

Lives of L.I.F.E.

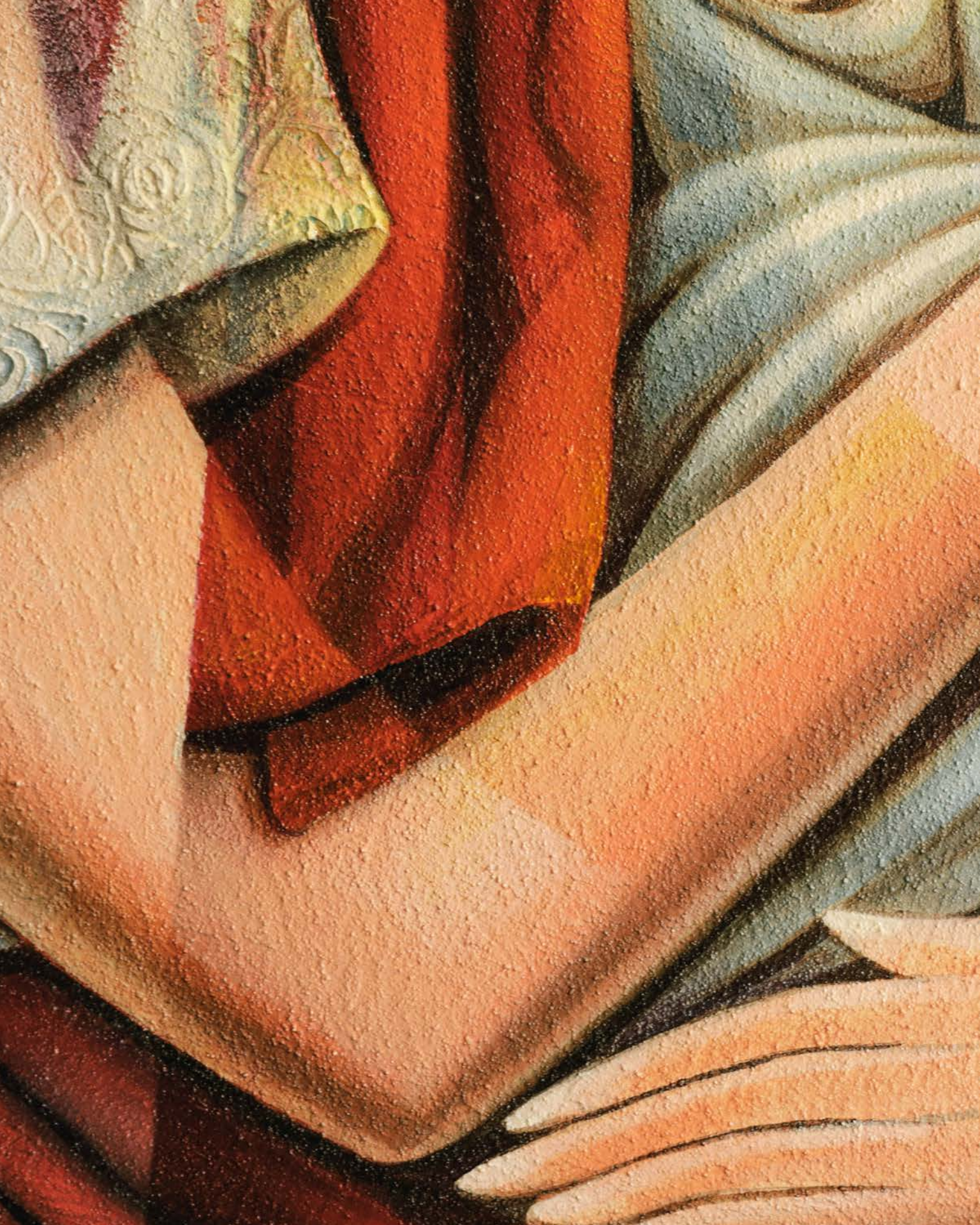
INSPIRATIONAL STORIES OF THE CHILDREN
AND THE HALLMARK FOR L.I.F.E. ARTISTS



Steven Estrella

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**Hallmark**

STEVEN ESTRELLA

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Steven Estrella



Filstar Distributors Corp.
Hallmark Philippines
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CONTENT

9 Acknowledgements

11 About the Author

13 Introduction

15 Where It All Started

19 THE HALLMARK FOR L.I.F.E. ARTISTS

21 Romeo Gutierrez

33 Pete Velasquez

49 Bong “Flight Mode” Anore

57 Angono Artists

59 Jovito “Bobet” Andres



65 Bernardo “Bernie” Supsupin

69 Charlie Val

73 Norberto “Ambhet”

79 Nani Reyes

87 Frank Caña Valencia

103 THE L.I.F.E. CHILDREN

105 Claire

113 Adrian

121 Kyla

127 Julie

133 Dale

141 Michael

151 Index

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, thank you Lord for the guidance all throughout the process of this project. For less than 10 months I was able to gather all the information of the content, conduct the photoshoots of the people included and able to produce this book. Thank you to all the people who got involved in the making of this book.

Photography grew in me a year before going to college and one of the main reasons why I took up Fine Arts in the University of Santo Tomas - to hone my skills in this field of art.

As I learn my way through it, it was a privilege to be taught by our college photography professors Fernando Torres and Jed Regala who shared their knowledge about the different techniques and applications in photography. And as I push my way through this project, professor and my adviser Carrie Torres is the one who served as the main guide in keeping the track of this project straight.

The photo shoots are mostly done alone due to some privacy policies but to the person who was able to help and assist me since the first production day of this project, thank you. Jemy Sta. Ana served as an all-around helping hand and a companion through the ups and downs of this project. A stress reliever and a source of inspiration and motivation everyday.

The shoots would not be possible without the help from the staff of Filstar Distributors Corp and L.I.F.E. Foundation, especially to Mrs. Yatco, who gave so much time and effort in making this book come to life and believing in my vision; and to the artists and parents of the children featured in the book.

Lastly, I am extending my unending gratitude to my family and relatives who never stopped believing and supporting me behind all my activities since then. Thank you so much!



About the Author

Steven Estrella is a Manila-based visual artists and photographer specializing in portraits, events and fashion. A degree holder of Fine Arts and Design from the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines and the former VP for Creatives and Design of the university's official photography organization, Fotomasino - The Thomasian Photographers Guild. To produce something new and fresh in the eyes of his audience is what he is always aiming for.

Steven got his first digital SLR when he was 15 years-old and from that moment, his journey in photography started. Through time, his knowledge in using this medium as an expression of his art widens and leveled-up. Curiosity in different forms of photography - landscapes, street, food photography, etc. - helped him be more comfortable behind the camera. He is active in joining photography competitions outside and inside the country; one thing that built the solid foundation in his skills in capturing stunning images.



Introduction

Life can be easily described as simple as something that is capable of growing, reproducing and doing functional activities. This definition reflects every human being's capability to live. But what if it was taken away from you?

For this foundation, life is as precious as a diamond; it will last for a long period of time. And for the past 21 years, *L.I.F.E.* Foundation and Hallmark Philippines has been saving lives of indigent leukemic children through art - Hallmark for L.I.F.E.; helping them continue live a life that was once held to an end.

For the author, the story of different lives of people always serves as an inspiration. Sharing it fuels the willingness of people to live in any way or form they wished to. Capturing it gives more essence and color to their untold stories.

The first part of the book will share stories about life, passion and art, and the masterminds behind the masterpiece of the yearly covers of the Hallmark for L.I.F.E. greeting cards showcasing the tradition and culture of *Paskong Pinoy*; the greeting cards that mainly provide medical support for the children of L.I.F.E.

The second and last part of the book is the vibrant lives of L.I.F.E. Children. Their surreal experiences and stories of battling a killer disease - leukemia. Get to know them. Listen to their simple stories of joys and dreams and how you were able help them continue their lives.



WHERE IT ALL STARTED

The Leukemic Indigents Fund Endowment Foundation, commonly referred to as L.I.F.E., was organized in February 1995 under the leadership of Dr. Alendry Caviles, Jr. with the mission of helping leukemic children especially from the poor families. Alongside L.I.F.E.'s financial assistance to the family of these children afflicted with leukemia, the Foundation aims to provide holistic help in response to the children's social, psychological,

emotional, and spiritual needs. The core values the Foundation tries to instill are compassion, prudence, and teamwork.

The Adopt A Leukemic Child Program is the foundation's principal service by which poor leukemic children are adopted by L.I.F.E. or by a benefactor for the funding of the children's chemotherapy for a number of years. Various social activities and events in L.I.F.E. are likewise set for the whole year including





birthday parties, a mini-Olympics event, foundation day, and Christmas party, among others. In partnership with other concerned public and private individuals and groups, painting and musical sessions, and educational tours are also conducted by the Foundation. For the parents, one-on-one consultations with staff members of L.I.F.E. can be availed.

