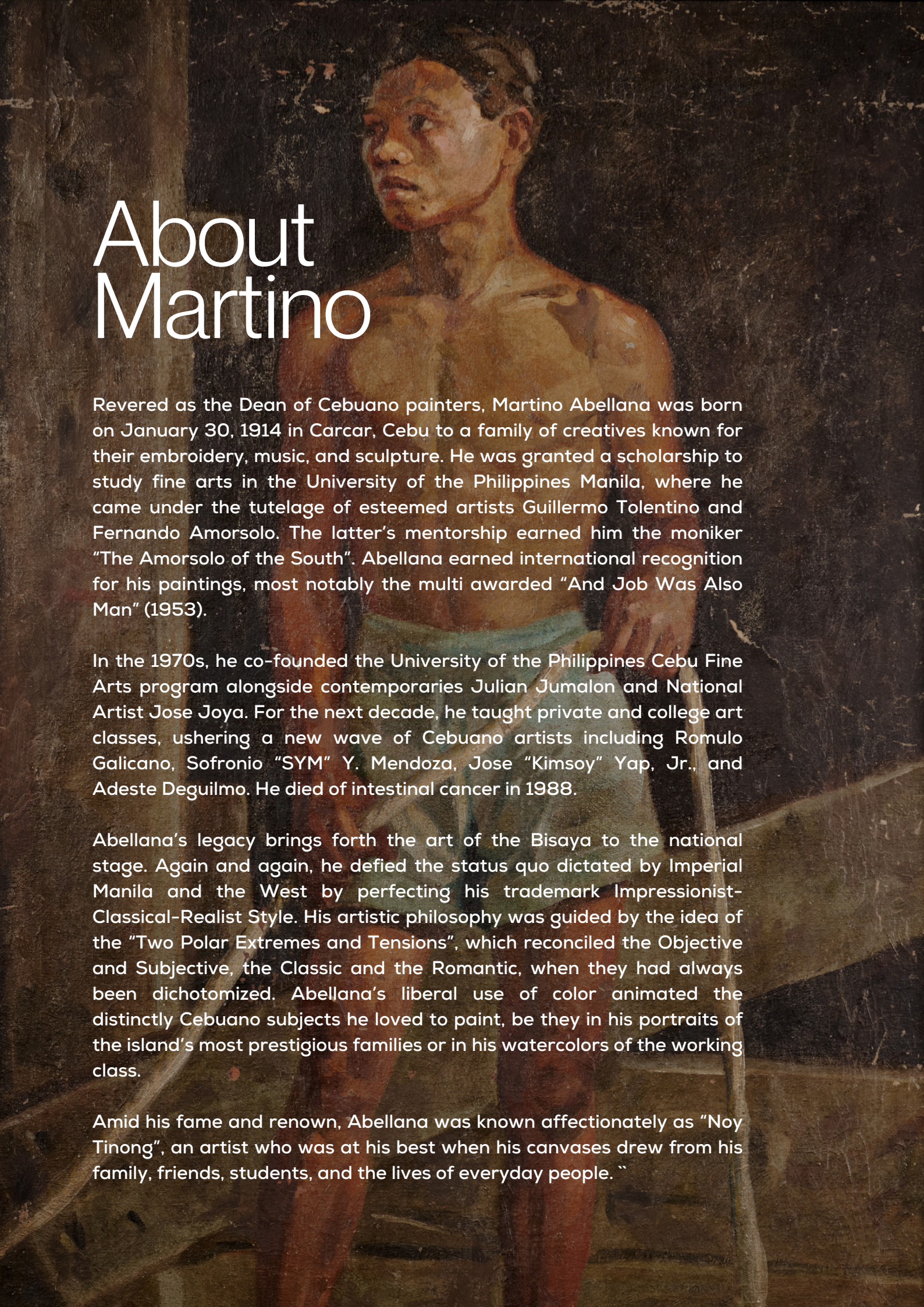


Abellana

Martino Abellana

CURRICULUM VITAE





About Martino

Revered as the Dean of Cebuano painters, Martino Abellana was born on January 30, 1914 in Carcar, Cebu to a family of creatives known for their embroidery, music, and sculpture. He was granted a scholarship to study fine arts in the University of the Philippines Manila, where he came under the tutelage of esteemed artists Guillermo Tolentino and Fernando Amorsolo. The latter's mentorship earned him the moniker "The Amorsolo of the South". Abellana earned international recognition for his paintings, most notably the multi awarded "And Job Was Also Man" (1953).

In the 1970s, he co-founded the University of the Philippines Cebu Fine Arts program alongside contemporaries Julian Jumalon and National Artist Jose Joya. For the next decade, he taught private and college art classes, ushering a new wave of Cebuano artists including Romulo Galicano, Sofronio "SYM" Y. Mendoza, Jose "Kimsoy" Yap, Jr., and Adeste Deguilmo. He died of intestinal cancer in 1988.

Abellana's legacy brings forth the art of the Bisaya to the national stage. Again and again, he defied the status quo dictated by Imperial Manila and the West by perfecting his trademark Impressionist-Classical-Realist Style. His artistic philosophy was guided by the idea of the "Two Polar Extremes and Tensions", which reconciled the Objective and Subjective, the Classic and the Romantic, when they had always been dichotomized. Abellana's liberal use of color animated the distinctly Cebuano subjects he loved to paint, be they in his portraits of the island's most prestigious families or in his watercolors of the working class.

