



In conferring the PAFIOO Pamana ng Pilipino Award upon Larry E. Carumba, the President recognizes his achievement as a visual artist that earned respect and admiration for Filipino talent from the Saudi Arabian art community and created a positive image for overseas Filipino workers in the Middle East.



Larry E. Carumba

Saudi Arabia

Hometown: Victorias, Negros Occidental

For many, a passion discovered in one's spare time remains a hobby. But for Larry E. Carumba, an Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) based in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, that passion grew into an internationally recognized contribution to the world of visual art. From humble beginnings as an employee in a medical supply company, Larry's artistic journey is a testament to the transformative power of dedication, talent, and a deep connection to one's roots.

A Passion Unearthed

Born and raised in Victorias, Negros Occidental, Larry initially pursued a different path. Armed with a degree in Business Management from La Salle College in Bacolod City, he moved to Saudi Arabia, where he dedicated over 30 years to his job in a medical company. But behind the steady rhythm of a professional life, a self-taught artist was quietly emerging.

In his spare time, Larry turned to art. His pursuit of art was unrelenting. Without any formal training, he

honed his craft by observing and painting the natural world around him. Through trial and error, he refined his technique, eventually giving rise to his distinct visual concept.

His commitment to developing his own style—blending acrylic, canvas, wood, and oil through a contemporary semi-realism approach—resulted in a body of work that enriches the appreciation of wisdom, beauty, innovation, and uniqueness. His canvases were not just a means of expression but a way to explore the intricate beauty of nature, honoring its importance and presence in everyday life.

After 11 years of self-directed growth, he decided it was time to share his work with the world.

Breaking Through in the Middle East

In 2003, Larry's talent gained recognition when he entered an impromptu painting competition at the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh during its Independence

Day celebration. This marked the beginning of numerous competition victories, propelling his exceptional talent into the spotlight, where he garnered well-deserved attention and acclaim. In the following years, he continued pursuing his passion for art and expanded his portfolio.

By 2010, Larry was invited to participate in the prestigious 2nd Real Colors International Art Exhibition, an event led by Her Royal Highness Princess Jawaher Bint Nayef Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud. His work, which had been quietly nurtured over the years, was now being showcased on one of the most prominent platforms in Saudi Arabia. He captivated global audiences and garnered widespread respect and recognition in the arts community.

The exhibition marked a milestone—not just for him but for Filipino artists as a whole. He became the first Filipino artist to have a major exhibition in the Kingdom, a powerful testament to his skill and the growing recognition of Filipino talent on the international stage.

Two months later, he hosted his first solo exhibit attended by members of Saudi Arabia's royalties, society elites, government and military officers, and art collectors. The seven-day show was a resounding success with several pieces purchased by the Saudi Arabia Princess and European art collectors. This success cemented Larry's place in the Saudi art world, and he became a regular exhibitor at major events, including those organized by the Saudi British Consulate and Saudi Aramco.

In 2012, he became the first OFW to be selected for the International Saudi Artists Exhibit, an event praised by art critics for showcasing a style and concept that had never been seen before in the Kingdom. His work caught the attention of Emirates Airlines, which used one of his paintings for its Skyward Membership Card global marketing campaign.

Larry's vibrant paintings have captivated Saudi Arabia's high society and earned admiration from art enthusiasts across diverse communities. His stunning works now adorn the walls of luxurious homes belonging to celebrities, politicians, business people, and diplomats, transforming spaces into showcases of artistic brilliance.

Art Meets Advocacy

In 2023, Larry was honored with the Outstanding International Visual Artist Award from the son of the ruler of the Emirate of Sharjah, as well as the Asia's Outstanding International Visual Artist Award from Asia's Pinnacle Awards. His achievements were not

solely about recognition; they reflected his passion for causes close to his heart.

Larry's success did not stop at personal acclaim. As his star rose, so did his commitment to using his art for good. He used his art to advocate for environmental protection, plant and animal preservation, and animal welfare, infusing his pieces with a message of conservation and balance.

Larry's influence is felt not only through his art but also through his efforts to pass on his skills and knowledge to the next generation. He offers free art workshops to young artists in Saudi Arabia and actively supports Filipino talents in fashion, music, and entertainment.

Philanthropy Through Art

A true artist at heart, Larry's contribution extended beyond the canvas as he has also made significant contributions to philanthropic causes. In 2024, he helped raise funds for the newly established Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) Hospital and Diagnostic Center in San Fernando, Pampanga through an art exhibit organized by the Philippine Professional Organization in Saudi Arabia. At another event, he donated a painting valued at SR 14,000 (₱200,000) for auction, with proceeds benefiting distressed OFWs at *Bahay Kalinga* in Al Khobar.

His philanthropy extends to helping those in need, both in Saudi Arabia and the Philippines. Larry directed proceeds from the auction of some of his other paintings to benefit various charitable causes. From supporting Filipino artists and charities to donating artwork to fund education programs, covering hospital expenses, and aiding rebuilding efforts after Typhoon Odette, he has made giving back a central part of his mission. His sold-out paintings in December 2023 provided critical support to organizations like the League of Filipino Artists Association, Mrs. Asia 2023, and various grassroots efforts in his hometown.

An Enduring Inspiration

Despite the many challenges he has faced, Larry's story is one of perseverance, creativity, and an unwavering commitment to his craft. His work continues to inspire a generation of artists, while his philanthropic efforts touch the lives of those less fortunate.

From the halls of medical supply companies to the prestigious galleries of Saudi Arabia, Larry's life is a masterclass in passion, perseverance, and purpose. Through his art, he has shown the world how creativity can transcend boundaries and change lives, one brushstroke at a time.