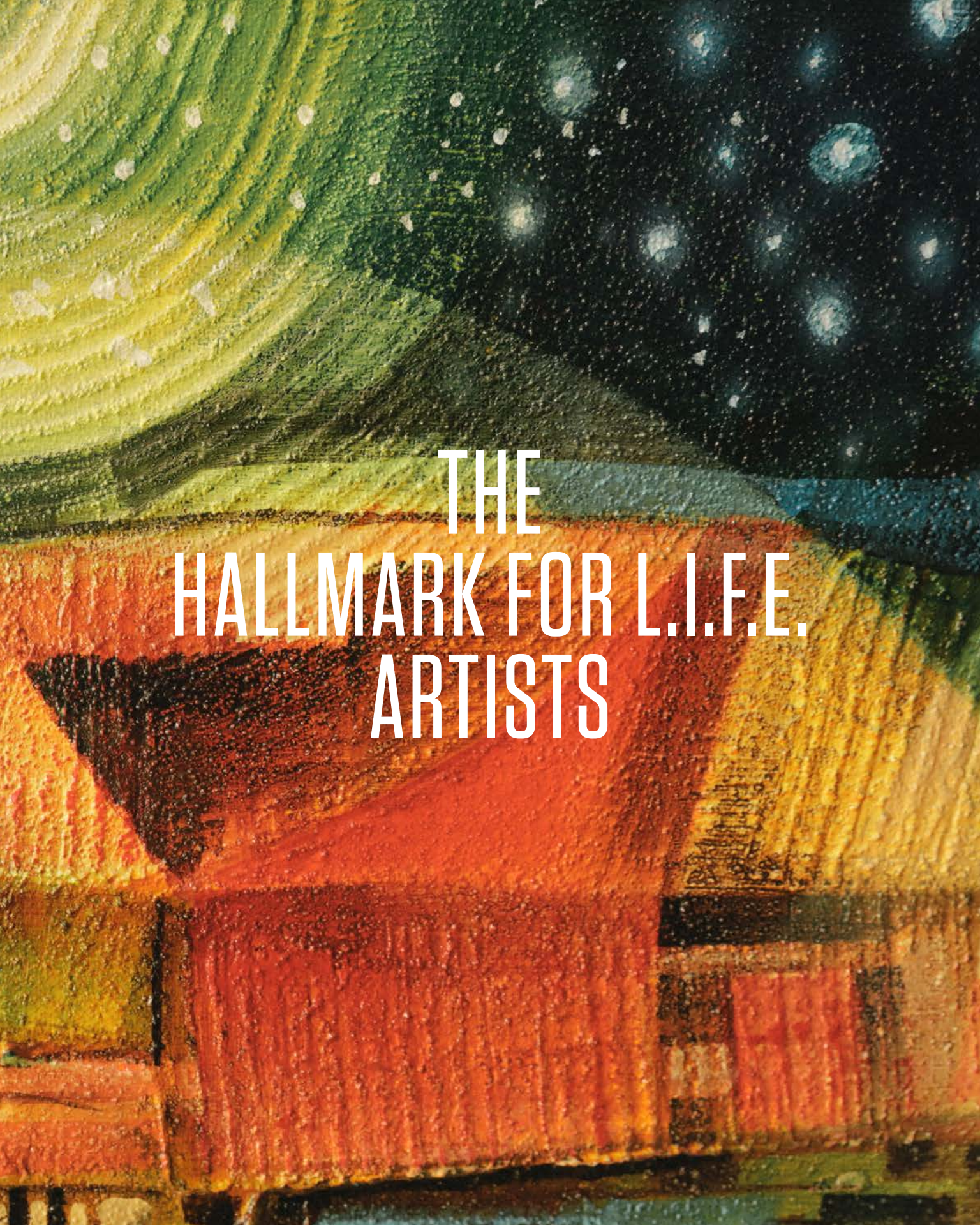
Hallmark for L.I.F.E. is a charitable project conceptualized in partnership with postcard company Hallmark Philippines to help the Foundation in supporting the children with

leukemia. Every Christmas season, a special set of Christmas greeting cards are made by Hallmark, by which parts of its proceeds will be donated to the Foundation. Different local artists and photographers are tapped to lend their artworks and be made as covers of the greeting cards.

Over the past 21 years, the L.I.F.E. Foundation has strongly and successfully helped to cure 76 leukemia patients and has provided assistance to more than 300 children.





An abstract painting with a textured surface. The top half features a dark blue, starry sky with white and light blue speckles. Below this, a large, vibrant orange and red area dominates the center, with a dark, almost black, triangular shape on the left. The bottom section is composed of various shades of orange, red, and yellow, with some darker, more textured areas. The overall style is expressive and layered.

THE
HALLMARK FOR L.I.F.E.
ARTISTS





ROMEO GUTIERREZ

To practice art is one thing and to teach it to other people is another. But having done both, concurrently or not, has quite made a name for Romeo Gutierrez.

A native from Tacloban in Leyte, Romeo is a visual artist and was a former

professor at the Fine Arts Department of the College Of The Holy Spirit in Manila for a very long time in the past. He acquired education and training in Painting at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila and has bagged a number of awards in several art competitions during his life

in college. In point of fact, he was previously awarded first prize by the prestigious art organization, the Art Association of the Philippines.

His “career” at Hallmark for L.I.F.E. started when after he was challenged upon seeing the cards—produced by the said company—displayed at a bookstore, as Romeo recalls. “I said, gusto ko rin,” he commented, referring to his sprouted desire to contribute card designs specifically for L.I.F.E. He wanted to help the indigent children with cancer even alongside lack of monetary compensation for doing it.

When and how did your interest in painting start?

When I was still in grade school, I was already really good at drawing. I was imitating my father doing some portraits, some landscapes, and others then that developed. My father, and I can still remember what he said, “Ang galing mo mag-drawing. Dapat mag-Fine Arts ka.” So, that’s it.





The National Commission for Culture and the Arts

and

Rotary International District 3810

award this

1994 Diwa Ng Sining

CITATION

to

Romeo Gufierrez

for exemplary contribution to the upliftment of visual artists in the Philippines as one of the

TEN OUTSTANDING VISUAL ARTISTS.

Given this 18th day of February, 1994 at the Art Center, S.M. Megamall

Attest:

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Chairman, NCCA

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CAROLINA PASIELA
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LEONARDO O. DE SUZMAN
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What is your biggest achievement as an artist?

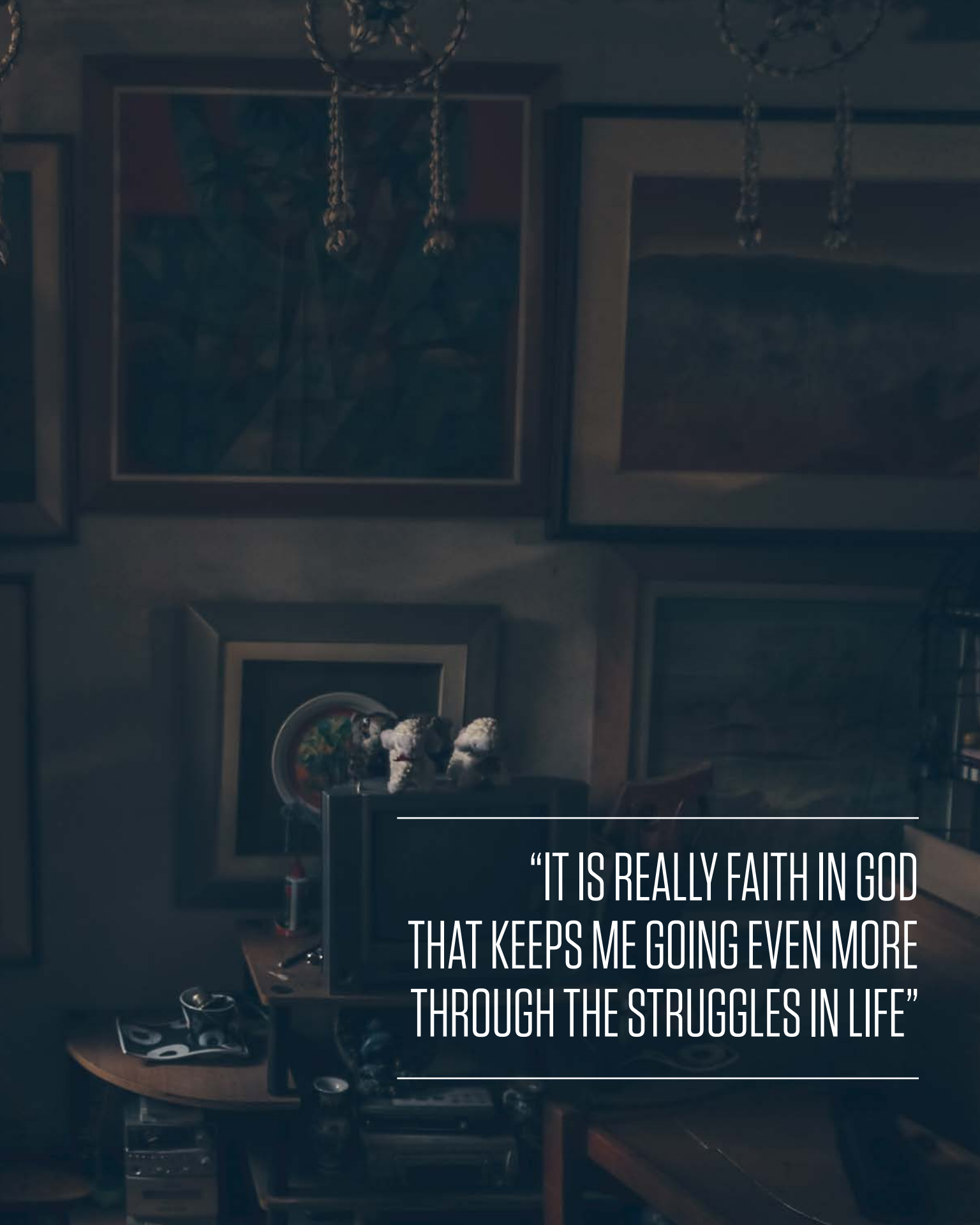
For me, one of my biggest achievements is to be awarded as an outstanding UST Alumni. I am very happy about it because achieving such really means something when thousands of students actually graduate in the University every year.

