A Journey Through Abstraction

By Michael Castro

Dawn Lees Reyes held a one-woman exhibit, titled "Guam Textures: A Journey Through Abstraction," at the Castro Art Gallery in Tumon Sands Plaza in Tumon from Nov. 7 to 28.

The exhibit featured a large collection of work of varying styles including *abstract expressionism, surrealism, fauvism, symbolism & mysticism and analytical cubism.*

Reyes' work shows intricate patterns and 3D textures alongside acrylic or pastel media. Their colors pop out beneath the gallery's yellow lights. The frames had been altered by either paint or large round grooves.

Such mastery over the brush and the chisel revealed an artist who has had a long relationship with art. Reyes has been doing art since the age of 12 and has progressed gradually in her artistic career through education at San Francisco State University and studying in Europe for 10 years.

In a span of one year, she completed 16 large pieces presented at the gallery. Her pieces express her rich background while simultaneously portraying scenes from Guam.
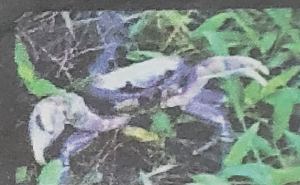
The piece titled "Pånglao" takes its name from the Chamoru word for crab. Reyes conceptualizes this subject through the lens of analytical cubism. According to Reyes, analytical cubism portrays either one or more objects from varying viewpoints in order to demonstrate the fluid processes of the human mind. "Pånglao" takes the image of the crab and alters it. Reyes used dark earth tones and shades of blue to show this crab the way she sees it.

When walking around the exhibit, one is likely to linger on a particular piece.

Underneath rays of orange, yellow and white and above large tiled floors are grand expressions of artistic mastery. Her abstract work can bring an experience of actually looking upon scenes from nature, such as the jungles of Yigo or the grasslands and mountains near Cetti Bay. Whatever piece a viewer might look at, after leaving Reyes show they will have a far more comprehensive understanding of her background and the styles that she is painting within.

Pånglao
Dawn Lees Reyes
Pastels, 2020
In the manner of Jean Metzinger

Guam Textures Source Photo:
Land Crab in the Boonies

Langasat
Dawn Lees Reyes
Acrylic on Canvas, 2020
In the manner of Pablo Picasso