



A HISTORY OF THE ARTISTS' CIRCLE

To be released on the EMERALD BOOK of the Fraternity

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CHAPTER 1

**We BELIEVE IN THE LIFE OF LOVE,
TO WALK IN THE PATH OF HONOR.
TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF ART- LIGHT of the world
This is the life, the way and the light of the Artists' Circle Fraternity.- This is the
Creed of the Fraternity.**

Genesis- The 1970s

Born on a tumultuous time in the nation's history, the Artists' Circle looks back with gratitude to the events and men who conspired the founding of the fraternity.

It all began in 1971. The College of Fine Arts had just become a separate unit under the stewardship of José T. Joya as Dean. The University of the Philippines is also dealing with the heydays of student activism and going through administrative changes. Many of the founders were part of the varsity basketball team of the college. Their captain, young and talented artist, Armand Bacaltos, who holds the distinction of winning the Shell Art Competition first prize for three consecutive years as a student, was in his senior year then. Wanting to prolong the days of happy friendship, he, together with some of the pioneers, most prominently Valentino Barros proposed to Professor Froilan T. Madriñan, eminent sculptor of the college who would become the first faculty adviser of the fraternity and the Office of Student Activities, about their intentions to form a fraternity that would be exclusive to artists in the University of the Philippines. The basketball team became the core group from which the circle is to have its genesis.

Out of the many who expressed willingness to join the newly chartered fraternity, only Thirteen of those men would eventually huddle closely before the start of the first semester in 1972 to hold the first initiation rites at the College of Fine Arts, then located at the top floor of Gonzalez Hall, which also housed the university library.

When they reconvened in their first General Assembly as brothers, they consecrated a covenant based on the love for arts, friendship and lifelong bonds that has lasted to this

day. This would later translate to the three tenets "Loyalty, Humility and Determination", which were since then known as the Essence of Fraternity.

The original constitution drafted by the first executive committee further established the purpose of the fraternity. The preamble states "...in order to secure for ourselves, for the student body of the University of the Philippines, for the youth of our nation and of the world, the blessings that come from brotherhood, and to deliver a program to our fellow men.." This aspiration is now carried on to the new generation of brothers who have adapted a mission and vision statement in the year 2003 based on the preamble.

Barely months after the nation's history took a dramatic fall out with the declaration of Martial Law and the imposition of a ban on all student activities and organizations. The only form of organization that was allowed was either fraternity or sorority, owing to the fact that the dictator was also a frat man. This period marked many of the early accomplishments of the fraternity that acted the same duties that the student council performs, pursuing student activities and propaganda through the art they created. In 1974, Batch Ugat entered and became a substantial reinforcement to the fraternity in a college that did not exceed 200 in population. This batch started many of the traditions that are adapted today by the residents including the launch of an annual group exhibit that showcases the best works of the year. The first group exhibit by the Artists' Circle was called "Interrelation" and was launched in 1978 at the Heritage Art Center in San Juan. During this time, several fraternity brothers went in the underground movement that fought the tyrant and the oppression which he represented.

Coming of Age

By 1977, the fraternity mascot- a baseball player with an oversized head wearing the fraternity ball cap- was adopted. The very first version of the fraternity shirt was also worn by the residents. This also marked the birth of the ladies' club, the Women's Auxilliary Corps or W.A.C., which became the predecessor of the Artists' Circle Sorority.

In the ensuing years, the fraternity was able to firmly plant its status in the University of the Philippines with the increase in membership and the dynamic leadership of Supreme Masters like Federico "Pete" Jimenez and Joven Alcala. The concerns of fraternity programs were varied and wide. They included anything from agricultural reform to the emergence of postmodernism in the art scene. Fraternity Brothers are usually seen preaching these advocacies in and out of their classrooms. Workshops in public schools were held regularly side by side with educational discussion groups about the revolution and the fate of the fraternity. By the 1980s, the College of Fine Arts only had two student organizations and that was the UP Artists' Circle Fraternity and the chartered UP Artists' Circle Sorority. This led to the revival of the Student council after the lifting of the Martial Law in 1983 and for several straight years, the Artists' Circle Fraternity commanded the post of the Student Council. Brothers became more active in campus politics and participated in activities by the now defunct Inter-Fraternity Council. By the late 80s, an adolescent fraternity adopted the secret handshake of Batch BALAT '89. The handshake was considered a sacred practice and meant as a reminder of the essence of

