

THE CONTRIBUTORS

Vince Agcaoili was a fellow of the first iteration of Tara, Tula Workshop in 2020, the UST National Writers Workshop 2021, the Spring 2021 fellowship of Albertus Magnus Institute (Sacramento, USA), the IYAS National Writers Workshop 2022, the Silliman University National Writers Workshop 2023, and, UP National Writers Workshop 2025. His works have appeared in *Road Map Series Heritage*, UA&P's *The Bosun*, *Novice Magazine*, *Ilahas Literary Journal*, *Luna Journal: A Semi-Annual Journal of New Filipino Writing*, *Audience Askew*, *New Note Poetry*, *The Manila Magnolia*, *Santelmo 6*, and the Philippine Studies Association's *Filipinas*, among other publications. He has also won in the Poetry category of the 2023 Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature and in the English Division of the 2023 Maningning Miclat Award for Poetry.

Vijae O. Alquisola teaches literature and creative writing at De La Salle University-Taft, Manila. He is a three-time winner of the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature and the author of the following poetry books: *Sa Mga Pansamantala* (UST Press, 2017), *Awit ng Bakwit* (Sentro ng Wikang Filipino-UPD, 2019), *Sa Tuwing Ikaw ay Tahimik* (UP Press, 2022). He was awarded the Natatanging Anak ng Sampaloc, Quezon (2017), and the Gawad Gat Uban or the Natatanging Anak ng Mauban, Quezon (2018), for his contributions to arts and culture. His works have appeared in various anthologies in the country; some have been translated into English and included in international magazines and websites. The English version of his third book, *Whenever You Are Silent*, was exhibited at the Bologna Children's Book Fair 2025. He received his PhD in Panitikan ng Pilipinas from UP-Diliman in 2024, and was awarded the Gawad Antonio Abad for the best dissertation by the College of Arts and Letters.

Lawdenmarc Decamora is an Anglophone Filipino poet, academic researcher, and travel backpacker with work published in *Pleiades*, *The Common*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *The Normal School*, *Peripheries* (Harvard U), *Mantis* (Stanford U), *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* (Routledge), *The Best Asian Poetry 2021-2022 Anthology*, among other places. A semi-finalist in the 2023 Tomaž Šalamun Prize, his third full-length poetry collection, “Line Affairs,” is forthcoming by *Fernwood Press* (Oregon, USA). He also authored two (2) poetry chapbooks, and his travel-inspired poetic work has been nominated for Best of the Net and Pushcart Prize. His research work appeared in several Scopus-indexed academic journals, and his published creative work (mostly poetic pieces) can be read in Spanish, Filipino, Vietnamese, French, and Romanian. He is working on his fourth full-length poetry collection about his journey in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and other Silk Road countries across Central and South Asia.

Andyleen C. Feje is a lesbian writer from Quezon, Nueva Ecija. She is currently a part of Atsara Collective and Kataga - Quezon City. Some of their works can be read in *Liwayway Magazine*, the Young Blood column of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, *Agos*, *UP Refereed Journal ng Malikhaing Panitikan*, *Diliman Review*, and other queer-themed anthologies such as *Tingle: Anthology of Pinay Lesbian Writing* (2021), *Plus/+*, *Iba Plus*, *Maramihan: New Philippine Fiction on Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities* (2022), and *Kinaiya: Antolohiya ng mga Makabagong Tinig Mula sa LGBTQIA++* (2025).

Isaiah F. Garcia is a full-time Senior High School Literature teacher and English Subject Area Coordinator at St. Stephen's High School Manila. He is also a part-time instructor at the University of Santo Tomas Department of Literature, teaching GE literature and humanities courses. He currently handles the courses “Literature and Religion” and “Religious Writing” for the

BA Literature and BA Creative Writing programs, respectively. His research interests include Teaching Literature, Anime and Video Game studies, and Catholic literary studies.

Ramon Guillermo is the director of the Center for International Studies (CIS) at the University of the Philippines Diliman, and a Resident Fellow of Likhaan, the UP Institute of Creative Writing. His current research projects are on the textual transmission, dissemination, reception, and translation of ideas and ideologies in Southeast Asia using techniques and approaches from translation studies and digital humanities. He is a proponent of the development of Philippine Studies as an autonomous academic communication community. He has served as a Faculty Regent of the University of the Philippines and is one of the initiators of the Network in Defense of Historical Truth and Academic Freedom.

