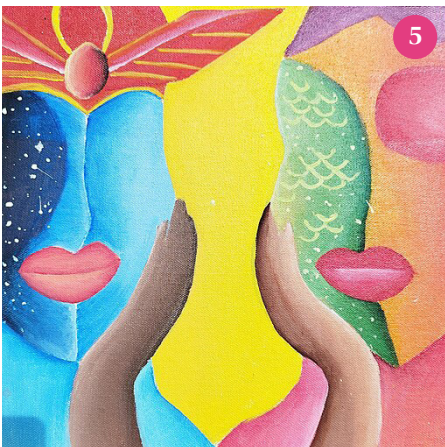
• Alex Elle



© Roronoa Erica



Ang kanyang boses ay wala pa sa Wikikawikaan. Makipagtulungan upang mapalaganap ang boses ng mga kababaihan.



5



6



7

▲ (1) SheSaidPH poster during the SheSaid Campaign 2021, artwork by Erica Pesino, (2) Wiki Advocates PH SheSaid 2022 Edit-a-thon October 9, 2022 session, (3) Wiki Advocates PH members and volunteers during the SheSaid Campaign 2023, (4) SheSaidPH poster during the SheSaid Campaign 2022, artwork by Erica Pesino, (Kunokuno, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons); (5) Artwork by Danbarrameda, (6) Artwork by Sheryl, (7) Artwork by Daphpb, (Daphpb, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons)



▲ (top left) Tokens for the newbie editors, (Danbarrameda, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons); (top right) A view from the participant's table during the Art and Feminism virtual session, (Kunokuno, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons); (right) Participants during the Wikidata discussion, (Danbarrameda, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons); (bottom left) Imelda and Jheckpesino preparing for the awarding, (bottom right) Open forum after the event, (Kunokuno, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons)



# WIKI ADVOCATES PHILIPPINES UG MEETS Art+Feminism

by Daphne Boncodin - Program Support, Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity, Wiki Advocates PH User Group

During the 10th year of Art + Feminism on May 21, 2023, Art+Feminism and Wiki Advocates Philippines User Group collaborated as part of their initiative to bridge the gender gap between men and women in the different Wikiprojects for the past four years. The meaningful and informative virtual meet-up has covered various topics, including Wikidata Editing, how to navigate the ISA Tool, Leadership Development within the volunteers, and implementing equity in our work as an organization by sharing knowledge and opinions regarding equity. It has been attended by six newly recruited volunteers and editors and 14 active members of the Wiki Advocates Philippines User Group.

During the virtual meet-up Daniel and Daphne, members of Wiki Advocates Philippines, shared their knowledge and ideas regarding the history and occurrence of Art+Feminism in the Philippines.

After the comprehensive instruction of Anthony Diaz on how the ISA tool works and is utilized and the introduction of Padmini to Wikidata, we implemented an edit-a-thon to spend our remaining time productively. The event ended with the awarding of certificates to the attendees and the sharing of ideas regarding equity, especially on how our future events will also cater to people with special conditions.



Kunokumo, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

▲ Volunteers during the Art+Feminism and Wiki Advocates PH Virtual meet up

# USING WIKIPEDIA AND BRIDGING THE GENDER GAP: In-Service training for Teachers in Philippines

by Anthony B. Diaz - Network Organizer, Art+Feminism

The Department of Education of the Philippines has held its week-long In-service training for the teachers. Tinago National High School, a secondary school located in Naga City has shown interest in incorporating Wikimedia Projects into their teaching, specifically Wikipedia. Through the efforts of Rick M. Ruizo, the school principal, and Madam Chona D. Peralta, the proponent of this year's school-based INSET, the short training was held at the school on March 17, 2021.

The overall aims of the In-service training are as follows, to state concepts about wellness that will contribute to one's personal and professional well-being; discuss ways on how to contribute to the school's development through knowledge about School-based Management, Wikipedia, the grade management system, and positive discipline; and lastly, to design a personal plan to maintain and enhance a holistic self.

Two volunteer Wikimedians have been present during the event to share the concepts of Wikipedia, the anatomy of an article, the use of a content translation tool, and the aim of the Wikimedia community to bridge the gender gap through adding articles related to women, especially since this month celebrates International Women's Month.



Anthony B. Diaz, the project organizer of Art+Feminism in the Philippines has invited the teachers to join the month-long edit-a-thon and has also answered queries with regards to Wikipedia. Common questions were how secure the information found on Wikipedia is, if articles are being verified before they get published, and how to engage the students in using the project to accomplish their assignments. Teachers were also informed that the entirety of the project is being monitored by devoted administrators who are always on the lookout for vandalism, false information, and susceptibility to the bias of some editors.