fraternity. This was widely introduced in the second General Alumni Homecoming of the Fraternity at the Century Park Hotel in Manila which was initiated by then Supremo Nubbin Beldia. The handshake and some recognized insignia were presented to the General Fraternity through the efforts of Supremo R.J. Briones. In 1997, members of the Artists' Circle paid tribute to the very first Supreme Master, Armand "Bim" Bacaltos during their Silver Anniversary.

The 90s into maturity

The 90s saw a decline of membership in the Artists' Circle with rumors surrounding campus violence and the death of frat men in hazing activities. The press had a crack down on the fraternity system in the university and in 1997, the Artist Circle Fraternity under Supremo Romil Mancenido was among the fraternities to participate in the truce to promote harmony among frat men in campus and the surrender of hazing paraphernalia. Other fraternities gave out their paddles; AC Fraternity gave in a six-inch thick slob of steel used to make sculptures. Everyone applauded the Artists' Circle's effort in preserving the peace and its NO HAZING POLICY.

Among the many commissions the AC fraternity received during that decade is the mural at the second floor of the Palma Hall, "Isandaang-taong bukung liwayway". It was made to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Philippine revolution in 1996.

During the 31st year of the Fraternity, an Alumni Foundation was established to aide in financing projects of the Fraternity and to conduct its very own scholarship grants. The Artists' Circle Foundation is now the primary fund-raising entity of A.C. Fraternity and its primary focus is to support the education, leadership and development of the lone collegiate chapter in UP Diliman, individuals of the Fraternity and deserving fine arts majors (non-members). The Fund raising campaigns of the A.C. Foundation is very aggressive and only after two years, it has gathered a considerable amount of financial support for its endeavors. It's current president is the former Supremo Joven Alcala.

The following year, the tradition of the Annual Art Exhibit by residents was christened with a name during the launching of the very first "Kalipunan". It showcased the works of residents and was welcomed warmly by fellow collegians. It is now pushing for its third installment which would be held in time for the centennial of the College of Fine Arts.

The Artists' circle is now about to begin their Emerald Year, an occasion that marks the maturity of the fraternity's tradition and ideals. Their journey is filled with many colorful events and likewise, travail in every endeavor. The fraternity is no longer worried about things they have already encountered in the past. They are securely one with the spirit of the university. More than that, their close adherence to the tenets of Loyalty, Humility and Determination has made them an enduring force in the course of nation building.

Our Values

Our Mission

The Artists' Circle is dedicated to developing artists of integrity, intellect, and high moral character and to fostering a truly lifelong fraternal experience.

To fulfill this mission, The AC Fraternity will:

- Encourage all our members to live the values taught in our ritual.
- Provide innovative services and programs designed to enrich the lives of our undergraduates, alumni, and communities.
- Create opportunities for our undergraduate and alumni members to participate in the life of the Artists' Circle frat man on a daily basis.
- Promote and foster a spirit of pride, loyalty, inclusion and respect for the Artists' Circle and its rich history.
- Empower our undergraduate and alumni members to help shape our future by being informed ambassadors and involved advocates.
- Encourage our undergraduate and alumni members to take an active role in advancing the Artists' Circle interests by volunteering their time and by contributing to the Fraternity's annual giving campaign.
- Communicate effectively and efficiently with our alumni, students and host institutions through various channels on a continuous basis.
- Value academic achievement and practice academic integrity.
- Establish positive and lasting relationships with our host institutions, alumni and communities.
- Encourage our members to be of strong mind and body.

Our Vision

The Artists' Circle will set the standard of integrity, artistic excellence, and achievement for our members, host institutions, and the communities in which we live.

