

PKL Talks: Preserving Works on Paper

(Day 1) November 9, Friday, 9am to 1pm

(Day 2) November 10, Saturday, 9am to 5pm

Purita Kalaw-Ledesma Center

The Purita Kalaw-Ledesma (PKL) Center is organizing a series of talks that focuses on the archives. This activity is in line with the Center's efforts in revitalizing its program for the archives through research, preservation, and education. The inaugural activity is *Preserving Works on Paper*. It will be held on November 9, Friday, from 9am to 1pm and November 10, Saturday, from 9am to 5pm at the PKL Center.

Day 1: Lecture on the Principles of Paper Preservation (9am to 1pm)

Free and open to the public. Seats on first come, first served basis

What is the importance of keeping works on paper? What are the different values associated with paper-based archives? What are their forms? Why preserve or conserve? In what ways can these be preserved? What are the responsibilities of artists, collectors, archivists, and art and archive collection custodians in this endeavor? These are some of the questions to be addressed in lectures by archivist Prof. Emma Rey and artwork conservator Missy Reyes. This session will introduce the audience to the principles of conserving works on paper and basic care by creating awareness on proper handling, storage, environmental controls, using both "archival" and improvised materials. As case study, this session will also present PKL Center's scrapbook preservation project, which is made possible through a grant by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Snacks will be served.

Day 2: Workshop on Paper Preservation (9am to 5pm)

Workshop fee of PhP 2,500 (PhP 2,200 for students); Pre-registration required (20 slots only)

This session is a hands-on activity that builds on the discussion of the previous day. Led by Prof. Emma Rey, participants will learn and practice: basic condition reporting, mechanical means of stabilizing paper, encapsulating paper in polyester sheets, and basic book binding. They will be initiated to the process of describing the condition of works on paper and the materials and techniques in dry cleaning as well as creating a protective covering for individual sheets or volumes of documents.

*Kits and materials will be provided. Snacks will be served but lunch will not be provided. Certificates will be awarded to participants who will attend the two-day workshop.

To pre-register, please fill-out the registration form: bit.ly/pkltalksregistration

For those attending the workshop (day 2):

Upon filling out the online registration form, kindly deposit the workshop fee to the foundation's bank account, and send a scanned copy or a photograph of the confirmation slip to klfi_pklcenter@yahoo.com to complete your registration and secure your slot. For students, kindly send a scanned copy or a photograph of your valid ID also.

Bank Details:

KALAW LEDESMA FOUNDATION INC
BDO # 11548000346



For more information, please call the PKL Center at +632 8341828. The PKL Center is located at 8F KL Tower 117 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Other details are posted at klfi.ph and the Center's Facebook page.

*Disbinding of scrapbook pages and dry cleaning.
With Prof. Emma Rey, PKL Center staff and
volunteers working on the scrapbooks of PKL*

About the Speakers

Prof. Emma Rey was the Executive Director of the Legislative Library and Archives of the House of Representatives, and is currently a lecturer at the School of Library and Information Studies in the University of the Philippines Diliman. Aside from these professional experiences, she was also the President of the Philippine Information Agency of the Southeast Asia-Pacific Audio-Visual Archives Association (SEAPAVAA). She is currently the Vice-Head of the National Committee on Archives of the Subcommission on Cultural Heritage of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA-SCH), representing the Society of Filipino Archivists, where she is a board member. She has been involved in numerous archival engagements not only within Manila, but also in the regions, advocating for the dissemination of knowledge of care for the archives to areas that need it.

Ms. Missy Sanares-Reyes is an independent art conservator and consultant, engaged in projects with various private and institutional collections, galleries and museum, including the Ateneo Art Gallery. She completed conservation programs from the Istituto per l'Arte e il Restauro in Florence Italy, particularly on cleaning, general and aesthetic restoration, and consolidation of paintings in 1996 and 2015. Her professional specialty includes conservation and restoration of paintings in oil and acrylic on wood or canvas, selected works on paper and selected religious statuary. In 2011, she also completed a graduate degree in Art Studies (Art History) from the University of the Philippines, Diliman, with her thesis study titled "Restoring Conservation: A History of Art Conservation in the Philippines Traced from the mid-Nineteenth Century to the Present."

About the PKL Archives

Compiled in scrapbooks, the archives of Art Association of the Philippines founder Purita Kalaw-Ledesma (PKL) are a significant resource on Philippine modern art. Kalaw-Ledesma was a meticulous chronicler of events, activities, writings, and other documentation on art. From 1948 to 2000, PKL was able to compile 83 scrapbooks, each roughly containing 500 pages of clippings on art. Its first few entries document AAP's inaugural event, a retrospective exhibition in honor of Fabian De la Rosa, the first Filipino dean of the UP School of Fine Arts. The said exhibition was the first to be mounted since his passing in 1936. The scrapbooks of PKL testify to the dense and lively conversation on Philippine art, particularly modern art as it was slowly gaining its ground. Notable here is the series of intense exchanges between conservative and modern artists as articulated by their respective stalwarts, sculptor Guillermo Tolentino and painter Victorio Edades.

The clippings were sourced from leading newspapers and magazines of the period. The articles were contributed by distinguished critics and art writers who were sensitive to the cause of modern art, among them, Francisco Arcellana, Aurelio Alvero, E. Aguilar Cruz, Lyd Arguilla, Carmen Guerrero-Nakpil, Leonidas Benesa, Kerima Polotan, artists, and Kalaw-Ledesma herself. Aside from newspaper clippings, the scrapbooks contain announcements, brochures, invitations, memoranda, and handwritten notes that largely document the activities of the AAP.

The scrapbook collection is an index of Kalaw-Ledesma's interests and pursuits, robust professional life, and tireless dedication to art. The Center honors the breadth of Kalaw-Ledesma's handiwork and *métier* by preserving the collection and making it accessible

to present and future generations. It is in keeping with PKL's challenge to forge ahead in the "struggle for Philippine art."

In 2016, the digital archives of the PKL Center have been made more accessible to researchers upon request to address the research needs of local and international scholars and students.

The seventh volume of the scrapbook is currently exhibited in the Philippine Modern Art Section of the National Art Gallery of Singapore, in recognition of the scrapbooks' significance. All volumes of the digital tapes can also be accessed at the Resource Centre of the National Gallery of Singapore (NGS) until 2024.

The PKL Center looks forward to improving its digitized scrapbooks to enhance researcher experience through assistance and partnership with NGS. Five volumes of its physical scrapbooks on the other hand, are currently being preserved through a grant from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

