



VENAZIR MARTINEZ

VISUAL ANTHROPRENEUR | STREET ARTIST

ARTIST BIO

Venazir, a Filipina street muralist and visual anthropreneur, weaves a vibrant tapestry of intersectional stories, exploring the intricate relationships between human traditions and the ever-changing landscapes that shape them.

The Hilabana movement, founded by Venazir Martinez, is a groundbreaking public art initiative that transforms urban landscapes into living narratives, weaving together Filipino identities and stories from around the world. Emerging from Baguio City in 2018, Hilabana—meaning “woven path”—utilizes the powerful motif of the red thread to connect the fragmented yet enduring identities of the Filipino diaspora, symbolizing an unbroken lineage of cultural pride, resilience, and shared history.

Hilabana expanded internationally, making its mark during Filipino American History Month through exhibitions in the United States. Venazir’s solo showcase at the John Hope Franklin Center at Duke University and the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco sparked deep connections with diasporic Filipino communities. These exhibitions underscored the red thread’s role in bridging Filipino identities, showing how each mural strengthens connections to heritage and evokes pride in a shared cultural journey.

Venazir’s recent works, including Ani – Harvested Hopes in San Francisco’s South of Market District, highlight her dedication to capturing the hopes, struggles, and aspirations of migrant communities. This mural honors the dreams of immigrants who have come to the United States, illustrating how public art can hold space for individual stories within a broader, collective narrative. Collaborations such as those with New York City’s City Canvas Program have further expanded Hilabana’s reach, allowing her to examine migration’s profound impact on urban landscapes through the symbolism of the red thread.

In December 2024, Venazir was honored with The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) award, a prestigious annual national recognition given to Filipinos aged 18 to 40 who have made significant contributions to their field or community. Organized by JCI Philippines with the support of the TOYM Foundation, the award highlights inspiring examples of selfless service to humanity. This accolade underscores Venazir’s exceptional contributions to public art and cultural heritage, as well as her role as a global ambassador of Filipino identity.

As Hilabana continues to grow, Venazir envisions a global network of murals, each a unique yet connected thread in a tapestry of diverse histories and identities. These murals serve as maps of the human experience, linking people across cultures and time. The movement is a testament to the power of art in fostering dialogue on identity, migration, and resilience, inviting people to explore their roots and reimagine their place within a larger, interconnected world.



Venazir Martinez is a Filipina visual anthropreneur, and a street muralist. She graduated cum laude with a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from the University of the Philippines Baguio. She was awarded Best Thesis through her art and advocacy entitled Hila-bana. This street art hunt challenged the public's visual perception through cultural emblems to revitalize Filipino ancestral heritage.

PROJECTS

LIVE PAINTING FOR RAISING CANES CHICKEN FINGERS

Live Painter | 123 Colma Blvd, Colma, California, USA | November 19, 2024

To create a live painting at the 100th Raising Cane's location in Colma, CA, celebrating the milestone with a unique artwork that captures the essence of Raising Cane's and the Bay Area, specifically highlighting Colma, Daly City, and San Francisco.

LIVE PAINTING FOR PHILDEV GALA AND AWARDS

Live Painter | Westin SFO, Millbrae, California, USA | October 12, 2024

"Luksong Baka" and "Agimat" pieces were sold in a live auction for \$9,000, with all proceeds supporting the PhilDev Foundation's mission to uplift Filipinos through Education, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship.

LIVE PAINTING FOR LOGITECH

Live Painter | Westin SFO, Millbrae, California, USA | October 12, 2024

To create a 4ft x 4ft painting for Filipino American History Month in collaboration with Logitech

DCLA NEW YORK CITY CANVAS PROGRAM

Grantee | New York City, New York, USA | July 2024

The City Canvas program, which DCLA manages in partnership with the Department of Buildings (DOB), transforms the hundreds of miles of protective structures along New York City's streets – sidewalk sheds, construction fences, and scaffolding.

SAN DIEGO FILIPINO FILM FESTIVAL

Festival Illustrator and Muralist | San Diego, California | October 2024

Fourth Annual San Diego Filipino Film Festival, showcasing the vibrant tapestry of global Filipino stories, perspectives, and artistry through art and cinema.

YUBA SUTTER ART & HEALTH MURAL MARATHON

Muralist & Grantee | Yuba City, California | April 2024

A total of five muralists designed 21-foot-by-21-foot murals on the Church Street side of the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts in Yuba City.

LINK NYC AND PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL IN NEW YORK

Grantee | New York City, New York, USA | October 2024

The Link NYC and PCG in New York celebrated Filipino American History Month through through art displays across 4,000 digital screens in New York.

PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN THE UNITED STATES

Designer | Washington, DC, USA | November 2024

Design a Greeting Card for The Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines, Washington D.C

RENAISSANCE ENTREPRENEUR CENTER MURAL PROJECT

Muralist | Renaissance Entrepreneur Center & SOMA

Pilipinas | San Francisco, California, USA

To paint a 2500sqft mural for the exterior of Renaissance's headquarters, 275 Fifth Street at Folsom, in San Francisco's Yerba Buena/South of Market, Filipino Cultural Heritage District.

SINING ESKINITA

Founder & Head Street Artist | Baguio - PH | November - December 2021

Sining Eskinita is a multi-sensorial festival celebrating Filipino's urban art movement. It is a platform of integration, communication, and talent execution for all creative disciplines in one eskinita. It serves as a pathway for creative development of local street artists, muralists, singers, musicians, dancers, theatre performers and other notable artists.

HILABANA: CONNECTING CULTURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH A STREET ART HUNT

Founder & Head Street Artist | Philippines | 2018 -present

Hila-bana Street Art became internationally recognized since National Commission for Culture and the Arts granted the opportunity to provide mobility for the project. The red string movement became a global catalyst for engaging the locality with interconnected street art using indigenous cultural markers as a democratized learning tool to weave the community's mindset on revitalizing one's cultural identity

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES - BAGUIO | PH

Bachelor of Fine Arts | Cum Laude & Best Thesis
Production | June 2018

TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY LABORATORY HIGH SCHOOL

Math Science Section, Vice President of the Student
Council 2015-2016 | Graduated Year 2016

FAIRLANE YOUNG ACHIEVER'S SCHOOL

Elementary School, Graduated Year 2010

AFFILIATIONS

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN SAN FRANCISCO(UPAASF)

Public Relations Officer 2024 | San Francisco, California

23 SAMPAGUITA ARTIST COLLECTIVE

Founding Member | 2020 - 2023 | Baguio- PH

FILIPINA WOMEN'S NETWORK

Affiliate Member | 2022 - Present | San Francisco,
California

UNESCO CREATIVE BAGUIO CITY COUNCIL

Visual Arts Sectoral Representative | 2021 - 2023

Functions as an executive member with regards to the overall planning of the locality's annual Ibagiw festival which gives homage to local artists, artisans, and crafters who are the main reason why the city received its designation as Creative City for Crafts and Folk Arts from UNESCO. Activities and events will center around the creatives and their creations.

HONOR SOCIETY OF PHI KAPPA PHI

Member | Philippine Chapter | June 2019

AWARDS | GRANTS | NOMINATIONS

THE OUTSTANDING YOUNG MEN AWARD

HONOREE 2024 - ARTS & CULTURE

Prestigious annual national recognition given to Filipinos aged 18 to 40 who have made significant contributions to their field or community. Organized by JCI Philippines with the support of the TOYM Foundation, the award highlights inspiring examples of selfless service to humanity.

RISING VISIONARY AWARD

A celebration of Alice Pena Bulos Legacy as we present Filipino American community Heroes and Servant Leaders with the 2023/2024 Pinay/ Pinoy Warriors and Visionary Awards. February 10, 2024

NCCA COMPETITIVE GRANTS

Visual Arts Sector Grantee | Manila, Philippines | 2020 & 2022

THE SEARCH MINDSCAPE FOUNDATION

Grant for Sining Eskinita Project | 2021 & 2023

DON PAPA RUM ART COMPETITION

Finalist | Art Fair Philippines | 2019

WANDERLAND ARTIST

Grand prize winner | Wanderland Music and Arts Festival | 2019

DARNAY DEMETILLO ARTIST AWARD

Grand Prize Winner | University of the Philippines | 2018

TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENTS

DRAW & SIP FIGURE DRAWING LESSONS

Guest Instructor | In collaboration with the Lotus Project
San Francisco Community Health Center and UCSF Alliance
Health Project | November 2024

UPAASF 11TH FILIPINO CULTURAL IMMERSION SUMMER CAMP

Camp Director | St. Raymond's Church 11557 Shannon Ave
Dublin, CA 94568 | July 22 -26 2024

UPAASF SPEAKER SERIES: SIP & PAINT WITH VENAZIR

Art Teacher | Kalayaan Hall, Philippine Center, 447 Sutter
Street, San Francisco | January 26, 2024

