

## Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery Features Isabel Manalo's 'Skin Codes'

Posted by [Abby Del Vecchio](#) on December 7, 2015

Located in the heart of the Stony Brook University Staller Center for the Arts, resides the Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery.

Formally the Stony Brook University Art Gallery, the Zuccaire gallery opened in 1975 celebrating artists from students and faculty members, to outside artists ever since.

In 2013, the Stony Brook University Art Gallery was renamed to the Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery in appreciation for the generosity of Paul's daughter, Alice Zuccaire and the Paul W. Zuccaire Foundation. The endowment helps with operating costs and helps for future resources.

"The mission of the Paul W. Zuccaire Foundation is to perpetuate the memory and the spirit of Paul W. Zuccaire by the encouragement, promotion and support of the arts, education, health, humanitarian and other related activities through grants to not-for-profit institutions and organizations," according to the gallery's website. "The Foundation was established in 1999 by Estelle Zuccaire in loving memory of her husband." The gallery features exhibitions from professional artists, as well as student artists, both undergraduate and graduate. Distinguished faculty members in Stony Brook's Art Department also have had work featured in the gallery.

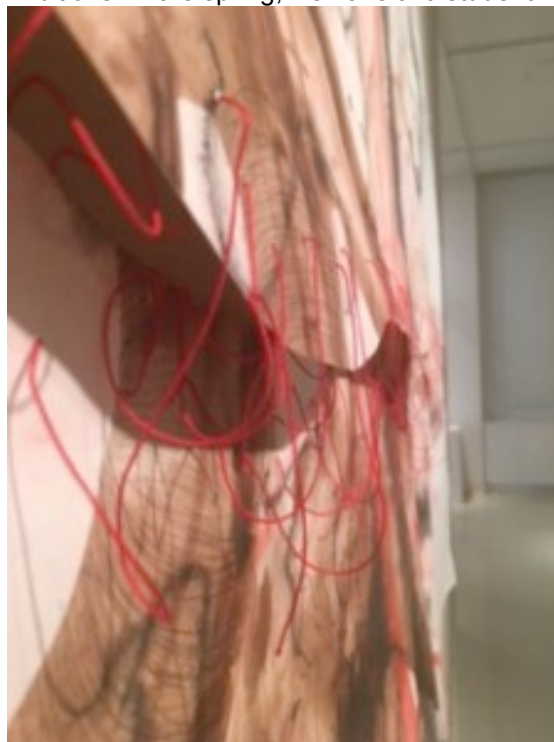
"We have four to six exhibitions per year," Gallery Director and Curator, Karen Levitov said in an email. "In the fall, we feature work by professional artists, including solo and group exhibitions. In the spring, we have two student shows, a graduate student Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition and a Senior Show, a juried exhibition of work by senior art majors and minors. We are also adding in a summer exhibition and a winter exhibition. This year's winter exhibition, Earfest, is a sound-art exhibition in collaboration with the Music Department."

During the upcoming Spring 2016 semester, the gallery will feature Earfest, Exhibit and Performance. According to Stony Brook University's [website](#), the exhibition will feature performances that present sound artworks as installations. The exhibition will run from Monday Feb. 1 to Saturday Feb. 6, 2016 and will have sound and video exhibits playing throughout the week.

On Thursday, Feb. 4 at 8 p.m., a curated concert will be presented by the Stony Brook Computer Music Studios. This event, like the rest of the gallery's exhibits, are free to the public.

The professional artist exhibitions have brought some of the most celebrated artists to Stony Brook University campus including, Yoko Ono, Larry Rivers, Elizabeth Murray, Philip Pearlstein and Kate Gilmore.

(Image: Isabel Manalo combines painting with sewing in her Skin Codes exhibition. Photo by Abby Del Vecchio)



The gallery is located on the first floor of the Staller Center for the Arts. The gallery focuses on contemporary art and curated student works and is always free and open to the public.

The gallery's latest exhibit, Isabel Manalo: "Skin Codes," debuted Nov. 7, 2015 and will run until Dec. 12, 2015. Manalo uses her Filipino-American heritage as inspiration for her artwork, which address ideas of "power and identity as defined by race, ethnicity, geography and class," according to an interview she did with Levitov.

"'Skin Codes' is a body of work I began developing that is inspired by the ancient art of Filipino Tattooing," Manalo said in an email. "The canvases were made with the idea of the canvas as skin and the codes and motifs presented on the canvas as way to create the pattern and symbolism." Manalo combines painting with photography, drawing, sewing and writing as well as visual clues and coding.

Manalo has used real life movements to inspire her artwork. The refugee crisis in Europe, the Black Lives Matter movement and the "climate change centered in the oil drilling in Alaska" are just some of the political issues that she is passionate about and that has inspired her work.



(Image: Isabel Manalo uses real political issues as inspiration for her work. Photo by Abby Del Vecchio)

Manalo has been showcasing her work internationally since 1999, with both group and solo exhibitions in New York, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Philadelphia and Berlin, according to her biography. Manalo also has had a solo exhibition at the Orlando Museum of Art.

Manalo spent the last three years living in Berlin, Germany. She said she was able to make her work more raw because she did not care what other people thought of her work.

"Berlin is like New York, you feel anonymous and no one's looking at you and you can do whatever the heck you want without anyone judging you," she said in her interview with Levitov. "It was so liberating."

Manalo hopes that when gallery goers view her art, it encourages them to think outside the box.

"My hope is for people to be curious about the work – to ask 'why?' I also hope there is an appreciation of the work as well both aesthetically and conceptually," she said.

As for what her favorite piece is in this collection, Manalo cannot choose, but there is one that is close to her heart.

"I don't have a favorite piece but I do heavily lean towards "Tagumpay" for the inclusion of the many emojis as well as the composition and palette," Manalo said.

Levitov thinks highly of Manalo and her work.

"She is a wonderfully open and generous person and loves speaking with students," she said. The gallery is working to get students more involved and uses social media to do so. The gallery has a [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and even Snapchat (the gallery's official Snapchat username is pwzgallery).



(Image: Manalo's "Tagumpay." Photo by Abby Del Vecchio)

Levitov says she thinks students should be more involved with the gallery because of how it connects to everyday life. "Students should visit the gallery to see interesting art that is relevant to their lives," she said. "We show cutting-edge art of the caliber of New York museums and galleries, as well as art by your peers in the spring. In the current show, Isabel Manalo uses hashtags and emojis in her work as a way of tweeting onto her canvases. Students can come hang out, talk to their friends, take and post pictures and enjoy the art. Anyone should feel free to stop in, even if it's only for five minutes between classes."

Each professional artist exhibition is selected by Levitov and the Advisory Committee with the approval of the Director of the Staller Center for the Arts, Alan Inkles.

The gallery itself has a 24-foot high ceiling and is 5,000-square-feet in size. The space is open Tuesday through Friday between 12 and 4 p.m. and Saturday from 7 to 9 p.m., that way students can come in between classes and even stop by on the weekend.

The Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery has also been featured on the New York Times' "[Things to do on Long Island](#)" weekly page, several times throughout this past Summer as well as this Fall.

The Isabel Manalo: "Skin Codes" exhibit was made possible by a grant from the Paul W. Zuccaire Foundation with additional funding from the County of Suffolk and the Friends of Staller Center.