ART EXHIBIT ON PHILIPPINE ARTIFACTS OPENS AT FIELD MUSEUM

Philippine Ambassador to the United States H.E. Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. and Mdme. Maria Victoria Cuisia graced the opening of “Art and Anthropology: Portrait of the Object as Filipino” exhibit at the Field Museum on Friday, October 30.

The exhibit features the individual works of ten Philippine-based and Chicago-based Filipino-American artists as well as a 28-foot long mural painting they have collaborated on using some of the 10,000 artifacts from the Philippines collected by the Field Museum as inspiration.

The project was conceived by Dr. Almira Gilles and funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to express Filipino identity as mirrored by the various ethnographic objects being kept by the Field Museum and opened to co-curation with the Filipino community in Chicago since 2012.

The selected artists from Chicago were Elisa Boughner, Jen Buckler, Cesar Conde, Joel Javier and Trisha Martin. Representing the Philippines were Leonardo Aguinaldo, Manny Garibay, Jun Impas, Jason Moss and Otto Neri.

Ms. Cate Fox of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; Dr. John Terrell, Regenstein Curator of Pacific Collections at the Field Museum; Mr. Rafael Benitez, President and Founder of Erehwon Center for the Arts – Philippines; Prof. Reuben Canete, Art Historian from the University of the Philippines; Dr. Potenciano Malvar, philanthropist and descendant of Gen. Miguel Malvar, and his wife; and Mr. Robert Balarbar, OIC, Fine Arts and Conservation, of the National Museum of the Philippines also attended the inauguration ceremony.

After the program, the Ambassador and his wife, accompanied by Consul General Generoso D.G. Calonge and other VIP guests, were also treated to a special tour by museum officials explaining the concept of co-curation and the ongoing digitization project of the artifacts for further research as well as their preservation for succeeding generations. END
Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr., delivers the keynote message at the inauguration of the “Art and Anthropology: Portrait of the Object as Filipino” exhibit at the Field Museum in Chicago on 30 October 2015.

Ms. Cassie Pontone of the Field Museum showing the Golden Tara to Ambassador Cuisia in the gems collection section of the museum. The solid gold figurine of a Hindu deity was said to have been discovered in Agusan River in 1917 when the Philippines was effectively a U.S. territory. It was brought to the U.S. by Gen. Leonard Wood and eventually donated to the Field Museum.
Madame Vicky Cuisia and Ambassador Cuisia were provided special access to the approximately 10,000 artifacts from the Philippines, which include indigenous fabrics, kept in the Field Museum’s archives.

Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia Jr., DCG Romulo Victor M. Israel Jr., Consul General Generoso D.G. Calonge and Mdme. Vicky Cuisia listen to Ms. Pontone as she explains the Field Museum’s recent expeditions and efforts at preserving contemporary works of art from various cultures around the world for future generations.