

GALERIE FRANCESCA

The past decade has seen visual art explode in the Philippines. Artistic practices encompassing a wide variety of temperaments were gaining increased recognition within and beyond the local art community, resulting in an influx of gallery spaces to accommodate their rise. But as visual arts developed, it became apparent that simple space wasn't enough. Indeed, while certain geographical locations were still underrepresented with an insufficient number of galleries to suit the expanding interest in art (in particular, southern Metro Manila, which includes Alabang), there was also the longer-term concern of honing and developing artists and their practices.

These twin issues led to the establishment of Galerie Francesca in 2005. Ostensibly addressing the need to open up the world of fine art to a growing number of connoisseurs in the southern part of Metro Manila, Galerie Francesca was also conceptualized to be an artist-centered organization. To that end, the gallery regularly supports its diverse set of established and up-and-coming artists through a variety of development programs and activities. It also seeks to foster the growth of art appreciation among collectors and the general public, with workshops aimed at increasing the awareness of visual arts and ascertaining its cultural importance and value. These initiatives look to fill in structural gaps within visual art, and in the process mature the community to become a world-class industry, capable of competing with the best the world has to offer.

Always at the forefront of discovering new talent, Galerie Francesca helped launch the careers of recognized artists Migs Villanueva and Jef Cablog and Jinggoy Salcedo by hosting their first one-man shows. It is also home to a wide selection of distinguished artists such as Carlo Magno, Karina Baluyut, Roel Obemio and Anna de Leon. The gallery also sees itself as a conduit to presenting the best of Philippine Art, having participated in art fairs and events in and around the region. As testament to its growing profile, Galerie Francesca opened a second branch in SM Megamall in 2010.

For the past nine years, artists have and collectors have trusted Galerie Francesca as a gateway to the best the art world has to offer. Hosting some of the more critically-lauded exhibitions in the country, some of the gallery's notable recent shows include Carlo Magno's "Forest Allure," Roel Obemio's "Homage," and Anna de Leon's "Strings Attached." By being an important and reliable outlet between artist and collector, Galerie Francesca takes its place as one of the premier art galleries in the country today.