▲ (top) Training on content translation tool and bridging the gender gap, (Kunokuno, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons); (bottom) Kunokuno receiving certificate of appreciation (MaroBos, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons)

Imelda R. Brazal, who administers the EduWiki Community PH, has also shared how the teachers could effectively use Wikipedia in their lessons. Being part of the Reading Wikipedia in the Classroom project, she initially explained what benefits it would have if teachers could maximize the contents of Wikipedia. A card containing the link to the EduWiki Community PH was distributed among the teachers for them to gain access to the resources in connection with using Wikipedia as a reference tool.

Brazal,dang, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



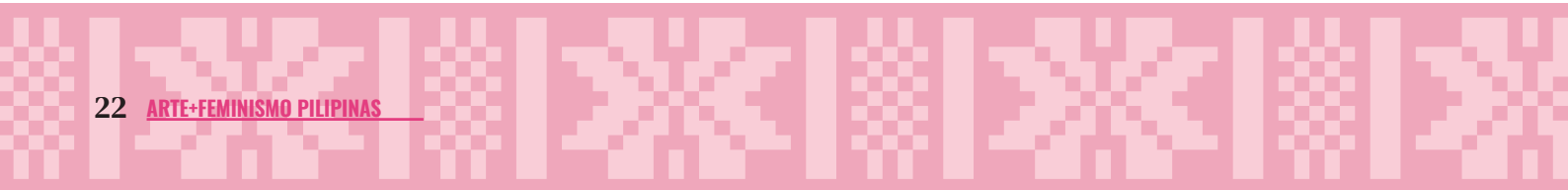
▲ Imelda discussing EduWiki Community PH to teachers

The event was attended by a total of 50 teachers where 11 of them have created user accounts during the training. In the end, the attendees were able to educate themselves on the content translation tool, its interface, how to write and publish articles translated, and some common errors in using it. They have also promised to join the Art+Feminism campaign and accomplish the target articles.

At the end of the program, active participants were able to receive Wikipedia souvenirs, including notebooks, stickers, pouch bags, and t-shirts. The Wikipedia projects were well-received by the teachers, and some have committed to participating in the upcoming events of the community.

(right) Souvenirs from the training, (bottom) Group photo of the Wikimedians with the training participants, (Kunokuno, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons)





*“Opportunity is missed by most people*

*because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”*

- Thomas Edison, as quoted in *An Enemy Called Average* (1990) by John L. Mason, p. 55.



Daniel Barrameda, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

▲ One of the attractive scenery from the Twin Rock Beach Resort in Catanduanes Island

## *Art+Feminism* IN CATANDUANES ISLAND

by Imelda Brazal - Executive Director, Wiki Advocates PH User Group

### Why this outreach on an island?

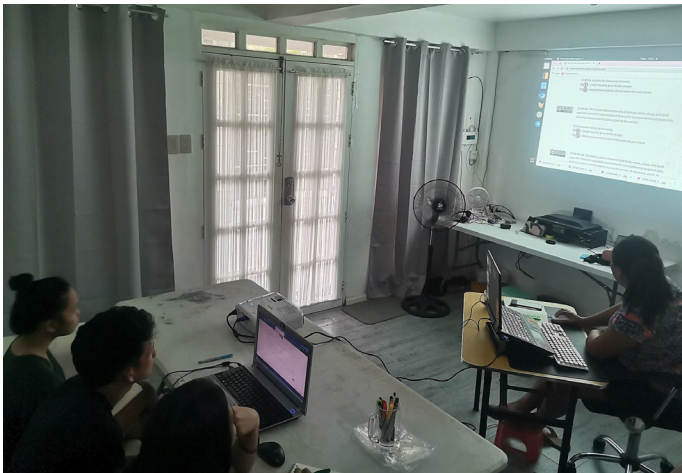
Being a volunteer around the movement for several years has taught me that opportunities to connect with people and communities are rare. As a community organizer, working with different stakeholders from academe extending to other social sectors within our region is a challenge. Building connections with people who share the same passion and commitment to open knowledge, environmental and human rights is impossible for communities that have to work multiple jobs just to live for another day. I always consider it a gift when

a community member expresses intention to learn from us, Wikimedia volunteers, as it gives us an opportunity to share what we know, what we have and establish linkages to work together going forward. So when Mr. Napoleon Arcilla III, an established local writer and a dedicated school principal in a remote area in the Island of Catanduanes, reached out to one of the Wiki Advocates volunteers. I convinced myself that we need to be there and share what we have. It may not be much for us, but it will make a difference for them.

## Planning the Outreach

It is always not easy to organize an outreach activity with limited resources. As a very small group of volunteers, we are limited both in finances and human resources. To make it possible, we asked for support from Art & Feminism, published a call for volunteers and started saving our own money to make this journey a success. Several weeks before the event, selected volunteers started their training to ensure a smooth flow of events. Volunteers were grouped into two teams. One will focus on Art & Feminism, and the other on Access to Kiwix (with offline Wikipedia, WikiFundi and other relevant resources). All of the volunteers were also expected to help in preparing the meals of the group during the entire stay in the island.

Kunokuno, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



▲ Wiki Advocates PH members training for Catanduanes Outreach

## Stay in the Island

For four days, the volunteers wake up at 3am in the morning and have to sleep late to ensure that everything is ready for the next day. Everything is on the clock. We needed to strictly follow the timeline because every minute that we spend on that island is a peso lost. If we were late for the ferry, we will need to wait for another day to catch it, which means we will need additional expenses on the accommodation and food. These, we can no longer afford. We also didn't expect that transportation on the island would be so expensive. We needed to cut on some of our meals to cover these unexpected expenses. Volunteers are physically tired from the journey but were still very motivated to visit the community.

We reached the island in the afternoon of May 14, 2022. It is a challenge finding cheap accommodation. We spent the remaining hours of our first day looking for a roof over our heads then unpacking. We spent the second day on another round of training and delegating tasks. On the third day, we visited Bislig Elementary School, where we were greeted with the warmest welcome and faces full of hope. The journey was all worth it, even though we knew that we were all going back home penniless, because we were making a difference.

Even though the school has no internet connection, a very small collection of books that they call a library, they have the most engaging teachers I have ever met. They were all eager to learn new things, and they were very appreciative of the resources Kiwix can offer. All of the teachers tried creating their Wikipedia account for the first time using WikiFundi. We were able to discuss the anatomy of an article and how one can verify an article. They also tried making simple edits and you can tell how enthusiastic they were about it. The entire workshop was easy because of all the volunteers that we had that time. They knew how to answer the questions of the teachers and how to troubleshoot the technical issues in the devices of the teachers. Some of them even improvised by sharing their mobile phones, others are very keen in translating the technical terms I am using during the workshop to be understood by the participants. For the first time as an organizer, I have received the help I needed through these volunteers and felt that I don't have to do it alone.



▲ (top) Imelda, and (middle) Kunokuno discussing during the outreach activity in Bislig, Catanduanes, (bottom) Group photo of Wiki Advocates PH and Bislig Elementary School Faculty Members, (Kunokuno, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons)



## Learning opportunities and takeaways

I am one of the speakers for the training workshop in Catanduanes Island. My role is to discuss how to access Kiwix and its resources, both using the Kiwix desktop and the box that we brought for Bislig Elementary School. Several weeks before the outreach, I trained the volunteers on how to use and navigate through the device. I also trained them how to make simple edits both online and offline.

I have been around the movement for quite some time now and every time I go out for an outreach, I am always reminded of how far we are still in reaching out to communities that need us. It is disheartening to know that there are people without access to information even though we are so technologically advanced. There are communities surviving on their own, because help is inaccessible for them. These always remind me to be grounded and never lose sight of the mission of making knowledge accessible for everyone, regardless of race and social status. This experience also taught me that no matter how challenging it is to reach out to communities and build networks, it is what we need to do to reach and help educate more under-served communities.

The best highlight of this experience is knowing how the volunteers handled the new participants. It is very rewarding to see that there is always a new set of volunteers willing to share their time and energy in continuing the group's commitment to build space for open knowledge and share whatever resources we have. The team's effort to sustain the group's needs and to still be able to give to others is very remarkable.

I am also very grateful to Art and Feminism and Art & Feminism Philippines for making this outreach possible. Without their financial support we will not be able to reach the teachers in Bislig. They helped make it possible for teachers in Bislig to have access to information and have hopes of being able to share knowledge outside their classrooms.

Through the four-day journey with other volunteers, I am reminded of the importance of surviving within a group. For several years I have been organizing and visiting communities on my own or at times with very few people. This is the first time we went out as a big group. There were some challenges with transportation and accommodation but working with a bigger group makes the work easier. I am very happy to have met new, confident, kind and smart volunteers who are really dedicated to sharing knowledge to other communities. The call for volunteers and the screening process was worth it.

