

Full Text

THE WORLD, MY WORLD, IN MY EYES



An artist and a teacher inspired his countrymen to continue his legacy by sharing how one sees the world through their own eyes, just as he did. Let us all listen to Vicenta Silva Manansala's story, a National Artist of the Philippines in Visual Arts (Painting).

The World, My World, In My Eyes is part of the Modern Hero Stories, a series of stories under Sandaang Salaysay about the lives of great and honorable Filipinos. Brought to you by Arete and Ateneo de Manila Basic Education in partnership with The Bookmark, Inc. and sponsored by Role Players, Inc. written by Carl Matthew Rodriguez and will be read to us by Mark Rommel Santos.

Vicente was a little boy who loved to make kites. He loved to make and design them in all shapes. He enjoyed squares most of all because he could make better designs with them.

But he never got a chance to fly any of his kites since he could not find an open area to do it. Most of the land was used by Americans who occupied the Philippines at the time.

One sunny but windy day, Vicente's father took him to a grassy field so Vicente could finally fly his kite. He brought his favorite, a four-square kite decorated with a variety of fruits. Vicente let his kite soar over the field and the hills.

As the kite was flying high above, Vicente's father asked him, "What do you see around you?"

Vicente squinted toward the vast horizon and cheerfully answered, "I can see the world! The whole entire world!"

His father smiled, "What do you feel, flying your kite around 'the world' like you're doing now?"

Vicente pondered what his father had said, then replied out: "I feel like I'm showing the world my colors!"

"Yes, Vicente. Show the world your colors, and you'll be able to color the world just as you color your kites."

And with that, Vicente started to dream of becoming an artist.

At first, this dream was simply to share his talent with those around him, but as he grew older, his dream was no longer simple as he became aware that his motherland was under foreigners.

After high school, Vicente focused on art full-time.

His artistic skills in school gave him many opportunities to pursue his dream, painting in different parts of the world. But he vowed to never forget his roots.

The years Vicente spent abroad made him long to return home. By the time he finished his studies, he had become a very skilled painter. At last, he returned home, but his excitement to return to the Philippines was crushed when he set foot on soil stained with blood, and a land scarred by World War II.

Seeing his devastated country, Vicente changed his dream. He no longer cared about showing the world his colors. Instead, he wanted to show his country its own colors. He wanted to expose the Philippines' beauty underneath the destruction and squalor.

He created paintings inspired by his postwar surroundings. At first, he painted an impoverished mother clutching her baby to reflect the country's struggles after the war. He wanted to convey his deep sorrow for his motherland.

Then Vicente realized it would be better to paint more positive scenes. He visited slums and other areas ignored by society. He witnessed Filipinos' optimism amidst tragedy. He painted children

playing native games such as “luksong-tinik. He also painted lively vendors selling balut, fish, fruits, vegetables. and farm animals.

He wanted others to appreciate the simple joys around them through his still-life paintings of dried fish and produce in a native setting. Through his paintings, he showed his countrymen the splendor of the Philippines that shone through the scarred remains of the war.

In his later years, Vicente became an art teacher. He would ask his students,

"What is the world to you?" His students would answer literal things such as

"the Earth" or "the place we live in".

Then Vicente would tell his students:

"Yes, the world is the place we all live in, but it isn't the same place for all of us. What the world is to you is different from what the world is to me. What the world is to us is different from what the world is to slum-dwellers. Our world is also what each of us wants it to be.

At first, I dreamed of showing everyone my world, but after witnessing our country taken over by another and being left in ruins after the war, I no longer wanted to show my world. I wanted to show our world - the Philippines - the world we all share as Filipinos.

We live in our own different worlds, but as brothers and sisters in this country, our worlds intersect here. The first lesson of art is it is meant to be shared, but as your teacher and fellow artist, if there's anything I want you to learn from me, it's this: As individual artists, share your world with others, but as Filipino artists, share our world in the Philippines with, the rest of the world."

His students were inspired by his words, and, through the years. his students included Antonio Austria, Angelito Antonio, and Mario Parial who would later become famous artists who imbibed Vicente's nationalistic fervor.

