



# Gallery Genesis

## FIDEL SARMIENTO

**Born:** December 19, 1959

**Place of birth:** Sampaloc, Manila, Philippines

**Parents:** Ardalion Manite Sarmiento and Pricilla Bautista Malig

Sarmiento's interest in colonial houses stemmed from his initial college work while taking up an architectural degree course at MAPUA Institute of Technology. After one year, he found out that architecture was too linear and too technical in its approach to drawing. He realized that he was fascinated with the vintage appeal of period houses, more than the logic of the structure. He readily shifted to a fine arts course in painting at the Feati University. Enjoying a university scholarship, he was armed with pure essence in what was to become his art. His fascination has brought him to various places where large settlements of old houses abound. Their collective charms allure him. These places are living dioramas where the rich colonial past dialogues robustly with the forward-moving present. Much of this interaction resides in Sarmiento's old house paintings. He presents both the interior and exterior views of provincial ancestral houses, whether full or cropped, depending on the dictates of the composition and the corresponding mood him, as artists, wants to amplify. There are also street scenes, to properly situate the houses and their environs. There are also pigeons, cats and other pets thrown into the compositions to breathe life into the paintings. Fidel's paintings have very refined architectural details and strong interplay of light and textures. He does not only capture the mood of the morning light, he actually paints the light. Sarmiento paints directly onto the canvas. Studies are done mentally, and the use of photographs is resorted only to point of reference for composition. He infuses details like plants, animals, and human figures to dramatize contrast between what is vintage and what is contemporary, an indirect allusion to the generation conflicts between the old and the new. Sarmiento, having gained the respect and support of his fellow artists, was elected President of the Art Association of the Philippines (AAP) for three consecutive terms. He opened new horizons for the members by fostering relationships with the artist's groups in other Asian countries and encouraging art competitions sponsored by both private and public companies.

### SCHOOL ATTENDED:

- Dr. A. Albert Elementary School (1972)
- Esteban Abada High School (1977)
- MAPUA Institute of Technology (1978) (*Architecture*)
- FEATI University (1982) (*Bachelor of Fine Arts graduate*)

## **ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS:**

- Artist of the year (High School) 1976
- Artist of the year (YMCA Hi-yer) 1976
- 1st Prize (UNCTAD IV art competition) 1976
- 5 times Runner-up Kulay sa Tubig Gallery Genesis Invitational Watercolor Painting Competition
- Juror's Choice 2 Entries AAP Annual Art Competition Painting Category 1992
- Finalist Diwa ng Sining 1995
- Second Prize AAP Annual Art Competition 1996
- Juror's Choice 50 Finalist Phillip Morris Philippine Art Award 1996
- Juror's Choice AAP Annual Art Competition Painting Category 1997
- Gold Medal AAP Centennial Art Competition (NCR) 1998
- Juror's Choice 50 Finalist Phillip Morris Philippine Art Award 1998
- Juror's Choice AAP Annual Art Competition Non-Representational Painting Category 1999
- Grand Prize DENR Sail Painting Competition Boracay Water Arts Festival 2001

## **MAJOR EXHIBITS**

- 1st One-Man Show Print Collection Gallery 1982
- 2nd One-Man Show Print Collection Gallery 1984
- 3rd One-Man Show Gallery Genesis 1995
- AAP Christies Auction Manila Peninsula 1996
- 50 Years of AAP Metropolitan Museum 1999
- Pinoy Expression 2000 Philippine Center New York, N.Y. 2000
- Fil-Am Art Expo Yerba Buena Art Center San Francisco, California, U.S.A. 2000
- U.N. Summit, Ubuntu Village, Johannesburg, South Africa 2001
- Pistang Sining 2003 AAP Gallery, Kanlungan ng Sining 2003

## **AFFILIATIONS**

- Art Association of the Philippines (President) 2001-2003
- Art Association of the Philippines (Board Director) 1999-2001
- Filipino Visual Artist Guild (Vice-President) 1999
- Pintanaw Art Group (Member)
- Saturday Art Group (Member)