

THE CONTRIBUTORS

Augusto Antonio Aguila is co-director of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies. He earned his master's degree in English and doctorate degree in Literature from UST, where he teaches Literature and Creative Writing at both undergraduate and graduate levels. He authored *The Heart of Need & Other Stories* and *Carnival of Hate: Stories*, which won the Best Book award at the Dangal ng UST Awards. He is the Co-editor of *Vilma Santos, Icon: Essays on Cinema, Culture & Society*.

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Shane Carreon is the author of poetry collections most recently, *In Praise of Wilderness* (2021) and co-editor of the scholarly anthology, *Monsters and Monstrosity in Media: Reflections on Vulnerability* (2024). The recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship in New York and awards from the Academy of American Poets, Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature, among others, as well as nominations for Allen Ginsberg Poetry Award and AWP Intro Journals Award, his poems and essays appear in *CHA: An Asian Literary Journal*, *The Journal of Lesbian Studies*, *KOHL: A Journal for Body and Gender Research*, and *Plus/+*, *At Iba Plus*, *Maramihan: New Philippine Prose on Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities* and elsewhere. He is Professor of Creative Writing and Cultural Studies at the University of the Philippines Cebu.

Paul Alcoseba Castillo is an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Santo Tomas. He earned his Doctorate in Literature from the same university. He is part of the Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies, as well as the Research Center for Culture, Arts, and Humanities. His poetry has been recognized by literary awards in the country. He is the author of four poetry collections, including *Ang Lihim*, *Kung Pag-ibig* published by Librong LIRA. He currently serves as the Deputy Director of UST Publishing House.

Amanda Juico Dela Cruz teaches in the Literature Department of the University of Santo Tomas and in the Fine Arts Department of the Ateneo de Manila University. She was a fellow at the 20th Ateneo National Writers Workshop and the 8th Cordillera Creative Writing Workshop. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing and an AB in Philosophy from De La Salle University. Her work has appeared in *Philosophia: International Journal of Philosophy*, *Beyond the Ghetto*, *SUSPECT*, as well as in *Plural Art Magazine*, *Art+ Magazine*, and *Esquire Philippines*. Her scholarly and creative projects write through the female body in post-sexual revolution narratives, positioning it as both a subject and a source of theory, text, and art.

Ralph Semino Galan is a trilingual prize-winning poet and translator, a literary and cultural critic, and an editor. He is the Assistant Director of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies, and an Associate Professor of Literature, the Humanities, and Creative Writing in the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters. He is the author of the following books: *The Southers Cross and Other Poems* (UBOD New Authors Series, NCCA, 2005), *Discernments: Literary Essays, Cultural Critiques, and Book Reviews* (UST Publishing House, 2013), *From the Major Arcana*, [poems] (UST Publishing House, 2014), and *Sa mga Pagitan ng Buhay at Iba pang Pagtutulay* [translations] (UST Publishing House, 2018). He is currently working on a research project sponsored by the UST Research Center for Culture, Arts, and Humanities titled “Labaw sa Bulawan: Translating 300 Mindanao Poems from Cebuano into English (1930-2020).”

Caroline S. Hau is the author of *Recuerdos de Patay and Other Stories*, *Demigods and Monsters: Stories*, and *Tiempo Muerto: A Novel*. She was born

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Amado Anthony G. Mendoza III is an assistant professor of literature and creative writing at the University of the Philippines, Diliman. He is also a PhD student at the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University. His creative works have appeared in *The Dial*, *World Literature Today*, *Asian Books Blog*, and *ANMLY Magazine*. He is the co-editor of *Ulirat: Best Contemporary Stories in Translation from the Philippines* (Gaudy Boy, 2021) and *Destination: SEA 2050 A.D.* (Penguin Random House SEA, 2022). He has translated the works of Eka Kurniawan, Chairil Anwar, and Wiji Thukul into Filipino. His translated collection of Eka Kurniawan's short fiction, *Mga Himutok sa Palikuran* (Savage Mind, 2021), was named Best Translated Book in the 40th National Book Awards. His first novel, *Aklat ng mga Naiwan* [Book of the Damned], to be translated by Kristine Ong Muslim, was one of the recipients of the 2023 PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grant.

Jose P. Mojica holds a B.A. in Digital Filmmaking from De La Salle–College of Saint Benilde and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Literature from the University of Santo Tomas. A fellow of several national writing and scriptwriting workshops, he has written, directed, and scored short films that have been shown at festivals, including the Gawad CCP. He also writes on art for the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* and *PhilSTAR Life*, and teaches at the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters.

Radney Ranario is the author of *Paglusong: mga tula* (UST Publishing House, 2017), a finalist in Poetry in Filipino at the National Book Awards, 2018. He won the Second Prize in poetry for his poem “Bugsay” at the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino, 2023. He currently teaches at the *National University, Manila*. Born in Malitbog, Southern Leyte, he graduated with AB/BSE English from PNU, 1995, and MFA Creative Writing in De La Salle Univeristy, 2010. He is currently pursuing a PhD Literature at PNU where he teaches Creative Writing.

John Paolo Sarce, LPT, MA, LCS, is Instructor I at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. Previously, he taught at Ateneo de Manila University (English Department), where he earned his Master’s degree. He has served as Assistant Principal and English Teacher in the Basic Education Department at Our Lady of Fatima University. His teaching interests encompass cultural studies, literature, and pedagogy. His research focuses on postcolonialism, queer theory, medical humanities, digital humanities, and pedagogy. In his free time, he enjoys watching RuPaul’s Drag Race and animé, and then dedicates himself to working on his writing projects. The zodiac is his guide to life, while reading books is his way of breathing life.

John Leihmar C. Toledo is a university instructor at the Ateneo de Manila University. He has been writing personal essays in both English and Filipino since 2018, as part of his MA thesis at the University of the Philippines, Diliman. His work explores the intersections of personal memory, desire, and oppression, particularly as shaped by homophobia, internalized homophobia, heterocentrism, and heterosexism toward cisgender gay men. He believes writers should embody both Elphaba and Glinda from *Wicked: The Musical*, revolting against, and quietly resisting corrupt heads of state who abuse and exploit their constituents. In 2023, he translated *Six Saturdays of Beyblade and Other Essays* by Ferdinand Pisigan Jarin (Penguin Southeast Asia, 2023) from Filipino into English.