*“The activities in Catanduanes Island helped me to mold who I am right now. I know it sounds exaggerated but that's the fact. It changed my perspective about myself, indeed, I gained a lot of learnings in the said activities. The learning I will never forget during the activities is that I will never let my emotions decide because it will end up ruining everything and I may lose those important people in my life. I also learned that not everyone would like and understand me and it is very important to adjust sometimes to build an amicable companionship. And lastly, I learned that, to be able to not feel tired of the activities we must enjoy the moment, be more positive and build a healthy relationship with other people.”*

*“As a volunteer, doing those kinds of activities indeed helps me to develop the 'what and who I am'. I gained a lot of learning that helps me to grow and understand the world better. Why not? It has also benefited me by learning how to help the other people who are struggling in accessing free knowledge. I feel like I am one of those people who tries to prevent the ignorance that might cause chaos in the future and change the world for the better. Hence, it's my pleasure to be part of the activities again in the near future.”*

- Annaleah, A+F volunteer



▲ Pathway on one side of the beach, (Sheanjean, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons)

# UNHEARD VOICES ARE THE LOUDEST

by Anthony B. Diaz - Network Organizer, Art+Feminism

Being the type of person who resists the rampant injustices in society, I have always made it a point that nobody should be left out, especially those who do not have the strength to fight for themselves. Lack of information and access to knowledge is a silent injustice, creeping into society through economic degradation. A human instinct to react to this is to search for food instead of how to produce it. It's a painstaking process to always stand up for these people since, most of the time, those we consider oppressors have the guts to take whatever they want at every opportunity, leaving the victim with nothing. If it's a calling to be situated in a place with less appreciation for open knowledge, I have finally determined in four years that I am for this place.

The four years of conducting Art+Feminism have always been a struggle, considering that we are doing it in what we may call a secluded part of the region, where the place is more suited for manual labor instead of delving into the digital age. We cannot ignore the reality that this is how things should be done here since the seaside is considered a place for fishermen and other related industries. People are also unconsciously conditioned to follow that track, where they would choose a minimum wage job instead of doing volunteer work that will eventually lead them to know more about the world and open an abundance of opportunities for a secured future. The sound of a rumbling stomach will always be much louder than the deafening silence of a human brain devoid of interest in knowledge. I can admit that in similar circumstances, I will choose the quickest solution to survive the day, which is to scavenge for food.

Although I have encountered this reality in the past years as a Wikimedia volunteer, I am always divided between leaving those volunteers with slow to no progress and heading to another city where there's a concrete result if I generate higher statistics for wikiprojects. But, doing so would defeat the essence of equity, which is one of the values of Art+Feminism. While we don't have the thousands of edits per volunteer, participants who are technically skilled in Wikidata or Mediawiki, aspects of wikis we considered too advanced, events that are considered to create a global impact, or partnerships with well-known institutions, I am at peace with having a vibrant and healthy community that accompanies me in my goal of having an equal opportunity for knowledge for every human being.



▲ (top) Erica assisting a participant during the Earth Day Celebration 2022, (bottom) Documentation during the event, (Kunokuno, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons)

Success stories in wiki projects are not always about good articles published in Wikipedia, hundreds of thousands of entries in Wiktionary, creating bots and tools in Mediawiki, or being invited to learning clinics as a model User Group. Some stories are unheard of—trivial experiences that never reached the global community. It's an exciting story to tell how some of our volunteers, being children of fishermen, were handy in boats and fish capture, had low computer literacy in the past, and are now active editors in our local wikiprojects. Youth volunteers who started as wallflowers at events and merely uttered a word or two are now the organizers of our events. While things are going smoothly, the patterns have changed from the past, as if the community is slowly unlearning its nature of being aloof to knowledge. These unheard stories of small volunteers will be the call for action for the Wikimedia movement in the future, which I hope will happen in the years to come.

# ARTE+FEMINISMO

P I L I P I N A S  
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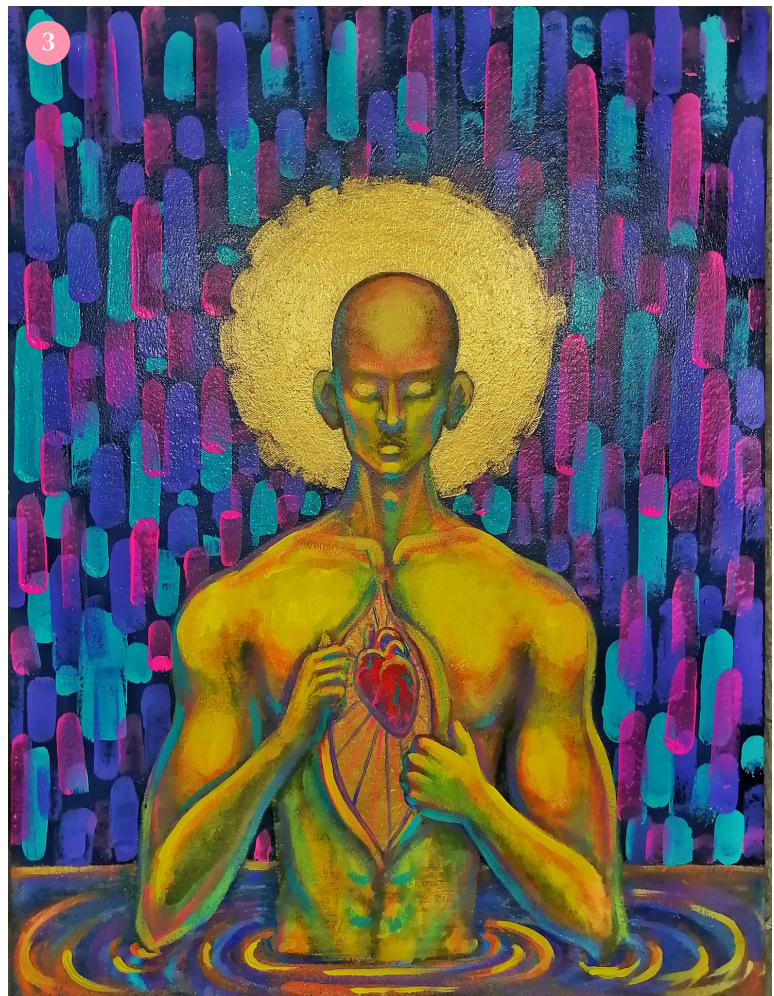
•artwork gallery•

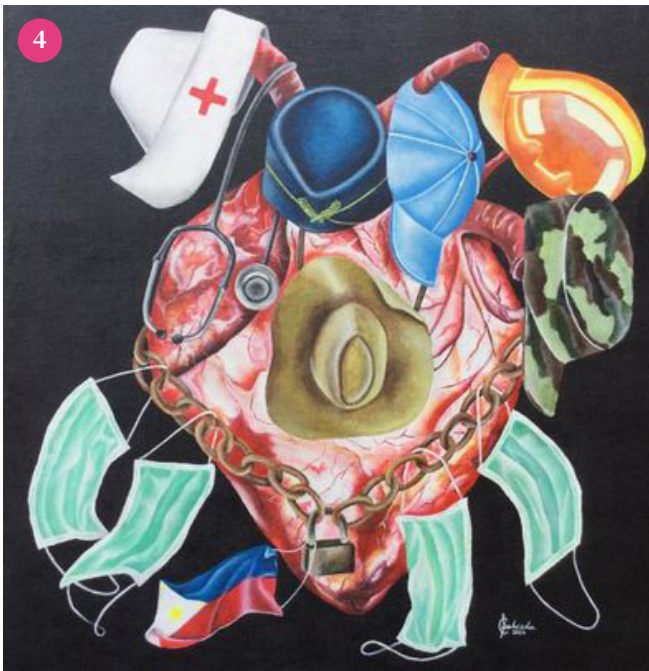


1. Title: Midnight and High Noon  
Medium: Mixed media on canvas  
Size: 18" x 24"  
Year: 2019  
Artist: Paolo Gerero  
Theme: Celebration of non-heteronormative love



2. Title: Lilium Inter Spinas  
 Medium: Mixed media on canvas  
 Size: 17" x 21.5"  
 Year: 2021  
 Artist: Paolo Gerero  
 Theme: Queer liberation and empowerment, rising from the ashes of homophobia and transphobia
3. Title: Revelation  
 Medium: Acrylic on canvas  
 Size: 18" x 24"  
 Year: 2021  
 Artist: Paolo Gerero  
 Theme: Revelation of non-binary identity





