

Marjorie Evasco-Pernia



SEAWRITE (South East Asia Writers) 2010 awardee for the Philippines, given by the Royal Family of Thailand, and NCCA (National Commission for Culture and the Arts) Ani ng Dangal 2011 awardee, five of her books have won the Manila Critics' Circle National Book Awards: for poetry (*Dreamweavers* and *Ochre Tones*); for oral history (*Six Women Poets: Inter/Views*, co-authored by Edna Zapanta-Manlapaz); for biography (*A Life Shaped by Music: Andrea O. Veneracion and the Philippines Madrigal Singers*); and for art (*Ani: The Life and Times of Hermogena Borja Lungay: Boholano Painter*). Her poetry books in English (with Spanish translations by Latin American poets) are "*Skin of Water*" and "*Fishes of Light/ Peces de Luz*" (co-authored by Cuban poet Alex Fleites).

In 1986, she was Regional Fellow for Poetry of the University of the Philippines Likhaan Center for Creative Writing. Her national writing workshop fellowships were from Silliman University in 1976 and the University of the Philippines in 1978. In 1989, she was given the first Irwin Lee Professorial Chair for Creative Writing by the Ateneo de Manila University. She served as Director of the Bienvenido N. Santos Creative Writing

Center of De La Salle University, Manila. In the same university, she was also appointed to the Society of University Fellows and became Writer in Residence.

She received from the UMPIL (Unyon ng mga Manunulat ng Pilipinas or the Philippine Writers' Union) the national award "Pambansang Alagad ni Balagtas for Poetry" in 2004, the art and culture award "Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan" from the City of Manila in 2005, the Outstanding Silliman University alumna for Creative Writing in 2008, and the President Carlos P. Garcia award for Literature from the province of Bohol in 2011.

She has enjoyed grants to participate in various poetry festivals North America, Latin America, Asia, and Southeast Asia, among them the 1996 Vancouver Writers and Readers Festival, the 2008 Medellin, Colombia Festival Internacional de Poesia, the 2009 Sydney Writers and Readers Festival, the 2010 Granada, Nicaragua Festival Internacional de Poesia, and the Poetry Parnassus international festival of Southbank Centre in London, during the Olympics in 2012.

Various writing residencies have been awarded to her like the Spring 1991 residency in Hawthornden Castle International Writers' Retreat in Midlothian, Scotland; the 1992 residency in Villa Serbelloni, in Bellagio, Italy from the Rockefeller Foundation; the 2002 International Writers' Program of the University of Iowa; the 2013 International Writers' Program of the Hong Kong Baptist University; and the Visiting Literary Artist in the University of the Philippines Visayas, Iloilo City in March 2015.

In 1999, she was awarded the Metrobank Outstanding Teacher (Literature) for the National Capital Region, Tertiary Level. She has served as judge of the tertiary level in the bank's Search for Outstanding Teachers and in the Metrobank Search for Outstanding Filipinos. After her retirement in January 2014 from university teaching, she restored herself to full time writing and De La Salle University appointed her Professor Emeritus of Literature. From time to time, she teaches in Literature Department's graduate programs and retains her status as University Fellow for Literature of De La Salle University, Manila.

As a cultural advocate for literary development in the Visayas and Mindanao, particularly in creative writing in Binisaya, she has served in the creative writing workshops in Dumaguete, Tagbilaran, Iligan, Bacolod, Iloilo, and Davao. In 2017, she edited the anthology of memoirs of growing up Boholano called "*The Bohol We Love*," where she also translated memoirs, poems and folksongs in Binisaya into English.

She also contributed poetry to anthologies like "*Agam: Filipino Narratives of Uncertainty in Climate Change*." The first ecopoetry anthology of the Philippines called "*Sustaining the Archipelago*" (2018, edited by Rina Chua Garcia) published her works. This July 2019, her poems are featured in the *World Literature Today* Climate and Environment issue. Aside from planting trees and choosing a plant-based diet, she led the advocacy for "Writing the Environment" under her directorship of the Iyas La Salle National Writers' Workshop from 2016-2018.

She is Professor Emeritus of Literature and University Fellow at De La Salle University, Manila. Since 2019 until now, she is serving the appointment as Writer-in-Residence of the university, where she is also teaching Literature in the graduate school.