Our Creed

TO BELIEVE IN THE LIFE OF LOVE; to win in the fresh morning of our youth the loyal love of faithful friends, who will go with us unmoved into the darkening shadows of life's closing day; and so to seek and to find, to have and to hold the friendships that will abide. To think of God as the common father of all men, and all men as a common brotherhood, thus recognizing the continuity of the Divine and the solidarity of the human life. To build somewhere in the wide world the sheltering walls of a home, however humble and obscure, where Love shall glorify the wife, Duty enshrine the mother, and Affection ennoble the child. To keep green the sainted memory of our loved

and lost, their faults forgotten, their virtues enshrined in our hearts forever. To try bravely to do unto our fellowmen as we would they should do unto us, reckoning not their lineage nor their wealth, but esteeming their manhood above their badge of rank. To let our lives be led by the spirits of Loyalty, Humility, and Determination. And so to be true to the Knighthood of Love.

TO WALK IN THE PATH OF HONOR; to exalt the fundamental virtues of the race; and, prizing every noble impulse, to realize so deeply the baseness of deceit, that no obligation will be more binding than our plighted word. To be steadfast in the performance of every trust, and, spurning the gaudy gifts of greed and power, to be content to live by our knightly vow that our honor is dearer to us than our lives; and so to esteem the man's character first, his culture second, and his pedigree not at all, unless he be worthy of it. Emulating the chivalrous deeds of courtesy, and sealing not our hearts against the torch of tenderness, to win the love and care of some incorruptible woman. And so to be loyal to the Knighthood of Honor.

TO SERVE IN THE NAME OF ART -LIGHT OF THE WORLD; to open wide, Life's windows to the revelations of heaven and earth. Avoiding the Pharisees that belittles the soul and scorning the bigotry that blights the mind, to respect every altar of faith built in God's name, by every sincere worshiper to whom, if we cannot give our sympathy, we shall not deny the kindness of our manly silence; and, whatever our creed, to reverence the Christ as the Divine Compassion for struggling humanity -- a compassion that, giving the world its gospel of human service, saves men to the end that they may serve their fellow men.

To seek in nature, the meaning of the Infinite Truth; to understand that the laws of growth are the laws of God to believe that the melody of birds, the laughter of children the unmeasured sacrifice of motherhood, and the ceaseless yearning of all men for a wider outlook and a nobler existence are prophetic of the perfect joy and love of another world and so believing, to find rest, as in the shadow of a great rock, against all the storms that beset us; catching from the silence of the starlit nights, the peace of the autumn days, the solemnity of the boundless seas, that spirit of Hope and Faith which soothes hurt of grief, heals the wound of wrong, and calms the fever of doubt.

To welcome the achievements of art and science, religion and learning, labor and law, under whose radiant banners battle the hosts of progress; honoring every honest student as the benefactor of his race, and every consecrated school as a bulwark of National Democracy; and so to be loyal to the University of the Philippines, as the home of Filipino liberty, democracy, religion, and culture.

To guard with jealous care not only ancient rights of human freedom, in whose name we shall destroy all wrong and oppression, but also the newer rights of social service, the ultimate purpose of whose ministrations shall be to give to every life, the opportunity to enjoy the earth in the fullness of its beauty and grace, its comfort and good cheer; holding fast to the conviction that whatever sweetens our natures, uplifts our ideals, strengthens our character and disenthalls our spirits will bring us in the end into the full stature of a

noble manhood; and, so inspired, to cling to the visions of our youth, and, despite the sordid struggles of the selfish world, to practice every day, as lads in college, and men in the world, the Faith of our Fraternity, thinking of it not only as the inspiring Ideal of a militant Brotherhood, but also as a creative force for the spiritual development of men, whose lives it shall dedicate to Love, glorify with Honor, and conquer for Art. And so to be faithful to the Knight of Art

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Our Integrity

Our Founders created the Artists' Circle to attract men committed to the full development of their intellectual and personal potential.

This object requires that a community of trust exist among all brothers, along with a faithful devotion to truth and honor.

Integrity is demanded in all relationships and pursuits, both personal and academic.