



SINE KWENTO: Filipino Stories in Film

November 7 – 30, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 1, 2020



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BONITA MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER RECEIVES GRANT AWARD FROM CALIFORNIA HUMANITIES

Bonita, Calif. — California Humanities has announced the recent round of Humanities For All Quick Grant awards. The Bonita Museum and Cultural Center has been awarded \$5,000 for its project entitled *SINE KWENTO: Filipino Stories in Film*.

The Humanities For All Quick Grant is a competitive grant program of California Humanities that supports locally-initiated public humanities projects that respond to the needs and interests of Californians, encourages greater public participation in humanities programming, particularly by new and/or underserved audiences, and promotes understanding and empathy among all our state's peoples in order to cultivate a thriving democracy.

SINE KWENTO Filipino Stories in Film is in collaboration with San Diego Filipino Cinema (link: <http://sdfilipinocinema.org/about/>) and curated by film makers Benito Bautista and

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Emma Francisco. Remembering our past by celebrating and sharing inspiration is the theme for this exhibition about the history of Philippine Cinema. The exhibition takes visitors from the beginnings of Philippine cinema into the modern age of media and content creation by Filipino American vloggers in San Diego, California. The month-long exhibit will include film production artifacts like screenplays, film equipment, costumes and film production photos used in some of the films featured in the exhibition. *SINE KWENTO* is an immersive exhibition in partnership with the San Diego Filipino Cinema, Film Development Council of the Philippines and the Philippine Consulate General of Los Angeles that includes an exhibition of historical photographs of the Philippine film landscape from the 1970's to the present by renowned Filipino filmmaker and photographer Cesar Hernando.

“These projects will bring the complexity and diversity of California to light in new ways that will engage Californians from every part of our state, and, will help us all understand each other better,” said Julie Fry, President & CEO of California Humanities. “We congratulate the grantees whose projects will promote understanding and provide insight into a wide range of topics, issues, and experiences.”

A complete list of all Humanities For All Quick Grants can be found on the calhum.org website [here](#).

California Humanities, a nonprofit partner of the National Endowment of the Humanities, promotes the humanities – focused on ideas, conversation and learning – as relevant, meaningful ways to understand the human condition and connect us to each other in order to help strengthen California. California Humanities has provided grants and programs across the state since 1975. To learn more visit calhum.org, or follow California Humanities on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

More about the exhibition:



The exhibition includes an interactive art installation by Benito and Emma entitled *Tela-Novela* which translates to *Fabric-Stories* in English. This art piece tells the stories of Filipino immigrants through a community quilt of personal clothing, weaving the ambitions, dreams, and imaginations as well as the contributions of many generations of Filipinos into a site specific piece.

From the artists, “*Tela-Novela* is a major new installation looking at the contexts of Filipino clothing and fabric— their very personal and cultural meanings – as a backdrop for Filipino stories.” The artists are working with local community groups like Silayan Filipina to create community quilts to be used in the exhibition. Visitors will interact with quilts and a projection of classic and modern Filipino films during the exhibition.

More about the programming schedule:

SINE KWENTO features weekend programming including on-line film screenings and an in person social distance dance party. Spoken word sessions, panel discussions with filmmakers, and special guests can all be screened live through Eventbrite links. Programming highlights include discussions with Filipino-American filmmakers and creative collaborators in film, as well as musical performances and spoken-word (poetry) by San Diego Filipino American artists.

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Schedule:

Sat. Nov. 7 – VIP Opening Ceremony and Reception (online)

Opening Film: screening of [HARANA: the Search for the Lost Art of Serenade](#)

Upon his father's death, Florante, a classically trained guitarist returns to the Philippines after 12 years of absence. During his stay he rediscovers the music of harana - a long-forgotten tradition of Filipino serenading when men sang under the window at night to fearlessly declare their love for a woman. Led by award winning director Benito Bautista, the riveting film contains a treasure trove of beautiful Filipino music awaiting to be rediscovered. Intent on preserving vanishing customs, the film rekindles a connection with the past before it is irrevocably lost, and portrays a side of the Philippines rarely seen on the screen.

Sat. Nov. 14 – Celebration of Filipino Creatives: (In-person outdoors and online)

Night: DJ, Dance and Spoken Word Performances

6pm – 10pm outdoors at the museum. Enjoy an evening of stories and a social distancing dance party with **DJ Qolaj** aka Miko Aguilar. Performances include spoken word with **Jamie Estepa and Sherwin Ginez**. Dancers from **Maraya Performing Arts** with Anjanette Maraya-Ramey.

Covid guidelines will be given to all participants and will be strictly enforced. The event will take place at the museum and include food trucks and vendors. Specialty tropical mock cocktails and Filipino California fusion cuisine at the event. Participants can join in from around the world on our live stream of the event.

Sat. Nov. 21- Lokal Shorts: (online)

Featuring Filipinx filmmakers from San Diego

Sat. Nov. 28 – Closing Ceremony and Reception Closing Film: (online)

Screening of Marissa Aroy's [Delano Manongs: Forgotten Heroes of the United Farm Workers](#) and **Little Manila**. Each film is about 30min in length. Films will screen on Nov. 28th. Join in for Q&A the following day with Marissa Aroy on **Sunday November 29th**.

Marissa Aroy recently received an Emmy for the documentary **Sikhs in America**. She produced and directed **Little Manila: Filipinos in California's Heartland** also for PBS and produced "Sounds of Hope" for Frontline World. Aroy holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Boston College and a master's degree in journalism from University of California, Berkeley. She received a Fulbright award to do film work in the Philippines. Aroy is currently a Fellow at Trinity College in Dublin.

Artist featured during programming:

Emma Francisco - filmmaker/film producer/artist/film programmer/writer
Benito Bautista - filmmaker/film producer/writer/artist
Silayan Filipina
Jaimie Pangan - musical composer for films and video games
DJ Qolaj - Miko Aguilar - filmmaker/music producer/sound designer
Jamie Estepa - poet/spoken word
Sherwin Ginez - poet/author/spoken word
Maraya Performing Arts
Anjanette Maraya-Ramey - Dancer
Edrian Pangilinan - editor/filmmaker
Marissa Roxas - filmmaker
Leah Lombos- filmmaker
Jessica Mercado - educator
Lauren Garcen - events coordinator/community leader
Nooks Villaluz - Graphic Artist/Poster Designer
Jeremy Field - museum coordinator/sound designer/audio tech
San Diego Filipino American Filmmakers and their short films
Global Filipino filmmakers
Film Development Council of the Philippines
Filipino and Filipino American community in San Diego

This project was made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Visit www.calhum.org.



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For press inquiries, interviews or photos

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