Hannah Adtoon Leceña is the author of *Jonas: Nobela sa Wikang Cebuano*, which was published by the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino. She is from Mindanao, and is currently finishing her PhD Malikhaign Pagsulat at UP Diliman. She received awards from the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards, PNU Normal Awards, Lampara Prize, Satur Apoyon Literary Prize, and Jimmy Balacuit Literary Prize. She was a Fellow of the 63rd UP National Writers Workshop, Silliman, IYAS La Salle, ALBWW, Gemino-Abad, Iligan, Davao, and Bathalad-Sugbu. She was a recipient of the National Book Development Board-Publication Grant in 2022 for her YA Novel, the 2024 National Youth Achievement Award for Literary Arts of NCLA, and the Student Publication Award of UP Diliman. Her works can be read in anthologies and refereed journals like the *Diliman Review*, *Dx Machina*, *Buhian Journal*, *Anti-Katha*, *Agos Journal*, *TLDTD*, *Takos*, *Entrada*, *Bulawan Journal*, *Kawing Refereed Journal*, and *Luntian Journal*.

Jan Raen Carlo M. Ledesma teaches Art Appreciation, Literary Research, Shakespeare, and Literary and Cultural Theory in the Faculty of Arts and Letters, University of Santo Tomas, Manila. His research interests include biosemiotics, ecocriticism, Shakespeare, literary theory and criticism, and cultural studies. He is also a research fellow of the UST Research Center for Culture, Arts, and Humanities. He earned his BA, MA, and PhD in Literature from the University of Santo Tomas.

Merdeka Morales is a faculty member of Filipino and Literature at the PUP and currently serves as Chief of the Center for Creative Writing and Managing Editor of *Entrada Journal*. He was a member of the NCCA-NCLA, 2017-2022. He is also a member of several writers' organizations like the Philippine Center of International PEN, Surian sa Sining (SUSI Inc.), and the National Research Council of the Philippines – Humanities Division. Some of his creative works can be read in journals, anthologies, and publications of the NCCA-NCLA.

Aldrin E. Manalastas is a faculty member of the University of Santo Tomas, Department of Philosophy, and a researcher at the UST Research Center for Culture, Arts, and Humanities. Their research interests include but are not limited to the following: philosophies of the global south, the bakla, LGBTQIA++ studies, feminism, social epistemology, future studies, disability studies, ecosophy, critical theory, ethics, cultural studies, and pop culture. They earned their Master's degree and are currently working on their Doctoral studies in the same university.

Soledad S. Reyes is Professor Emeritus of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Ateneo de Manila University. She has authored books on criticism, women's writings, and popular culture. Among her books are *Ang Nobelang Tagalog* (1905-1975), *Tradisyon at Modernismo* (1982), *The Romance Mode*

in *Philippine Popular Literature and Other Essays* (1990), *Lina Flor, Collected Works* (2000), *Rosario de Guzman Lingat* (1924-1997), *The Burden of Self and History* (2003), *A Dark Tinge to the World* (2005), *Narratives of Note: Studies of Popular Forms in the 20th Century* (2012), and *Retrieving the Past / Recuperating the Voice* (2017).

Rolando B. Tolentino is a faculty member of the University of the Philippines (UP) Film Institute and former Dean of the UP College of Mass Communication. He has taught at Osaka University, the National University of Singapore, and the University of California, Berkeley. His research interests are literary studies, popular culture, film studies, media in the Philippines, and national and transnational issues. He is a Resident Fellow of the UP Institute of Creative Writing and a member of *Altermidya* (People's Alternative Media Network), Congress of Teachers and Educators for Nationalism and Democracy (CONTEND-UP), and *Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino*.

Maria Amparo Warren graduated from the University of the Philippines Diliman's Master of Arts in Creative Writing program and was a co-recipient of the UP Institute of Creative Writing's inaugural *Likhaan* Foundation Scholarship. She is an alumna of several national creative writing workshops, the most recent being the 60th UP National Writers Workshop and the first UST National Writing Fellowship. Her works have won prizes at UP's *Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio Literary Contest*, the *Philippine Graphic's Nick Joaquin Literary Awards*, and the *Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature*. They have also been published in *Likhaan*, *Philippine Speculative Fiction*, *Voice and Verse Poetry Magazine*, and *Tomás*.

Joselito B. Zulueta has been a professional journalist for 35 years, covering all metropolitan and national beats, including police, the courts, labor,

education, foreign affairs, Malacanang (the presidency), and the Church. He was the features editor and opinion-editorial page editor of the *Manila Chronicle* until he moved to the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, where he was senior editor, editorial writer, and arts and culture editor until 2020. He was a special correspondent of the *Inquirer* in key Vatican events, such as the funeral of Pope John Paul II in 2005, the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI in 2013, the canonization of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II in 2014, and the second Asian tour of Pope Francis in 2015. An essayist and critic, he was chair of the National Literary Arts Committee of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and chair of the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino. At UST, he advises the *Varsitarian*, the official university-wide student paper, and he was the former director of the UST Publishing House and founding deputy director of the Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies.