

GUAM DAILY POST • MONDAY, JULY 2, 2018

Local artist preserves culture

By Tihu Lujan
tihu@postguam.com

Along the muddy banks of the Talofo and Ugam Rivers, an ancient CHamoru civilization thrived peacefully centuries ago, practicing a language and culture activists are working tirelessly to preserve today.

The simple day-to-day life of these CHamorus past are the subject of local artist Dawn Lees Reyes' latest masterpieces, which were unveiled during the annual Dinanña Pa'a Taotao Tano gathering on June 29 at the Valley of the Latte Visitor Center.

“This place means a lot to me, and the experience of our visitors means a lot. ... I think (the art) is going to enhance their experience and enrich it.”

— Dawn Lees Reyes

“I Estorlan Talo'fo'fo yan Inalahan” is the three-part installation created by Reyes, who tells the story of the ancient peoples who inhabited Talofofo and Inarajan, settling along the two villages' border at the Talofofo River.

“I wanted to do something abstract, something far away from the standard, traditional presentation of historical paintings,” Reyes said, adding that she took artistic license to bring the ancient CHamoru to life.

Honoring tradition

Each art piece is designed to enhance the cultural experience



REYES: Local artist Dawn Lees Reyes poses with her piece “Our Village” (I Sengsong-ta), which was unveiled during the annual Dinanña Pa'a Taotao Tano gathering on June 29 at the Valley of the Latte Visitor Center. The set of 16 small paintings represents facets of CHamoru life and work prior to European contact in the early 1500s. Photos by Tihu Lujan/The Guam Daily Post



DEPICTING VILLAGE LIFE: Local artist Dawn Lees Reyes' piece “Our Village” (I Sengsong-ta) represents facets of CHamoru life and work prior to European contact in the early 1500s. The 16 colorful tiles contribute to a thriving and harmonious CHamoru village, featuring medicinal traditions, storytelling, dancing, family, marriage, weaving and respect.

evident throughout the ancient area, and paints a picture of the CHamoru history rooted deep within the river.

“Our Knowledge” (I Tiningo'-ta) honors the tradition of astral navigation and the voyagers who braved the open sea and traveled across the unknown to discover the Mariana Islands.

“Our Beliefs” (I Hinengge'-ta) invites the viewer to meditate on the founda-

tion of CHamoru culture as it relates to a relationship with the land and sea.

“Our Village” (I Sengsong-ta) is presented in a set of 16 small paintings that are grouped to create one artwork. Each painting represents facets of CHamoru life and work prior to European contact in the early 1500s. The colorful tiles contribute to a thriving and harmonious CHamoru village, featuring medicinal traditions, storytelling, dancing, family, marriage and respect.

“It's beautiful artwork. ... Really coming from the heart,” said Inarajan Mayor Doris Lujan, who urged island youth to continue to preserve CHamoru culture through their talent.

Talofofo Mayor Vicente Taitague said Reyes did an “awesome job,” stating that she captured the cultural history of village life as Talofofo manãmk'o' (seniors) remember it.

Enhancing experience for visitors

Reyes is a former Inarajan Middle School art teacher with an undergraduate degree in visual arts from San Francisco State University.

In addition to having illustrated and published three CHamoru children's books, she has commissioned art pieces on display at the Guam Museum, Gloria B. Nelson Public Service Building and Guam Regional Medical City.

The Inarajan-based artist was awarded a \$6,000 grant for the three-part installation in October 2017, and was funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency, Department of Chamorro Affairs, and the Office of the Governor of Guam.

Reyes is also a co-owner and partner of the Valley of the Latte Adventure Park, which cultivates the culture of the ancient CHamoru. She believes her newly installed artwork will contribute to the spirit of the valley.

“This place means a lot to me, and the experience of our visitors means a lot. ... I think (the art) is going to enhance their experience and enrich it,” she said.

PUBLIC NOTICE - PUBLIC COMMENTING PERIOD

Andersen Air Force Base, Guam

Draft Hazardous Waste Management Facility Permit

Public Review and Comment Period: July 2 to August 16, 2018. Public Hearing: August 1, 2018, 5:00pm

The Guam Environmental Protection Agency (Guam EPA) wishes to notify the general public and other interested parties of the availability of the Draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Hazardous Waste Management Facility Permit for Andersen Air Force Base (Andersen AFB), Guam. A public hearing will be held August 1, 2018, 5:00pm, at the Guam EPA Administration Building.

Applicant: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam
Facility type: Hazardous Waste Management Facility – Open Burn/Open Detonation of waste ammunitions and waste explosives
Location: Andersen Air Force Base, Guam

Written comments may be hand delivered to Guam EPA's main office at 17-3304 Mariner Ave, Tiyán, or mailed to the address below. Comments must be received by Guam EPA or post marked no later than 5 p.m., Monday, August 16, 2018. No fax or email submittals will be accepted.

Administrator, Guam Environmental Protection Agency
Bldg. 17-3304 Mariner Avenue, Tiyán
Sarrigada, Guam 96913-1617

The final decision to set conditions and issue the final permits or deny application for the permits will be decided after all comments have been considered. Please bring this information to the attention of all persons who may be interested in this matter.

The Draft Permit is available for public review Monday through Friday at:
Guam EPA (8:00am to 5:00pm)
Phone Number: (671) 300-4751/52/53
Contact: Vincent J. Pereira/Don S. Quinata
Andersen AFB (36CES Customer Service) (8:00am to 4:00pm)
Bldg. 18001 Arc Light Blvd. AAFB, Guam
Phone Number: (671) 366-2916/17/18
Andersen AFB (Public Affairs) (9:00am to 3:00pm)
Bldg. 21001 Kenney Ave. AAFB, Guam
Phone Number: (671) 366-2228
Yigo Mayor's Office (08:00am to 12:00pm, 1:00pm to 5:00pm)
274 East Gayinero Dr. Yigo, Guam 96929
Phone Number: (671) 653-5248/9446



/s/ WALTER S. LEON GUERRERO
Administrator

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