What is the best advice you can give to all young artists?

I've been a student myself. I've been also a struggling artist. Now, it's just really hard work; you have to work hard for it. Then, you have to persevere. If you are a painter and you wanted to be known, discover your own identity. You [will be] known if you possess something na ikaw lang ang meron.





A dimly lit room with several framed pictures on the wall. In the foreground, there is a table with a plate of food and some other items. The lighting is low, creating a moody atmosphere.

“IT IS REALLY FAITH IN GOD
THAT KEEPS ME GOING EVEN MORE
THROUGH THE STRUGGLES IN LIFE”







Jan. 2011
2011



PETE VELASQUEZ

I am back to my first love, summarizes the present narrative of the life of Pete Velasquez as a visual artist who has earlier immersed himself into the full-bodied experience of being a salaried architect for more than three decades here and abroad. His old love for painting astoundingly refused from wearing out within the very hollows and caverns of his arty soul after a significant amount of time of being busy as a building designer. Bubbling contemporaneous opportunities come off, but to

him, first love prevails and never dies.

Pete was born in a rural town in Isabela in the northern part of Luzon and was raised by his grandmother. He went to the Mapúa Institute of Technology in Manila as a working student and there has received a full scholarship in his third year of study. From being a toddler full of energy until becoming a kid snooper of brushes and inks, he would gladly recall a childhood tale that perhaps started it all. "One of my teachers in elementary [school] always gets mad







"Christmas Peace Doves" by Pete Velazquez

pete velazquez
GALLERY



at me for drawing illustrations on the table. She would ask, ‘*Ano ‘yang pinagda-drawing mo?*’ But later on, *ako ginawa niya taga-drawing sa class.* There it started,” recalls Pete.

Being an artist means a bump into cords of infinite challenges and Pete would enthusiastically tell an internally induced one. When asked about his artistic medium of choice, he said his favorite has to be oil because it is the toughest medium in painting, according to him. Pete, aside from painting, likewise does live sketching where he uses pastel, charcoal, and watercolors, together with other artists from The Tuesday Group. From this activity, his skill in

portraiture perks up where he also gets the opportunity to mingle with other artists as conversing with them, he says, is a good, constructive experience.

What is the best thing about painting?

Fulfillment. Self-fulfillment. No matter what, even though your work is unpleasant or not that good, it becomes beautiful because it’s original. In fact, there is a saying that goes, “Your worst original may become your greatest masterpiece.”





**“I AM BACK AT
MY FIRST LOVE -
PAINTING”**



What is your biggest achievement as an artist?

I get a lot of joy when people see my paintings and regard them to be beautiful. Even without receiving an honorific medal or any recognition, I am already priced and more than happy when people say to me, “*Mang Pete, ang ganda ng painting n’yo na ‘yan, talagang napakaganda* [Mang Pete, that painting of yours is beautiful, truly beautiful].”

What is the best advice you can give to all young artists?

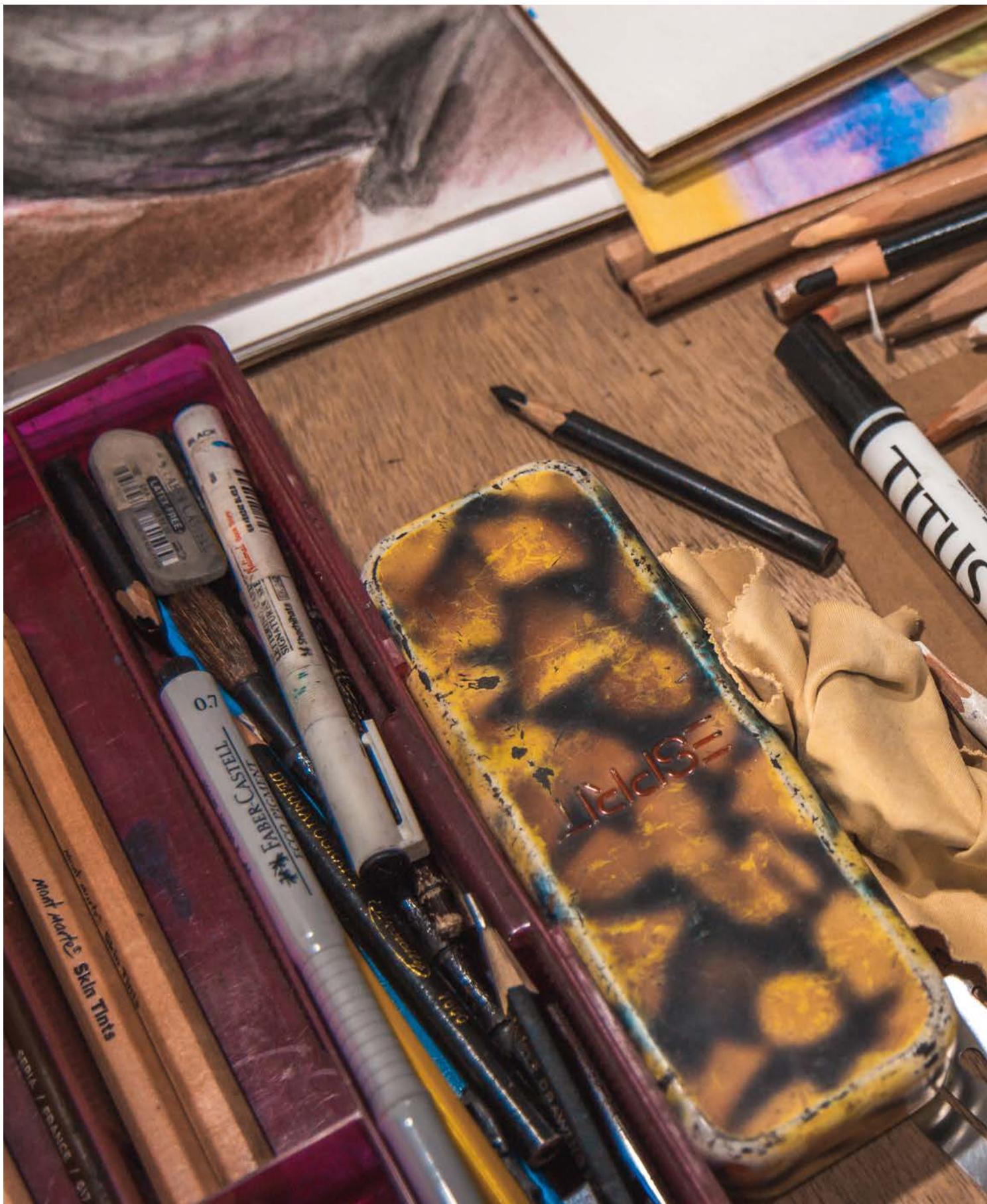
To young artists, do not forget about Filipino culture because this is your book, this is your history and this is your life: Filipino. It is okay to be inspired by Western or Eastern art—that is part of the research—but you have a mind of your own and you have to have a creativity of your own. Painting requires you to have the energy to create your own colors, to create your own art, and to create your abstracted form of imagination out of nowhere.

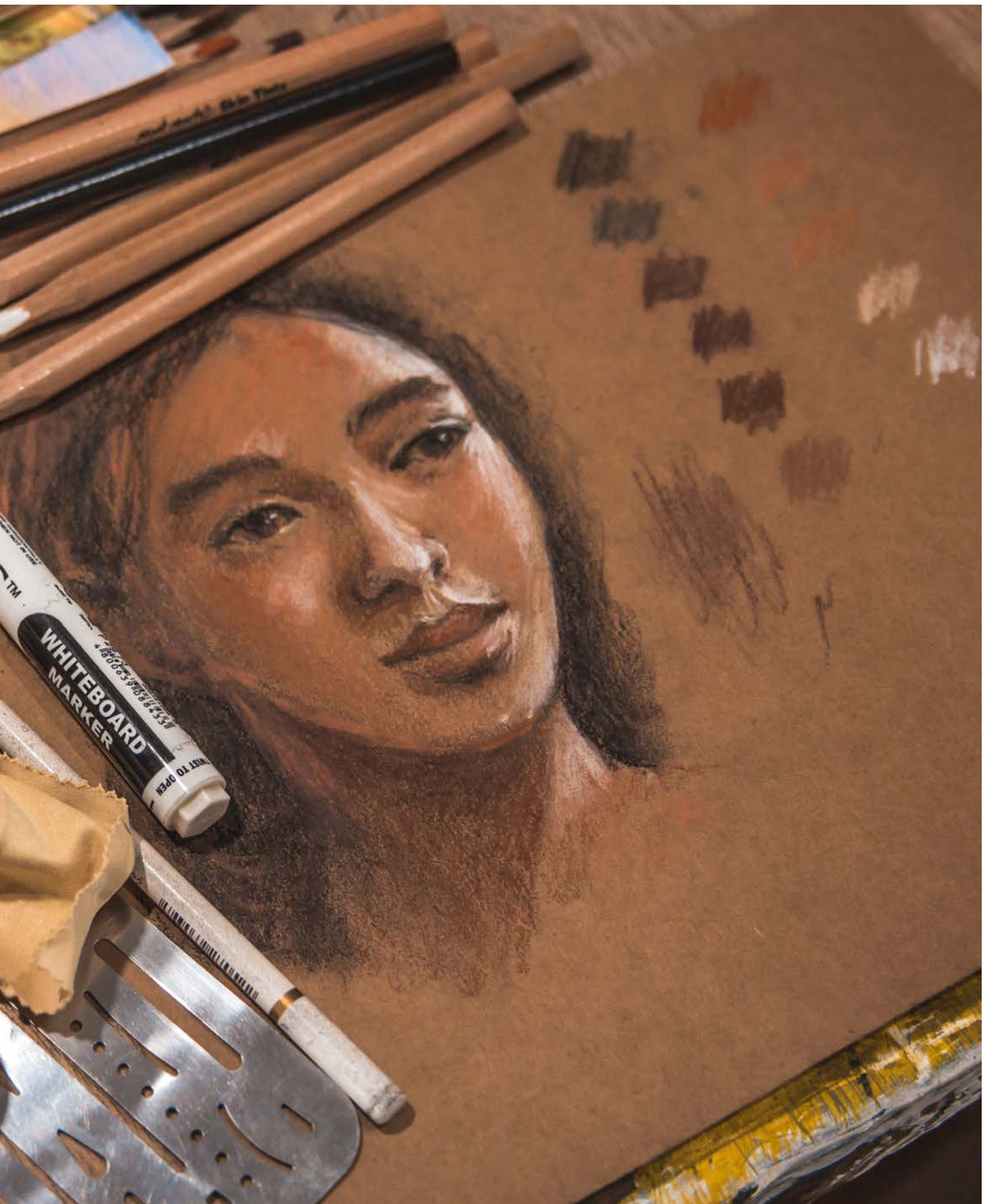


**“TO YOUNG ARTISTS,
DO NOT FORGET ABOUT
FILIPINO CULTURE”**

















BONG ANORE “FLIGHT MODE”

There's this old idea of two competing philosophies on whether artistic capabilities are of innate or learned in nature.

Research has it that while skills and knacks for the art can be transmitted through genetic mechanisms, these are mostly learned through constant education. And to Bong Anore, art education meant not going into the art schools or getting a diploma in such discipline. He is a self-taught artist and grew up experimenting art.

“I REFLECT ON MY
PREVIOUS SETBACKS
AND FAILURES.”









Bong's love and interest for the arts started when he was a child. He came from a family of artists but unluckily, his family did not afford supporting his interest for painting as a possible career in the future and so he was advised to take a "more practical" course as the sciences. He ended up taking Electronics and Communications Engineering and taught himself art. He did research through reading lots of magazines and would immerse himself in bookstores that sell art books and read up on them back in the past.

"I DON'T EVEN SEE PAINTING AS A MEANS TO BECOME FAMOUS. I JUST WANT TO DO WHATEVER I LIKE AND BE HAPPY ABOUT IT."









Is painting an important part of your life?

That is very tough. Well, I don't consider painting a means of making lots of money. I don't even see painting as a means to become famous. I just do whatever I like and be happy about it.

Where do you get inspirations in your paintings?

I reflect on my previous setbacks and failures. I transfigure these into something positive. I get motivations and inspirations from these negative occurrences in my life before.

What did Hallmark for L.I.F.E. contribute to you as an artist?

It is really an important thing to see that what you do likewise benefits other people. I get inspired and encouraged by helping patients with leukemia, and I will never really get tired from helping them. Leukemia is not an ordinary disease especially when it happened to a child.





ANGONO ARTISTS

It is true: birds with the same feathers do really flock together. These artists from Angono that include Bobet, Bernie, Charlie, and Ambhet have created a nest that would not only house their morals and principles as visual artists, but likewise their advocacy to utilize the arts to forward an inspirational, valuable cause.



JOVITO ANDRES “BOBET”

Jovito “Bobet” Andres studied Fine Arts at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila and has worked for a short period of time for Sanrio Philippines. His interest in painting started from reading comics back in his childhood; his aunt was a distributor of comics in areas around Luzon and Bobet would regularly acquire copies from her.

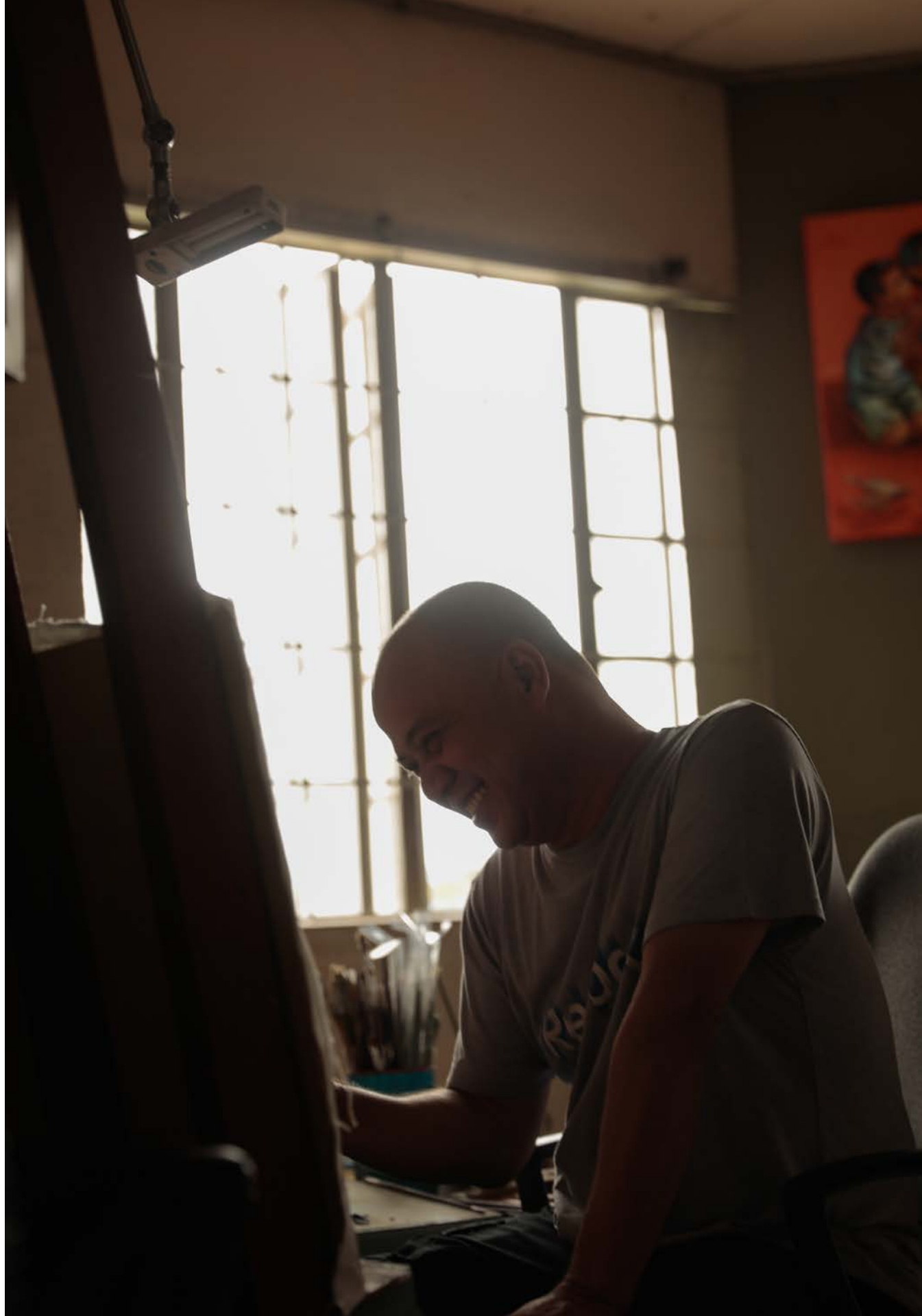




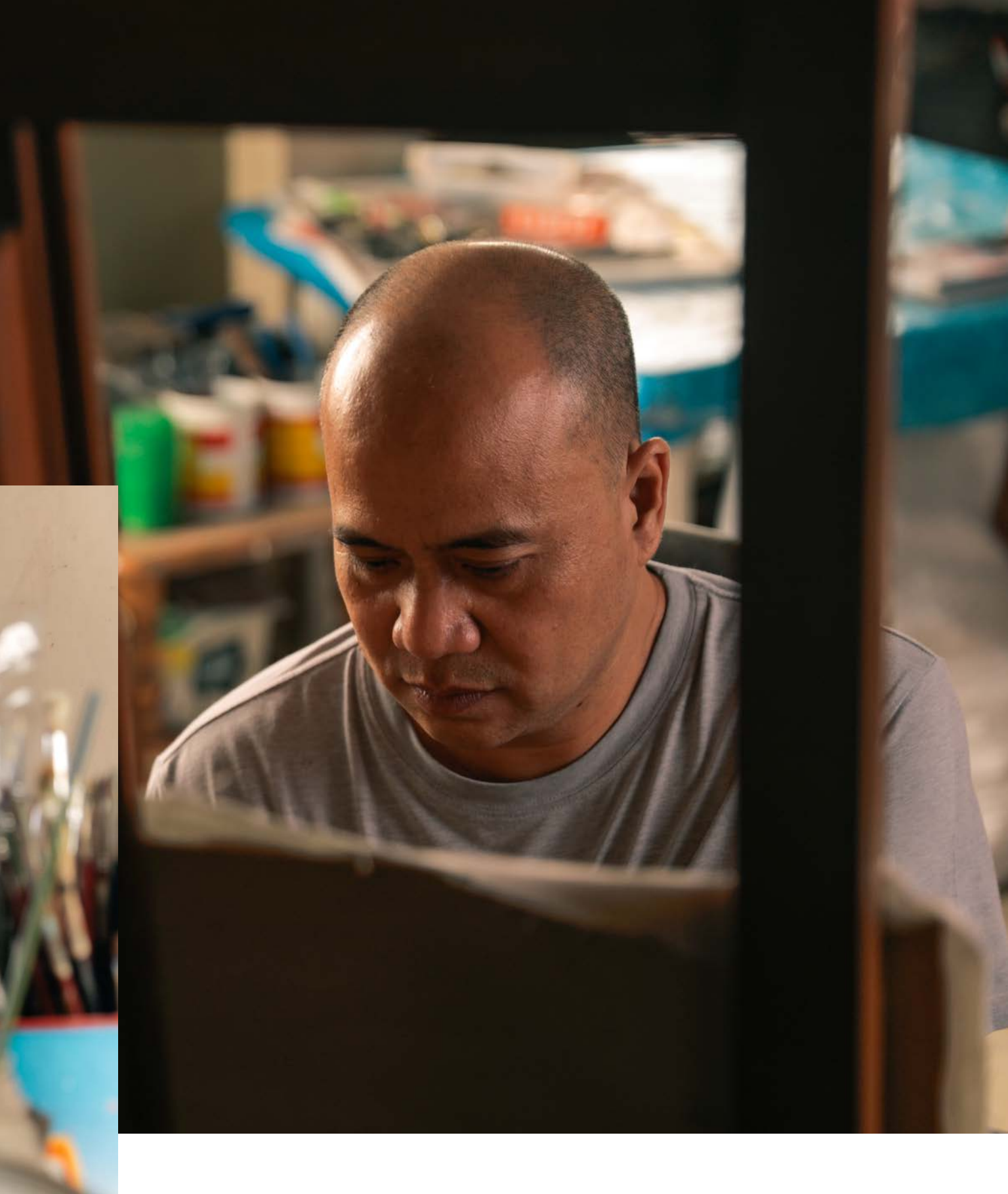


88













BERNARDO SUPSUPIN “BERNIE”

Bernardo “Bernie” Supsupin, meanwhile, has previously worked for Celine, Giordano, and Hang Ten as window display artist for about eight years. He would tell that his love for painting thrived after being inspired by his uncle who was likewise a painter.







CHARLIE VAL

Charlie Val is a self-taught artist and had not worked for any company before. His education for painting was mainly derived from what he regularly observed in the streets.







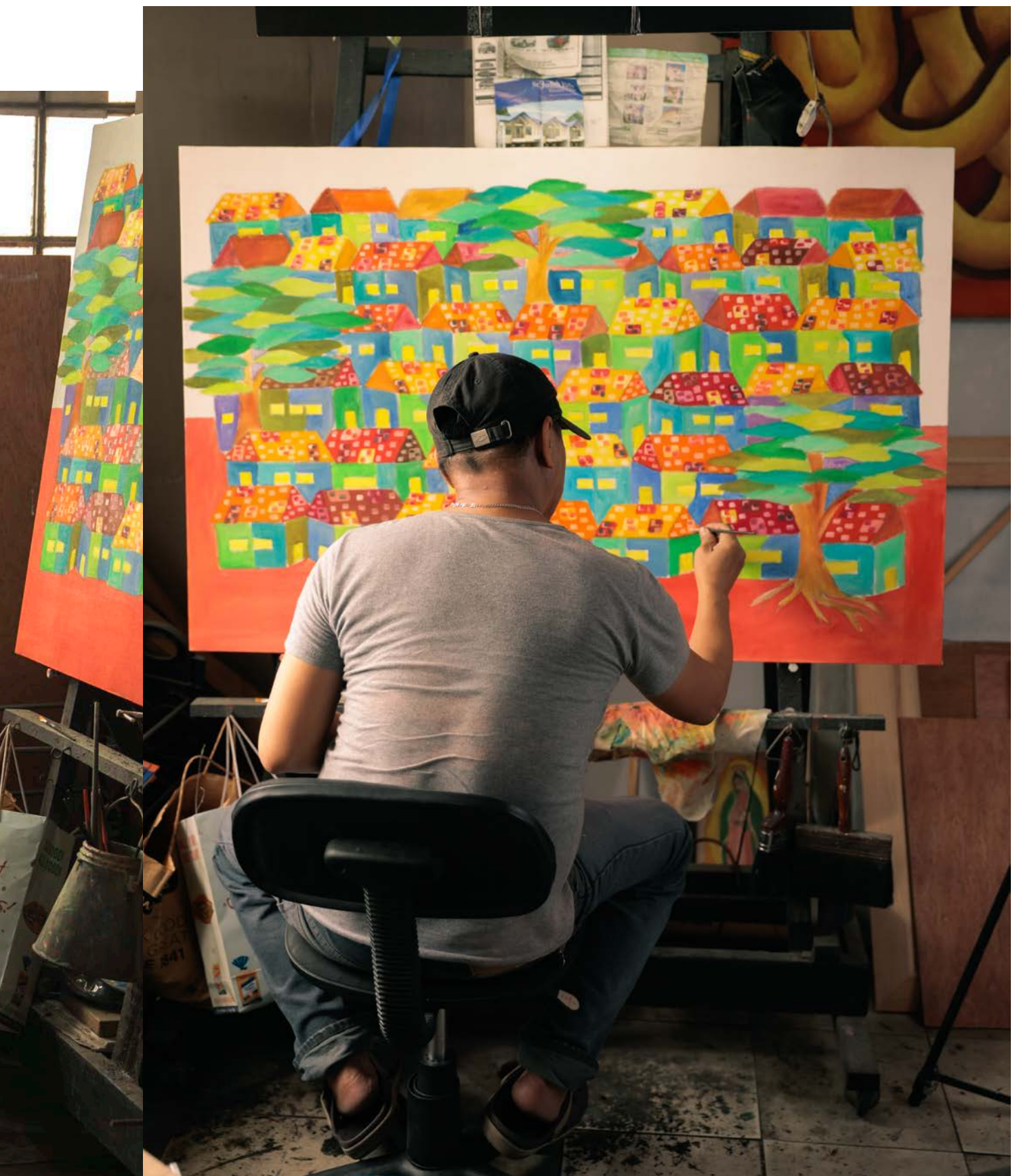
A photograph of a cluttered workshop. In the foreground, a table is covered with a bright blue, textured material, possibly a tarp or a piece of fabric. On the table, there is a black smartphone. Behind the table, a black metal table is covered with various tools, including a blue power drill, a red-handled tool, and a cardboard box. The background shows a wall with a window that has a grid pattern, letting in bright light. The overall scene suggests a space of creative or manual work.

NORBERTO LUGTU “AMBHET”

Lastly, Norberto “Ambhet” Lugtu is a Criminology Graduate and has worked for a hotel and a mall in the previous. Originally, he had this childhood dream of becoming a policeman or a soldier, but he had to give this up to pursue on what later on he realized to be his real love, that is painting.









What is your biggest achievement as an artist?

Perhaps it is not us but other people who can tell whether we had already achieved something in the past or now in the present.


Basta tuloy-tuloy lang talaga kami magpinta. —

Charlie

What is the best advice you can give to all young artists?

Similar to any other pursuits or profession, great love and passion for your job is necessary. You just have to keep on painting and painting. —Jovito





NANI REYES

One hilarious thing about life is its natural propensity to lead us in several directions curvally aimed to what it prepared as the real destination for each of us. To Angono artist Nani Reyes, the road has been a lot more complicated than anyone else's path. Or should the term be more enriching? Or perhaps, more heartening?

Before finally settling as a full-time

artist in the present, Nani has previously worked as a teacher in a couple of learning institutions (one in a grade school and another in a high school), as a banking service supervisor at a popular upscale hotel in Manila, and as a jail guard in a detention facility in Rizal. While working at the said detention, he has taught painting to several of the jail's inmates.



Known by his friends and acquaintances for his jolly and enthusiastic personality, Nani is a graduate of Classical Philosophy from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. In the outset, the typical worry of a new visual artist has plagued Nani's artistic career. This included financial setbacks that led him to trouble on purchasing materials and maintaining his art, in general. He even reached the point where his artworks would not sell to the public. But from showing severe conscientiousness and perseverance, the game is definitely not over for Nani.

What is your style or genre in painting?

It's a mixed style. From realism, I came to the point where I needed to discover myself. I searched for the style that would fit me and that I thought would be well-received by the public. So, I shifted from realism to cubism until I decided to combine the two.

**“YOU HAVE TO HAVE THE HEART
IN EACH OF YOUR OUTPUTS.”**









How is your experience as part of Hallmark for L.I.F.E.?

I really feel honored to be able to help other people. I think this is really the mission of each of us; to give back to others what you have received.

What is the best advice you can give to all young artists?

For all young artists who are just starting, just paint and paint. There will come a point that your works will be recognized. You have to have the heart in each of your outputs, and never forget to pray to God.





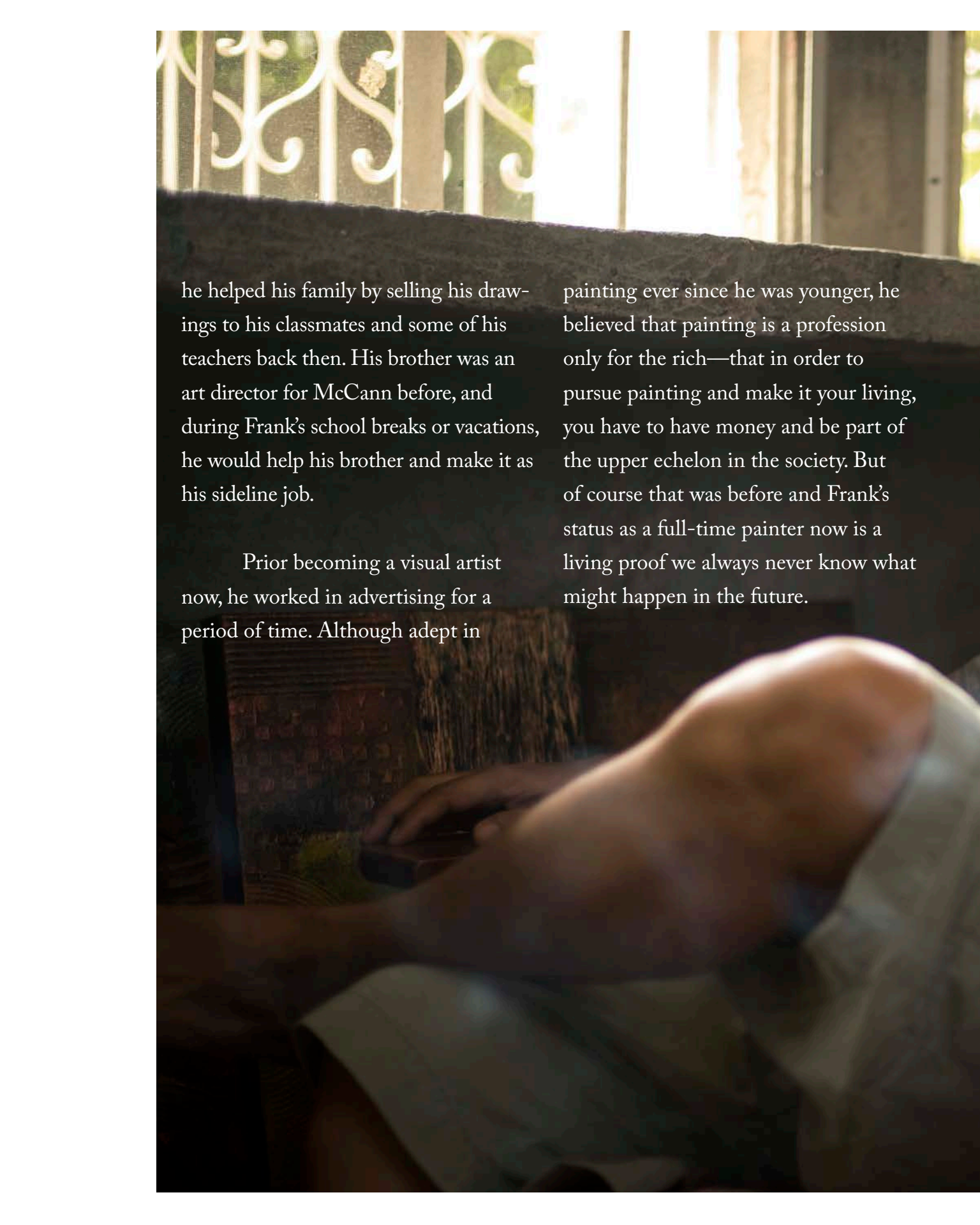
FRANKLIN CAÑA VALENCIA

Frank Caña would repeatedly say “I’m an advertising person,” when asked to describe himself. You can likewise hear him mention this as his introduction or conclusion when he narrates or recalls stories from the past. He can’t help but mention it always but one thing should be cleared: it is only his way of expressing how becoming a painter had never been part of his plans since advertising had been a thing he was largely exposed to ever since he was a child.

Frank was born in a poor family in Calauag, Quezon in the southern part of Luzon, and has studied (but not completed higher education) at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. As a grade school student,

“I AM AN
ADVERTISING PERSON”



A person is shown from the side, focused on painting a canvas. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from a window in the background. The window has a decorative white metal railing with intricate scrollwork. The person's arm and hand are visible, holding a brush and applying paint to the canvas. The overall mood is quiet and artistic.

he helped his family by selling his drawings to his classmates and some of his teachers back then. His brother was an art director for McCann before, and during Frank's school breaks or vacations, he would help his brother and make it as his sideline job.

Prior becoming a visual artist now, he worked in advertising for a period of time. Although adept in

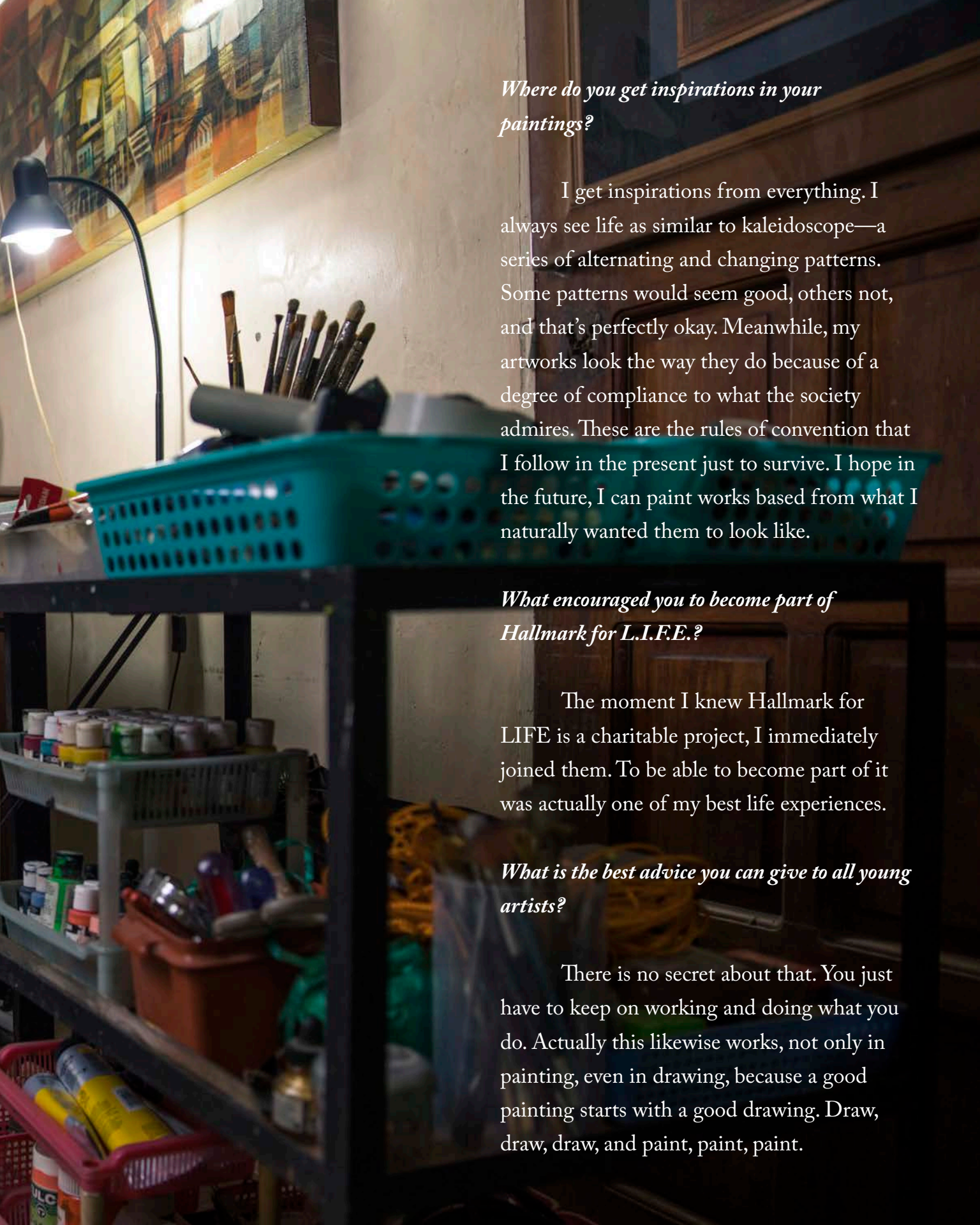
painting ever since he was younger, he believed that painting is a profession only for the rich—that in order to pursue painting and make it your living, you have to have money and be part of the upper echelon in the society. But of course that was before and Frank's status as a full-time painter now is a living proof we always never know what might happen in the future.











Where do you get inspirations in your paintings?

I get inspirations from everything. I always see life as similar to kaleidoscope—a series of alternating and changing patterns. Some patterns would seem good, others not, and that's perfectly okay. Meanwhile, my artworks look the way they do because of a degree of compliance to what the society admires. These are the rules of convention that I follow in the present just to survive. I hope in the future, I can paint works based from what I naturally wanted them to look like.

What encouraged you to become part of Hallmark for L.I.F.E.?

The moment I knew Hallmark for LIFE is a charitable project, I immediately joined them. To be able to become part of it was actually one of my best life experiences.

What is the best advice you can give to all young artists?

There is no secret about that. You just have to keep on working and doing what you do. Actually this likewise works, not only in painting, even in drawing, because a good painting starts with a good drawing. Draw, draw, draw, and paint, paint, paint.



**“I ALWAYS SEE LIFE
AS SIMILAR TO
KALEIDOSCOPE”**

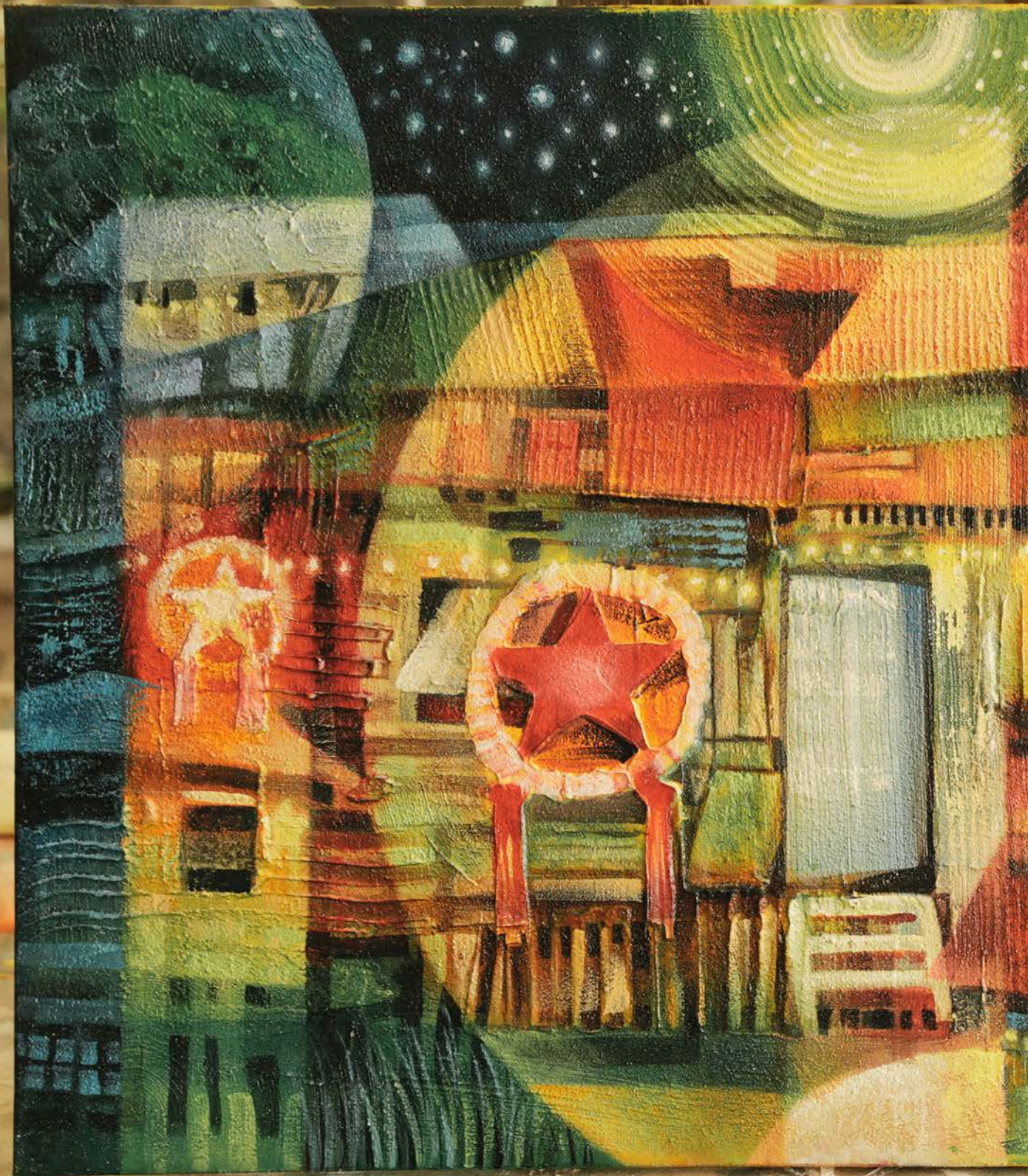


















THE
L.I.F.E. CHILDREN

A photograph of a child's room. The wall is painted a vibrant green. In the foreground, a blue electric fan is partially visible. A patterned rug with floral designs in red, yellow, and green is on the floor. A pink cloth hangs on the wall. The overall scene is bright and colorful.

CLAIRE

Claire is described to be a very active six-year-old kid. Her hobbies include cycling, exploring video content on YouTube, and playing computer games such as Crossfire and Minecraft. Her energy and liveliness make her a ray of sunshine to everyone, especially to her parents. It was because of this energetic personality that anyone in the family did not expect Claire to be actually afflicted with leukemia.

“HER ENERGY AND LIVELINESS MAKE HER A RAY OF SUNSHINE”





It was in October in 2013 since they learned about her condition. From simple bruises and irregular fever that Claire would experience back then, her family did not thought her condition was already something serious. Until Claire's gums and teeth suffered from bleeding that her parents directly brought her first to the dentist and then to her pediatrician. The doctor advised to subject her to CBC (complete blood count) test and results showed Claire's hemoglobin level to be abnormally low. After a week, they revisited the pediatrician and Claire was observed to actually have swollen lymph nodes so they were subsequently instructed to transfer to Fe Del Mundo Hospital in Quezon City. After a number of tests there, Claire's leukemia was confirmed.

Claire's Mom explained that due to her daughter's very young age, she found it very difficult to explain to Claire about her condition. In fact, there were actually times Claire would ask her Mom about the effects of the illness she would experience like gradual loss of her hair and later, her difficulty in walking.

They have been with L.I.F.E. Foundation for a number of years now and Claire's Mom is nothing but grateful about the Foundation's assistance in meeting the needs of Claire. She explains that they would have not known what to do and where to find resources had they not known the Foundation. Claire and her Mom hope that more children in the future will receive the same help and support L.I.F.E. is continuously providing them. Finally, Claire's Mom advises every parent to continue providing their children unconditional love, and likewise continue their faith and trust in the Lord no matter what happens.











ADRIAN

Adrian is a 19-year-old, third year Civil Engineering student at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Manila. Almost ten years ago, he has been declared to have survived his battle against leukemia.

“DANCING SERVES AS HIS
RELIEF FROM STRESS”

If there's one thing Adrian's family and friends would closely associate to him, it would be dancing. His interest and love for dancing started when he was still in high school. He says dancing serves as his relief from stress and becomes his means of expressing his emotions. He even teasingly said that he can be a dancer while being an engineer in the future.

Her family knew about his illness when he was only five years old. As a child, Adrian would recall how plain or unsophisticated it was for him to be told by his parents about his leukemia, without really grasping how critical his condition was back then. He would remember that during his medical or therapeutic sessions in hospitals, for instance, he would try to kick the nurses or doctors, or even spit on them so as to escape from the prickly needle of the injections. He experienced this over his three years of treatment until he was declared cured in 2008. As a Hallmark for L.I.F.E. beneficiary, he explained how great his thanks is to the Foundation for helping him and his family meet all his needs when he was still being treated.

Looking back, he takes and regards this experience of being a leukemia survivor as a very big challenge that he had surmounted. He said that he is glad and proud that he, together with his whole family, was able to overcome such challenge through continuous medication, and unending prayers and faith in the Lord. To be able to survive leukemia is really a big achievement I will never forget, he adds.













KYLA

If there's one challenge in life Kyla is proudest of overcoming, it is definitely surviving leukemia after several years of experiencing draining and demanding medication and therapy. Kyla is presently 18 years old and is now on her tenth grade in high school.

**“KYLA’S INTERESTS
INCLUDE WATCHING
VIDEOS ON THE INTERNET”**



SPORT
for









JULIE

Julie is a ten-year-old, fourth-grade student whose energy and high-spiritedness significantly takes the edge off her present fight against leukemia. A lot of the songs of pop artists Meghan Trainor and Sarah Genonimo (to which she does want to become like in the future), her love for singing started when she was still a child. In fact, she has been participating—and winning—in several singing competitions inside or outside

her school. Not only that she is good in singing, she can also draw, dance, and perform declamation speeches.

“SHE CAN ALSO DRAW, DANCE, AND PERFORM DECLAMATION SPEECHES”





Her family discovered about her leukemia when she was only around three years old. Julie's Mom would recall the story when the first signs and symptoms of the illness were starting to appear on and be experienced by her daughter. First indications that were observed include swollen lymph nodes on Julie so after learning about this, she was brought to her pediatrician to have her checked. No history of any blood-related disease in the family of Julie can be recalled by her Mom, so nothing worrisome ever crossed the thought of the whole family. They brought Julie to another hospital and it was when she was subjected to bone marrow test that her family found out she is actually positive of leukemia. It was very hard for her family to accept what they had just knew primarily because of Julie's very young age at that time.

Julie underwent several stages of medication to treat her illness. Five years later, everything about Julie seemed so normal back again they thought she was already cured of leukemia, but indications of the illness started returning ever since.

Meanwhile, her family have been with the L.I.F.E. Foundation since 2010 and in fact, Julie has been a regular performer as a singer in several events the Foundation would organize. Julie's Mom could not even describe or sufficiently express her gratitude on the Foundation, particularly for Hallmark for L.I.F.E., not only because of the financial and medical assistance L.I.F.E. provides, but likewise for the hope they have been giving to Julie's family—the hope that this particular challenge can be altogether survived. Julie and her Mom similarly express their joy about the paintings and the specially-crafted Christmas greeting cards because they know that behind these artworks is the touching and unconditional concern for children like Julie.

When asked about her advice to fellow children who experience the same condition as hers, Julie said that giving up should never be considered as an option. She advised them to be always happy because if not, their parents would not be happy as well.





BUWAN NG WIRA-2010

AWIT

KAMPEON



DALE

Dale is now nine years old and on his second grade in elementary, described by her Mom to be kind and highly obedient. Medicating for over five years now, he has been diagnosed with leukemia since he was only four years old in 2011.

“DALE IS A FAN OF YOUTUBE AND LIKES TO UPLOAD HIS VIDEOS THERE”

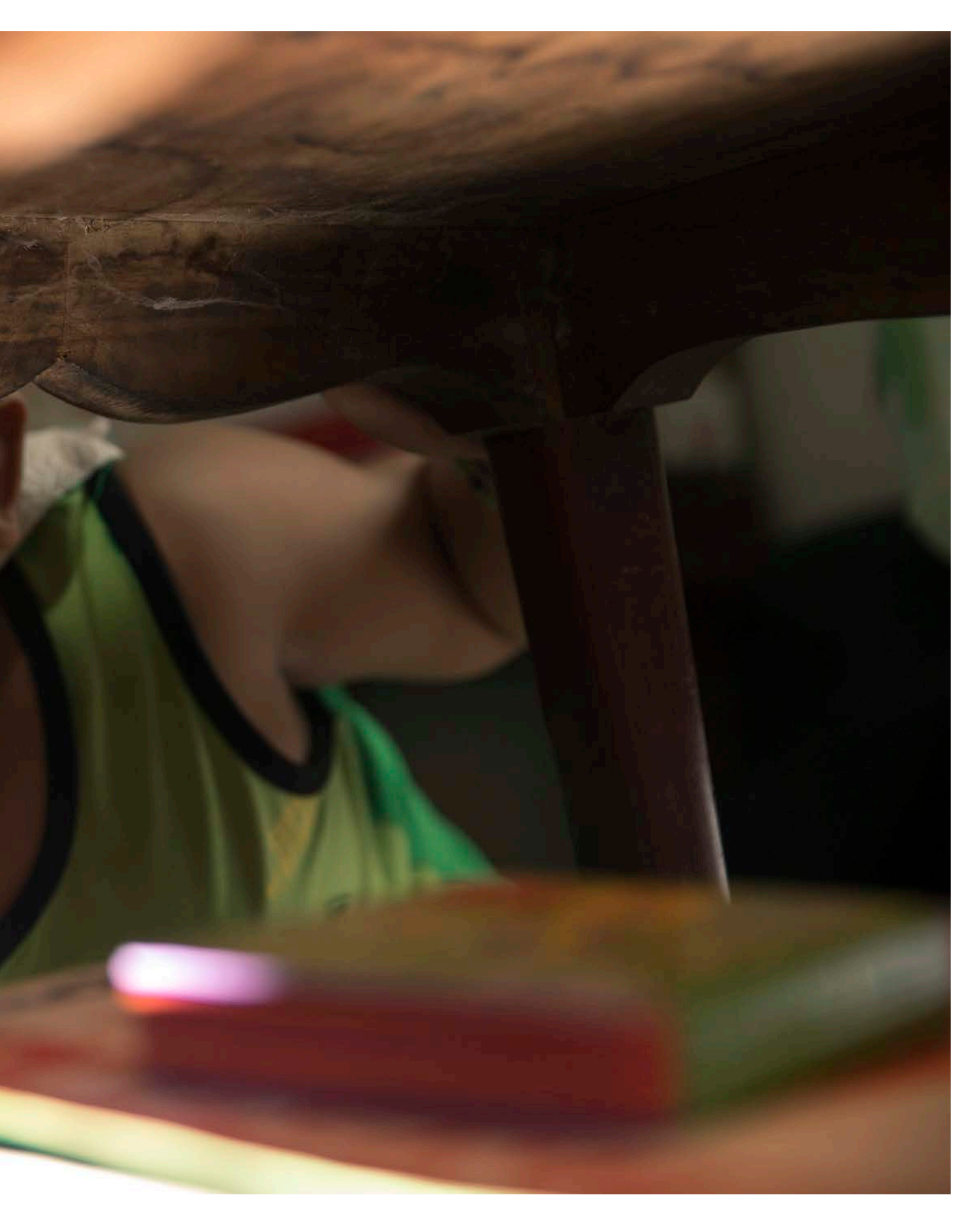












A photograph of a child's room. In the foreground, a bed with a patterned blanket is visible. Above the bed, there are shelves with various items, including a computer monitor and some papers. In the background, there are more shelves and toys, including a red toy car and a blue toy figure. The lighting is dim, creating a soft, intimate atmosphere.

MICHAEL

Michael is presently seven years old and unfortunately, he needed to take a break from school in the present because of leukemia. He likes to play with cars and ball together with his siblings, Miko and Ryssa. He was described to be kind and generous, and affectionate toward his siblings. His family was originally from Leyte, and in fact, they have experienced and survived Yolanda in 2013.

“HE WAS DESCRIBED TO BE KIND AND GENEROUS, AND AFFECTIONATE TOWARD HIS SIBLINGS”





It was really a saddening moment for the whole family of Michael to know about his condition but her family stayed strong and persevered in giving Michael proper medication to fight off his illness. His Mom could even still recall the fear she has felt all over her body because of the thought of the notion on how deadly such illness can be. For a period, as a result of leukemia, Michael experienced being crippled and he was unable to walk until having treated with the help of continuous sessions of chemotherapy. Physical improvements were seen in Michael after three years of treatment since then.

Michael's dream is to become a doctor someday. His Mom mentions that during his plays and recreations with his siblings, Michael likes to act as a doctor because he wants to help other children like him in the future. He imitates the tests and processes he observed the doctors would always do to him, Michael's Mom explains.

Meanwhile, Michael's Mom wants to tell other people to never give up, and continue praying and hoping. She reminds everyone, especially with families that are experience the same, to be always strong and persevered. She also thanked the L.I.F.E. Foundation for helping them and bringing hope to every child they are helping.







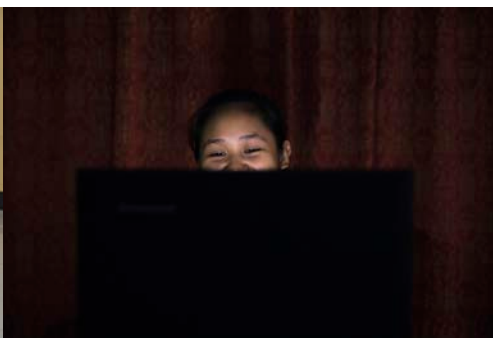


A photograph of a dilapidated building with peeling paint and a brick wall, serving as a background for the text.

L.I.F.E. continues with You.







INDEX

A

adopt, 15
Adrian, 114, 116
Ambhet, 58, 73
Angono, 58, 79
artist, 17, 22, 25, 33, 36, 39, 41, 49, 56, 66,
68, 79, 81, 89

B

Bernie Supsupin, 66
Bobet, 58, 59
bone marrow, 130
Bong Anore, 49

C

Caña, 87
Caviles, 15
Charlie Val, 58, 59
chemotherapy, 15, 136, 144
children, 15, 17, 23, 108, 130, 144
Claire, 105, 107
comics, 59

D

Dale, 133, 136
dance, 115, 124, 127
doctor, 108, 115, 124, 137, 144

E

energy, 33, 39, 105, 127

F

family, 15, 53, 87, 89, 105, 108, 115, 124,
130, 136, 141, 144
Fe Del Mundo, 108
Filipino, 39, 41
foundation, 15, 17, 108, 115, 124, 130,
136, 144
Frank Valencia, 87

G

greeting card, 17, 130

H

Hallmark 17, 20, 22, 56, 85, 94, 115, 130
happy, 25, 39, 53, 56, 130

I

illness, 108, 115, 124, 130, 136, 144
inspiration, 56, 58, 94

J

Julie, 127, 130

K

kaleidoscope, 94, 95
Kyla, 122, 124

L

Leukemia, 15, 17, 56, 105, 108, 114, 115,
122, 124, 126, 130, 133, 141, 144
L.I.F.E., 15, 17, 23, 55, 94, 108, 115, 124,
130, 136, 144

M

medication, 115, 122, 124, 130, 136, 144
Michael, 141, 144

N

Nani Reyes, 79

O

output, 81, 84

P

Pete Velasquez, 33
painting, 17, 22, 23, 33, 36, 38, 39, 53, 56,
59, 66, 69, 73, 77, 79, 81, 89, 94, 130

R

Romeo Gutierrez, 22

S

self-taught, 49, 69

T

treatment, 115, 136, 144

U

university, 22, 25, 59, 81, 87, 114

V

visual artist, 12, 22, 33, 58, 81, 89

Y

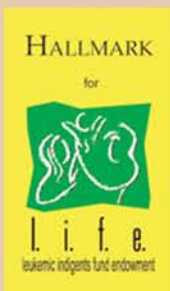
Youtube, 105, 133, 136
Yolanda, 141



Lives of L.I.F.E.

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AND THE HALLMARK FOR L.I.F.E. ARTISTS

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