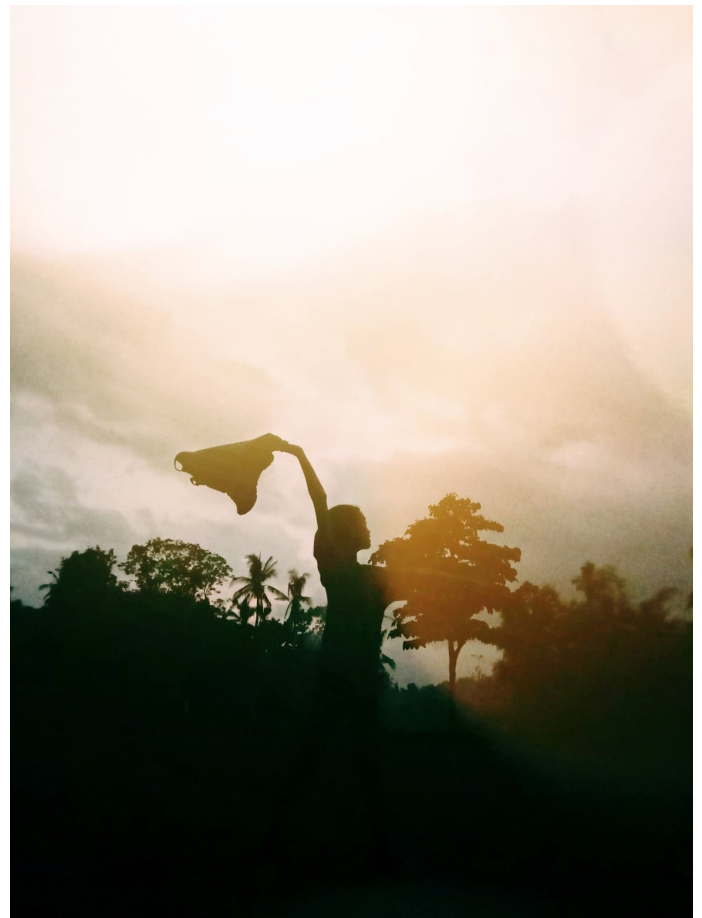
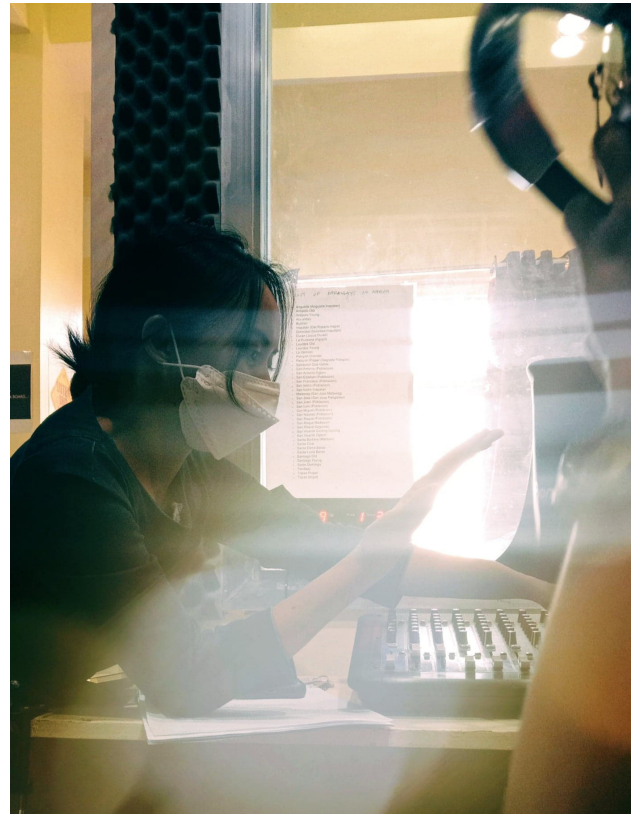
4. Title: Soldiers of today  
 Medium: Acrylic on canvas  
 Size: 24" x 24"  
 Year: 2020  
 Artist: Carissa Salceda

5. Title: Providence  
 Medium: Acrylic on canvas  
 Size: 12" x 16"  
 Year: 2020  
 Artist: Carissa Salceda

6. Title: Kabuhayan  
 Medium: Acrylic on canvas  
 Size: 12" x 16"  
 Year: 2020  
 Artist: Carissa Salceda

7. Title: Open  
 Medium: Acrylic on canvas  
 Size: 24" x 36"  
 Year: 2019  
 Artist: Bianca Rojas Brazal

8. Title: Just Be  
 Medium: Acrylic on canvas  
 Size: 24" x 36"  
 Year: 2019  
 Artist: Bianca Rojas Brazal



9. Artist/Photographer: Shanelle Escuro  
*\*Selves you encounter when you don't look in the mirror  
 (Raw image to Manipulated image, Mobile photography)*

10



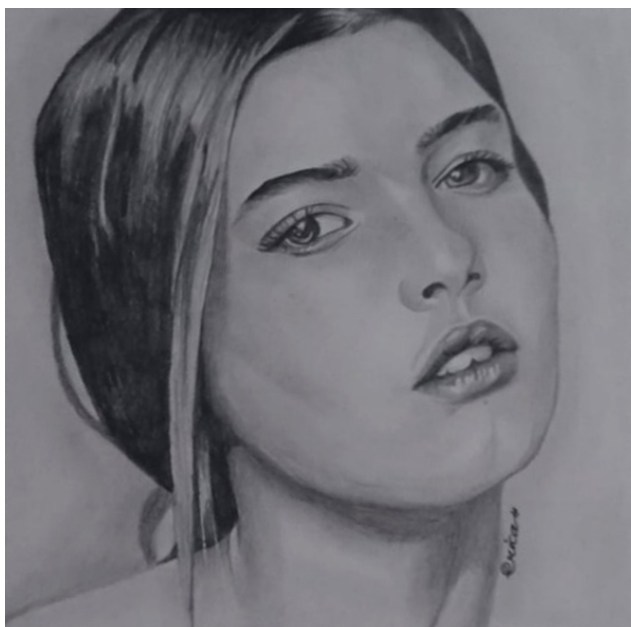
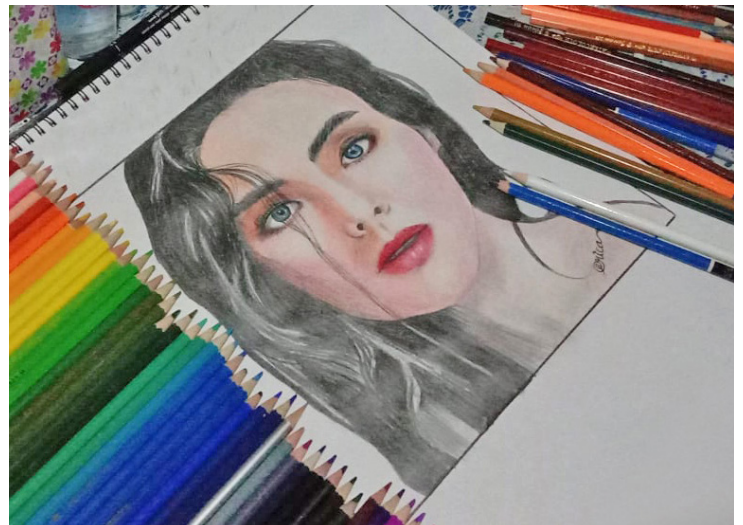
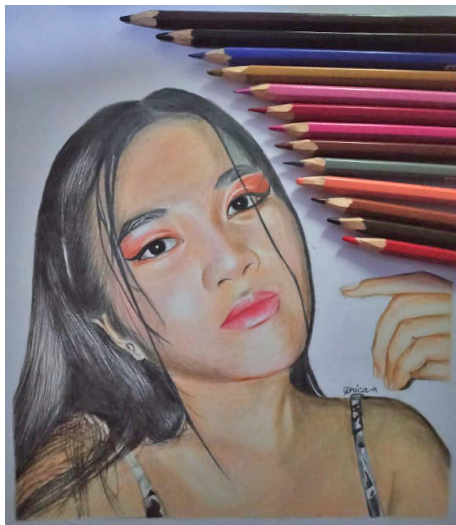
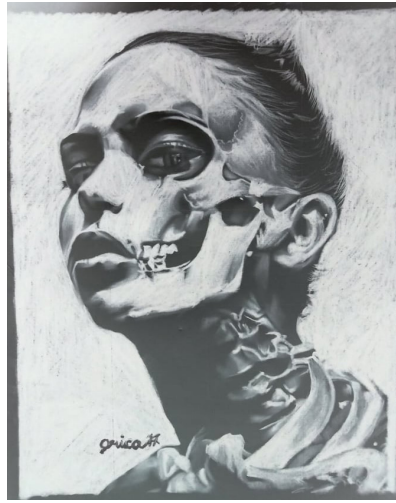
10. Artist: Danico Canave  
Photo manipulation



Artworks by Kirk Reblando







Artworks by Erica Lazarte Pesino

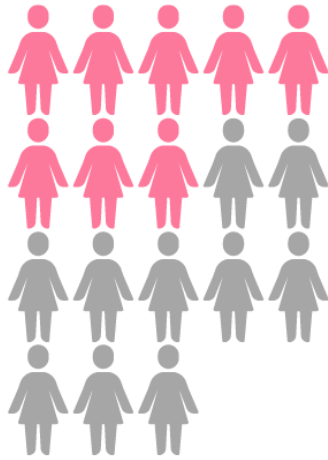
# ART AND FEMINISM IN THE PHILIPPINES

## EDIT-A-THON 2020

(Before Lockdown Implementation)

2020  
2023

18 Editors



New Editors



2 Online Events



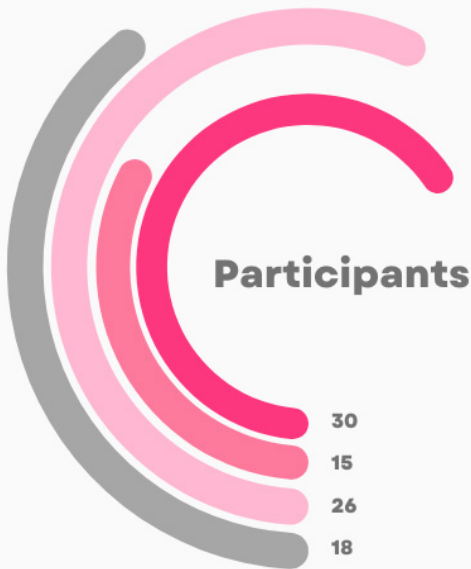
2 Meet-ups

**66**  
Articles Created

**86**  
Articles Improved

**21**  
Commons Uploads

# ART & FEM PH 2020 - 2023



**2023**

Art+Feminism 10th Anniversary Celebration - Philippines

**2022**

Art and Feminism in the Philippines 2022

**2021**

Art + Feminism in the Philippines Campaign 2021

**2020**

Art and Feminism in the Philippines Edit-a-thon 2020

## ART + FEMINISM IN THE PHILIPPINES CAMPAIGN 2021

(Under Lockdown)

**60**  
Teachers Trained

**26**  
Editors

**32**  
Articles for Art&Fem

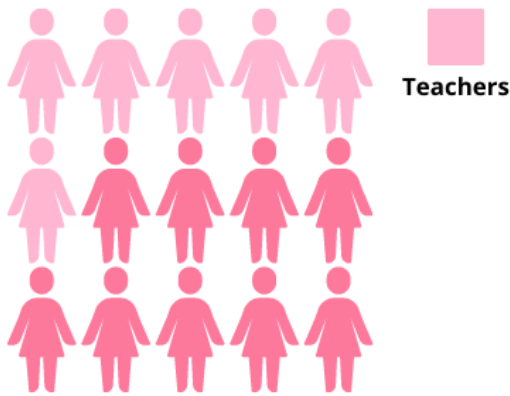
**5**  
Interviews

**363**  
Articles for WikiGap Campaign

**101**  
Commons Uploads

# ART AND FEMINISM IN THE PHILIPPINES 2022

15 Editors



3 In-person  
Edit-a-thons

3 Online  
Trainings



2 Capacity Building  
for Organizers



1 Outreach

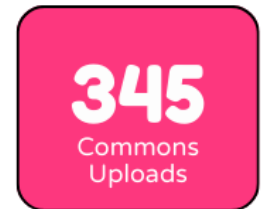
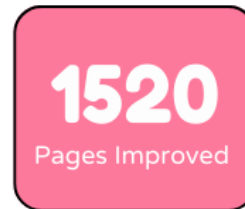
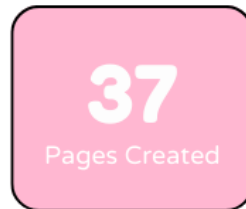


2 Art Workshop

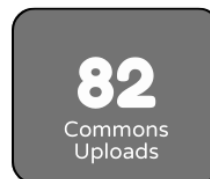
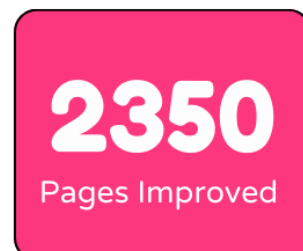
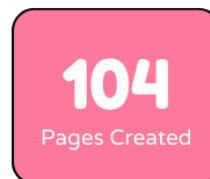


3 Blogs Posted

■ Women



## ART+FEMINISM 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION 2023



3 In-person  
Edit-a-thons

1 Virtual Meet-up  
with Art+Fem

4 Edit-a-thons



3 Gallery Visits



1 Meet-up



8 Artists  
28 Artworks  
for Online Exhibit



“

*Women, in general, have no fixed role in society. We, as women, refuse to be put in a box. We refuse to end up victimizing ourselves. It has to stop being the norm. Each and every woman has an individual journey to embark on and whatever or whoever they choose to become as long as it is not anchored on any forms of violence, they must be served respect, they must be heard, and they must be seen as human beings.”*

*-Shanelle Escuro, Visual Artist*