CREATED TOGETHER

Grantee | A National Assembly for Artists Working With
Communities | Mural Arts Philadelphia | Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania | October 2023

SIP N' PAINT

Art Teacher | Sentro Filipino: The San Francisco Filipino
Cultural Center | August 2023

LIFEMOVES

Art Teacher for Filipino American History Month | 2550
Great America Way, Santa Clara, CA 95054 | October 2023

RISE VR

Guide | Metaverse Tutoring with Tom Nickel | San
Francisco, California | August, 2023

SANG-AT BUGUIAS: BENGUET YOUTH AS CULTURAL BEARERS

Keynote Speaker | Buguias, Benguet, CAR, Philippines |
June 2023

AUSTRALIA ALUMNI NETWORK SUMMIT

Keynote Speaker | REGENERATION in PRACTICE | Richmond
Hotel, Iloilo City | May 2023

YOUTH INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2023

Speaker | Innovation for Sustainable Development | Virtual
Conference | 2023

AFRICA VR CAMPUS AND CENTER

Mentor 6 African Women about the possibilities of VR as
an instrument to share their truth with the world | Virtual
Mentoring | April 2023

ART IN THE STREETS WEBINAR

Speaker | "Art In The Streets: The Hows & Knows of
Filipino Muralists" | iAcademy | 2023

UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR'S CONVOCATION

Speaker | University of the Philippines Baguio | 2023

ART MADE PUBLIC: THE COLOR OF CHANGE

Speaker | In collaboration with Metrobank Foundation & BAYO Foundation | Harvest Community Hub- Baguio City | 2023

CUPAGWAY: SI ISKA AT ANG MALIKHAING SIYUDAD

Plenary Speaker | UP Baguio | Baguio, Philippines | 2022

TEDX TALK | LUCENA CITY @YOUTH

Inspirational Speaker | HOW STREET ART CONNECTS COMMUNITIES THROUGH A SINGULAR RED THREAD | 2022

TEDX TALK | DE LASALLE @YOUTH

Inspirational Speaker | NAVIGATING VERICITY | 2022

REDLINE CONTEMPORARY ART 48 HOURS SUMMIT

Resource Speaker | Denver, Colorado | 2021

PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY

Art Instructor | Baguio City - Philippines | October 2021

THE MOST OUTSTANDING STUDENTS OF THE PHILIPPINES CAR

Judge | Cordillera Region & Central Luzon | 2020 - 2021

ALAB FESTIVAL

Inspirational Speaker | Lancaster New City, Cavite, Philippines | 2019

IFUGAO YOUTH SUMMIT

Community Mural for the Municipality | 2019

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

HILABANA: ESPASYO TEMPORAL II

International Solo Exhibition | Kalayaan Hall, Philippine Center, 447 Sutter Street, San Francisco, USA
January 19, 2024

HILABANA: ESPASYO TEMPORAL

International Solo Exhibition | John Hope Franklin Center Main Gallery, Duke University, North Carolina, USA
October 6, 2023

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

CONSCIOUS BEAUTY PROJECT

Threads of Consciousness: Conscious Beauty | In Collaboration with De Moi & Becoming Miss Right, Demee Koch | Aesch, Lucerne, Switzerland | September 2023

HILA-BANA ESPASYO TEMPORAL

John Hope Franklin Center Main Gallery, Duke University, North Carolina, USA | Asia/Pacific Studies Institute | October 2023

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

ROAD TO ARTELFEST

Winter Edition of the Road to Artelfest Series
Williamsburg at 119 North 1st Street, New York, New York.
December 22, 2023

SIGAW_____ (ECHO)

Collaborative Performance Art with Dr. Anna B. Gatdula | Pearson Hall, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina | October 2023

FESTIVE FIESTA

A Holiday Pop Up Exhibition | FOBBS NYC x Project Barkada
Bushwick Generator, Brooklyn, New York | 2022

HEALING ARTS FOUNDATION

Healing Arts Benefit Weekend | Los Angeles, California | 2022

ALIMUOM CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBIT

Ibagiw Creative Festival | Baguio, Philippines | 2021

INTERLINKED CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBIT

Ibagiw Creative Festival | Baguio, Philippines | 2020

SUNLIFE BEYOND LIFETIMES

125th Celebration Exhibit | Sun Life Financial Ph | BGC | 2020

ART FAIR PHILIPPINES

Don Papa Rum Finalist Exhibition | The Link Carpark, Greenbelt, Makati - Ph | 2019