Vicente Silva Manansala, artist and teacher, inspired his countrymen to continue his legacy. As a Filipino, he reminded his country of its beauty despite the ravages of war, and taught others to share how they saw the world through their own eyes, just as he did.

Source: *The World, My World, In My Eyes*. Carl Matthew Rodriguez. The Bookmark, Inc. 2016.

Current Stories in the Series

English

The Monkey and the Turtle
Sun and Moon
Sagacious Marcela
The Story of our Fingers
Why the Cow's Skin is Loose on the Neck
The Lost Necklace
Why Cocks have Combs on their Head
The Light of the Fly
The Snail and the Dear
Mangita and Larina
Why Dogs Wag Their Tails
The Eagle and The Hen

Adarna House: Children's Stories

Bakit Matagal ang Sundo ko?
Why is Mommy Late?
Asul na Araw

Filipino

Ang Pagong at ang Matsing
Ang mga Paglalakbay ni Juan
Ang Pinagmulan ng Daigdig (Si Malakas at si Maganda)
Ang Unang Unggoy
Ang Alamat ng Palay
Ang Pinagmulan ng Lamok
Kung Paano Yumaman si Jackyo
Ang Anting-anting ni Manuelito
Ang Gamugamo at Ang Liwanag
Kung Bakit Gusto ng mga Bagobo ang Pusa

Christmas Stories:

The Poor Man who Became King
The Sultan with a Heart of Stone
Buking si Santa

Blue Day
Ano'ng Gupit Natin Ngayon?
How would you like your haircut today?
Sampung Magkakaibigan
Ten Friends
Ang Pambihirang Sombrero
The Amazing Hat

Ang Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang ni Severino Reyes:

Ang Pitong Tanga
Rosamistica
Ang Mahiwagang Biyulin

Istatriray: Ang Bituing may Buntot
Alamat ng Puto-Bumbong
Felice, Noel, and the Christmas Day Disaster

Tabanan Books:

*Ang Babaeng Nabulog Mula sa Langit at Iba Pang
Kuwentong-bayan*
Pulo ng Digmaan: Alamat ng Pulo
Apo
*The Termite Queen and other Classic Philippine Earth
Tales*
Volcano of Love and Death

*Ang Mga Kuwento ng Makabagong Bayani/
Modern Hero Stories
(The Bookmark, Inc.)*

Edjop: Isang Anak ng Sigwa
Lub-dub, lub-dub (Fil.)
Made Perfect in Weakness
The Public's Servant
Legacy
I Know Where My Heart Is
The World, My World, In My Eyes

Stay in tune for the other stories in this podcast series!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Areté

Ma. Mercedes Rodrigo Ricardo Abad	<i>Executive Producers</i>
D Cortezano	<i>Producer</i>
John Robert Yam	<i>Overall Sound Designer</i>
Harold André Santos	<i>Theme Music Composer</i> <i>Episode Sound Designer</i>
John Robert Yam Nilo Beriarmente	<i>Sound Engineers</i>
Ivy Baggao	<i>Talent Coordinator and Production Associate</i>
Jethro Nibatén Rey Sotto Duane Ligot Justine Ray Santos Ralph Joseph Adarlo Carlos Hombrebueno	<i>Sound Design and Technical Team</i>
Vannessa Reventar	<i>Logistical Support</i>
Ross Du	<i>Illustrator</i>

Arielle Acosta
Lazir Caluya

Brand Developers

Dreamlist Digital

Web developers

Christopher Castillo

*Assistant to the ADSAS for Campus Events Management
(Voice actor for the episode)*

Ateneo de Manila Basic Education

Fr. Joaquin Jose Mari C. Sumpaico III SJ *Vice President for Basic Education*

Ateneo Grade School

Jervy M. Robles

Headmaster

Ateneo Junior High School

Jose Antonio P. Salvador

Principal

Genalyn S. Sanvictores

Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs

Paolo Ven B. Paculan

Senior Teacher, Subject Area Coordinator, Filipino

Kristine Ann P. Valdellon

Master Teacher, Subject Area Coordinator, English

Ateneo Senior High School

Ma. Victoria P. Dimalanta

Principal

Luis Allan B. Melosantos

Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs