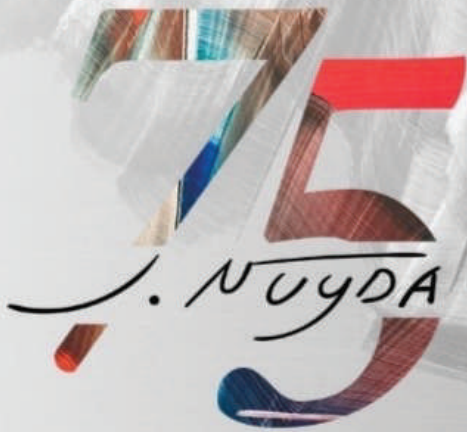


Please join us  
as we celebrate



during the launch of



SEARCH MINDSCAPE

a foundation that paves the way for interaction, collaboration,  
and engagement in the Philippine art community.

presenting an exclusive preview of

## **Continuum:** Connecting Mindscapes

an art exhibit in partnership with  
LRI Design Plaza and Sigvard Selections

RAFFLES HOTEL, MAKATI CITY  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019  
7:00 PM | COCKTAIL ATTIRE

For RSVP, kindly contact:  
[info@searchmindscape.com](mailto:info@searchmindscape.com)  
or Sigvard Selections:  
+63 917 899 9049 / (02) 890 1508



# TRAVERSING MINDSCAPES

On the philosophy behind the art of Justin Nuyda

BY DAVID JONATHAN Y. BAYOT

The mindscape that foregrounds and distinguishes the art of Justin Nuyda echoes Giorgio de Chirico's articulation of what art is. The much-revered "grand metaphysician" once said, "It must not be forgotten that a picture must always testify to a profound sensation, and that profound means strange, and that strange means little-known or completely unknown... in this way it will approach dreams and the spirit of childhood."

There is indeed something captivatingly "strange" about a Nuyda painting. Every artwork of his reflects a dream-like atmosphere distinctly marked by bold and broad brushstrokes, conjuring an array of wave-like patterns textured like natural straw fabric with abaca fibers. In the artistic scape of Nuyda, the beholders feel wrapped in wonder by these still yet moving sinamay-like figures that fan out in evocative colors. These ambivalent figures would form, from one painting to the next, the cloud, the sea, the mountain, and the other spaces between. These variegated, wave-like, and

open-ended imprints on canvases big and small, do indeed "testify to a profound sensation." Nuyda calls them his *mindscales*, and considers his lifelong artistic endeavor as that of a *mindscape* search.

For Nuyda, a *mindscape* is a representation of a reality as the artist sees it. When asked whether or not it's a presentation of the world as is or as it should be, he would retort in the manner of a phenomenologist: what could reality be in the first place, if not one that appears to the consciousness beholding that so-called reality? According to Nuyda, that view of reality as a reciprocal relation between the beholding subject and the beholden object would allow viewers the freedom to interpret his artwork as an organic account that ties up items in the narrative of his life and the material/stylistic facts in his painting. In other words, the viewer of the artist's work is free to dwell on the possible evocations of his inscape and emerge with more insights, realities, and interpretations of art, life, and more.

For instance, one could speculate— as Nuyda oftentimes would— that the strange beauty of his color palette flows from his lifelong passion for butterflies. How else would a lepidopterist, which Nuyda is, color his canvas when his consciousness perceives the world through the mysterious pigments on butterfly wings or horizons he views from expeditions and mountain peaks of the most secluded areas in the country?

On the significant occasion of Nuyda's 75th birthday, his lifelong dream has been achieved with the establishment of **Search Mindscape Foundation, Inc.**, founded by Ayni Nuyda, his daughter. The foundation is clearly an expression of his *mindscape* and an extension of its ethos. It is founded to honor his father, Hermel Nuyda— a distinguished writer in the annals of Philippine literature in English— who guided him out of a self-defeating mindset in his younger years by introducing the possibility of believing and dwelling in one's own mindscape. Lastly, the foundation pays homage to mentors and friends who have enriched his mindscape over the years.

Search Mindscape Foundation represents the maestro's open-handed gesture of carving viable paths for the next generation of Filipino artists. It certainly is a reiteration of his hope that these emerging Filipino artists can, in their individual ways, define and refine with open-mindedness, a *mindscape* they can call their own.