MANIAM PUKAQUE 2

Museo de Tarlac | Tarlac City | 2018

MULTIMEDIA RELEASES ARTICLES

VENAZIR MARTINEZ, BAGUIO CITY'S 'ANTHRO - PRENEUR'

WRITTEN BY EMMA RIVA, UP MAG - STREET ART MAGAZINE

New York, New York, United States | Released February 2023

<https://upmag.com/venazir-martinez/>

PIONEERING STREET ART IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH VENAZIR MARTINEZ

BY STEPHANIE O'BRIEN, ON SPLATRS.COM

Australia - Philippines | Released Dec 5, 2020

<https://medium.com/splatrs/pioneering-street-art-in-the-philippines-with-venazir-martinez-a2146829a31b>

VENAZIR'S PEOPLE & PLACES LOOKING CAREFULLY AT STREET ART IN VR

BY TOM NICKEL , ON MEDIUM

San Francisco, California, US | Released Dec 5, 2022

<https://tomnickel.medium.com/venazirs-people-places-e6ab8f6eafd1>

CORDILLERA FACES ON BAGUIO WALLS

BY: VALERIE DAMIAN - @INQUIRERDOTNET

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER / 05:54 AM MARCH 31, 2019

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1101552/cordillera-faces-on-baguio-walls>

SUNSTAR YOUNG BLOOD

BRENDA LEE VILLANUEVA | FABULOUS PEOPLE | FEBRUARY 21, 2020

<https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1845403/baguio/lifestyl/e/villanueva-young-blood>

THESE MURALS PROVE THAT BAGUIO IS INDEED A CITY FOR CREATIVE PEOPLE

MELO VILLAREAL | FEBRUARY 8, 2019

<https://outoftownblog.com/these-murals-prove-that-baguio-is-indeed-a-city-for-creative-people/>

TUP COED TURNS BAGUIO STREET WALLS INTO COLORFUL MURALS

BUSINESSMIRROR | MARCH 18, 2019

<https://outoftownblog.com/these-murals-prove-that-baguio-is-indeed-a-city-for-creative-people/>

STREET ART IN THE PHILIPPINES: 10 SPOTS THAT TELL STORIES AND EXPRESSIONS

TRIPZILLA.PH | JUNE 10, 2022

<https://www.tripzilla.ph/street-art-in-the-philippines/35932/>

HILA-BANA STREET ART

AWESOME WITHOUT BORDERS | SEPTEMBER 28 2020

<https://awesomewithoutborders.org/grant/hila-bana-street-art/>

SOMA'S FILIPINO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IS TRANSFORMING THE 'HOOD INTO AN URBAN ART GALLERY.

WRITTEN BY SOSHI PARKS

San Francisco California | USA | Released October 2024

<https://www.7x7.com/soma-pilipinas-street-art-transformation-2669327727.html>

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT FORD MORTHEL: FILIPINO/X AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

BERKELEYSCHOOLS.NET

Australia - Philippines | Released Dec 5, 2020

<https://www.berkeleyschools.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Family-Guide-for-Filipino-American-History-Month-BUSD-22-23.pdf>

PHILIPPINE STREET ART SCENE

STREETARTNEWS.NET

Released August 31, 2021

<https://streetartnews.net/2021/08/philippine-street-art-scene.html>

ON TURNING THE OTHER WALL

BAGUIO CHRONICLE

Released October 27, 2020

<https://thebaguiochronicle.com/opinion/editorial/on-turning-the-other-wall/>

IN MANHATTAN, A MAKESHIFT FOREST IS HAUNTED BY THE GHOSTS OF IMPERIALISM

HYPERALLERGIC

Released June 20, 2021

<https://hyperallergic.com/657065/manhattan-makeshift-forest-haunted-by-ghosts-of-imperialism/>

IN SCORCHING NEVADA DESERT, PINOY ARTISTS SLAYED LIKE THE WIND

IRIS GONZALES

Released September 23 2022

<https://propertyreport.ph/tourism/2022/09/23/27268/in-scorching-nevada-desert-pinoy-artists-slayed-like-the-wind/>

CULTURAL IDENTITY IN BAGUIO MURAL

ELIZABETH LOLARGA

Released December 6, 2020

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1368467/cultural-identity-in-baguio-mural>

MAKING BAGUIO A CREATIVE CITY

VINCENT CABREZA

Released December 8, 2019

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1199197/making-baguio-a-creative-city>

MAKING BAGUIO A CREATIVE CITY

VINCENT CABREZA

Released December 8, 2019

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1199197/making-baguio-a-creative-city>