Amid his fame and renown, Abellana was known affectionately as "Noy Tinong", an artist who was at his best when his canvases drew from his family, friends, students, and the lives of everyday people. "

Martino Alcosseba Abellana

Birthdate: January 30, 1914

Birthplace: Carcar, Cebu

Spouse: Natividad Castillo Noel with whom he has 10 children

Parents: Teofilo Regis Abellana and Filomena Laorden Alcosseba

Paternal Grandparents: Gonzalo Abellana and Cristina Regis

Maternal Grandparents: Emeterio Alcosseba and Maria Laorden

Educational Attainment:

- Elementary Education: Carcar Central School, 1929
- High School: Abellana High School, Cebu City, 1933
- College: University of the Philippines, Manila, School of Fine Arts, 1933-1938

Achievements:

- Full scholarship for 4 years, U.P., School of Fine Arts
- Member, UP Student Council
- Member, Board of Management, Philippine Collegian
- Medals in Elementary drawing; honorable mention elementary modeling, still life painting, National Heroes Day cover design contest
- Member, Board of Artists, The 1938 Philippinensian
- Member, Dela Rosasenian Artists' Association.
- Graduated with honors, U.P., School of Fine Arts, 1938
- Did two murals with a group of Artists and Muralists in Manila:
- A religious mural for San Marcelino Church
- Mural for the Times Theater
- Conceptualized and drew the sketch for the Carcar Rotunda while still a student. Sculptors were his father, Teofilo, and brother, Ramon.
- Pioneered with the late Artist Julian Jumalon and National Artist Jose Joya in the setting up and the development of the Fine Arts program of U.P., Cebu.

Martino Alcosseba Abellana

Achievements:

- Taught at the Cebu Institute of Technology, University of Southern Philippines, University of San Carlos and U.P., Cebu to fine arts and architecture students.
- Outside of school setting: gave time to teach drawing to children in his home in Carcar during the long vacation; taught and inspired talented men and women, among them Sofronio Mendoza, Romulo Galicano, Jaime Gonzales, and several others who spent time with Abellana in his home to learn the rudiments of painting.
- Left a numerous legacy of art works: portraits, figure paintings, seascapes and landscapes, abstract paintings, studies and sketches done in different mediums: oil, watercolor, pastel, charcoal, pencil, even chalk. Some paintings were done with the use of a pallet instead of brushes.

Membership in Associations:

- Art Association of the Philippines (AAP)
- Cebu Art Association
- Arts Council of Cebu
- Honorary Member, Philippine Institute of Architects

1987 - Certificate of Appreciation, Cebu Arts Association

1992 - Plaque of Appreciation, U.P., Cebu

2003 - Plaque of Recognition for exemplary achievement from St. Catherine's School, Carcar, Cebu

2006 - Most Outstanding Alumnus award: Raising Role Models from U.P. Alumni - UPAACCFI Alumni Reunion

2023 - Certificate of Appreciation from LGU, Carcar

Martino Alcosseba Abellana

Local and Foreign Exhibits

- 1941 - 1st One-Man show in his hometown, Carcar
- 1953 - Participated in a group exhibit in Baguio with an oil painting entitled "WINNOWING" (Admiral Spruance, U.S.N., collection}
- 1953 - Participated in the 2nd biennial art show participated in by all countries in Havana, Cuba with his award winning painting JOB WAS ALSO MAN
- 1956 - One-man show at the U.S.I.S. Library, Cebu City
- 1963 - Participated in an out-of-town AAP Art show in Cebu
- 1969 - 2nd One-man show at the U.S.I.S. Library, Cebu City
- 1974 - One-man show Gallery One, Greenhills, Manila
- 1976 - One-man show, THE GALLERY, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Manila
- 1978 - One-man show, ABC Galleries, Harrison Plaza
- 1988 - Retrospective show of Abellana paintings organized by Friends and Admirers, Cebu City
- 2003 - Exhibit of Abellana paintings MISSING NOY TINONG at Casa Gorordo, Cebu City
- 2023-2025 - Exhibit of Abellana paintings at the National Museum-Cebu

Abellana

I have always looked at art the way writers look at literature: that an artist may express himself realistically or abstractly just as a writer may express himself either in prose or in poetry. I believe that a work of art deserves to be judged on its own merits rather than be dismissed just because the Artist who created it chose to express himself in what Herbert Read calls the "two polar extremes of tensions".

Martino A. Abellana

*Quoted from the opening of his
exhibit at Gallery One, Greenhills*



A stylized, handwritten signature of the name 'Abellana' in black ink. The letters are bold and expressive, with a horizontal line extending from the left and right sides of the 'A' and 'A' respectively.

WHAT THEY SAY:

"...a historical passage in which he stakes his position on stylistic preference, Martino, thus, is in all sense of the word, the Maestro of Carcar – both master of thought and teacher of freedom."

Ruben Ramas Canete (commenting on the above text)
THE PHILIPPINE STAR, June 15, 1998

"Abellana has a penchant for depicting peace and quiet in nature though his paintings move with the rhythm of life. There is an honest warmth about his details and colors that dramatize ordinary scenes in barrio life."

Bulletin Today, July 4, 1978

"In painting the NUDE and the PORTRAIT OF A FILIPINO AS AN ARTIST, Abellana shows off his mastery of the human figure."

Leonides V. Benesa, Daily Express

"Abellana paints the sea with the colors of the sun and adds a distinct touch of rusticity and naivete to his canvasses."

Teresita E. Orendain, Daily Express

"Abellana might well be the Maestro of Philippine South"

E.C. Demaya, Orientations, November 1976