

Ramon Orlina was born in Manila, Philippines. After completing his architectural degree at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, he practiced architecture until 1974. He then began his career in art painting, eventually turning to sculpture. Drawing from his experience as an architect, Orlina chose to create sculptures from glass which he felt at that time had most potential in expressing his visual imagery. Exploring forms through glass cullets or crystal blocks, the artist continues to exploit their translucent quality and smooth finish produced from months of reshaping and grinding.

His abstract sculptures are composed of a series of angles through creating sharp edges or sleek bends that denote movement and fluid lines. By playfully manipulating varying qualities of light entering and trapped at different angles, his sculptures are never static masses. They are not only 3-dimensional, sculpture-in-the-round objects, but multi-dimensional constructions with no front or back orientation. One can view his pieces from any point of view and interpret them beyond the artist's intended form.

In this sense, Orlina's achievement is in freeing the viewers to see his sculptures in anyway they choose. He also frosts sections of the surfaces with figurative motifs by etching directly onto the glass while leaving most parts of it polished and smooth. The illusions created through the various prisms intensify the viewer's<sup>1</sup> imagination.

A multi-awarded glass sculptor, Orlina's<sup>1</sup> reputation extends to art circles and patrons in Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Japan, U.S.A. and the former Czechoslovakia. He has represented the Philippines in the XVII Grand Prix Internationale D' Arte Contemporaine de Monte Carlo in 1977; the Bienale Internationale de Arte, Valparaiso, Chile in 1987;

the Suntory Prize Exhibition, Japan in 1994; the Toyamura International Sculpture Biennale, Japan in 1995 , the 9th Asian International Art Exhibition, Taipeh, 1994; the Osaka Sculpture Triennale, Japan in 1992 and 1995. The artist has been commissioned for public art sculptures and has exhibited extensively.

He was conferred the ASEAN Awards for Visual Arts in 1993 by the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (COCI) in Brunei and in 1994, he received the 3rd ASEAN Achievement Awards for Visual Arts in Kuala Lumpur from the ASEAN Business Forum. From 1992 to the present time he has led the Art Association of the Philippines as its president.

The year 1999 marked a high point in Orlina's career with his winning the "Mr. F Prize" of the prestigious Toyamura International Sculpture Bienale, '99 in Hokkaido, Japan. This biennial attracted 956 entries from 65 participating countries competing in all mediums. The winning piece of Orlina was a dazzling white optical glass sculpture called "Silvery Moon".

In the turn of the Millennium, Ramon Orlina has pondered on the multi-faceted nature of his work, and decided to augment it with the introduction of tubular stainless steel, a phase first suggested in "Basketball Mi Mundo" which won the coveted First Prize in the sculpture category of the II International Biennale of Basketball in the Fine Arts held in Madrid in January, 2000.

In his more than 25 years as a sculptor, Ramon Orlina has consistently shown excellence, originality and daring as a sculptor.