



1st Place

"Play until Sundown" by **Mac Omega**

Shot on Nikon D850 with Nikon 70-200;
ISO 400; f/22; 1/640 sec.

Inner Child

Open Category - April 2022



2nd Place

"Squirt" by **Oscar Soriano**

Canon EOS RP ISO 12800; f/4.5; 1/500 sec.



3rd Place

"Inner Child"
by **David Lim**

ISO Auto; f/11; 1/320 sec.



4th Place

"Tin Can Toy (Teleponong Lata)"
by **Brian Agana**

ISO 200; f/ 3.2; 1/1000 sec.

5th Place

"Young Once"
by **Cha Pagdilao**

Nikon D7000; ISO
100; f/8; 1/60 sec.



President's Viewfinder

It's April! Hello summer!

Things are looking bright and sunny as this is the first time in 2 years that collectively, we can be out and about to shoot and spend the summer holidays in our dream travel destinations after being locked down for two summers in the past.

I hope that you get the time to be with your family and explore the Philippines and the four corners of the world.

For the month of April, we at Zone V Camera Club have another challenging theme – Inner Child. I trust that you get the chance to shoot and participate in our photo contest and Townhall Meeting happening this April 21, Thursday, via Zoom.

We are also excited that for April we have four probees who will be inducted as new members of The Club.

Based on the survey we conducted last year, the leading topic you requested that we tackle for our Z Academy session is 'Lighting'.

We heard you loud and clear, hence, on April 22, we are having the first face to face Z Academy session on the topic with Jiggie Alejandrino as resource speaker.

I am still reeling with fond memories from our 44th anniversary celebration in Taal, Batangas. Great to finally meet in the flesh some pioneering members who travelled the distance to the venue and to see face to face friends after a long time. My sincerest thanks goes to all of you who supported and graced the event.

I am very proud of the way our club has evolved and how we have weathered all the challenges and adversities through the years. Zone V managed to excel in the midst of Covid and came out stronger than ever before.

The board is passionate in improving and continuing the legacy brought forth by our founders. We push our creativity to develop programs and projects to promote excellence in the art of photography and camaraderie. We do all these because we want to live up to our vision, and that is, to be a premier club of photographers.

With that commitment in mind, I look forward to see you all in our Club activities and wishing you a cheerful summer month of April.

Cheers!

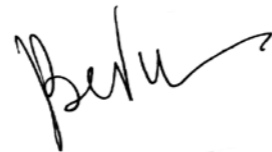



Photo shows President Bern Wong with husband Philip on a recent trip to the beach.



Noli Gabilo

One of a Kind and On Top of the Game

By Armi Yam

Long before Batanes became a byword among urbanites as a must-see travel destination and a photographer's dream shoot location, no one knows Batanes better than Noli Gabilo – a distinguished photographer, a well published artist, a remarkable photo safari leader, a proud Ivatan and a trailblazing friend and native of the islands.

Born on August 13, 1961 on the island of Sabtang, Batanes, Arnulfo Conde Gabilo, Noli as we call him, recalls that life was 'hard' while he was growing up. "There was no running water then," Noli remembers, and he had to go fetch water from the dug up well to fill up jars and drums for household use.

Waking up at 4:00 a.m. to go pasture the cows was harder during the 'ber' months and notably January and February, when the weather is very cold. Carrying a full basket load of root crops on his back, as well as a bundle of firewood over his shoulders for four kilometers or more from the field to his house. All these plus surviving a plane crash made him the man that he is and prepared him for life's battles, and things like - scaling the summit of Mt. Pulag with 25 kilos of gear up unpaved trails!

Noli's Photography Journey

His was a journey of self-study in photography. The library and bookstores are places he frequented in his quest for knowledge. He also perused magazines like Popular Photography, Outdoor Photographer, Modern Photography, Photo Life and the like.

He did not work in a professional studio but had the privilege of shooting in studios like that of YKL and Fuji; as well as in fellow Zone V Camera Club (ZVCC) member, Daniel Uy's place

in Manila. He also observed the late Servil Tan work in his studio, which was situated near Daniel's. It was through the invitation of Bobot Go that Noli joined ZVCC in the early 90's.

He wanted to learn more about the craft, and the atmosphere of camaraderie and the support of ZVCC members drew him in. Noli remembers there was that photo entry of his from their Laguna OTS, submitted in transparencies – sadly, it failed! And it was Dr. Ed Clemente who did the critique. It was horrible and discouraging for Noli to hear his comments; but that was where he learned.

The sweet revenge came when he completed his ZVCC membership requirements and he gulped down his beer in just three notes during his induction.



Noli Gabilo continued to scale the summit of the photography world as his images has since been published in numerous coffee table books, not surprisingly, on Batanes, Philippines, another on Tawi Tawi: The Philippines Southernmost Frontier and notably, one with Tingting Cojuangco on Kris of Valor, are some prime examples.

As a consequence, directly or indirectly, Noli's images would encourage the local folks to be stewards of their own place. Protecting and preserving the beauty they see in Noli's pictures. That their place is worth caring for. Because of his pictures, Batanes was slowly discovered as an alternative destination.

Tourism boomed and helped improve their way of life. Though Noli laments the ill effects of a booming tourism industry. He feels strongly for the need to address the adverse effect on the land and on the culture of the community.

The multi-awarded and prolific Noli

Noli is only one of a handful photographers who has been awarded the coveted Department of Tourism's Kalakbay Award for Best Travel Photo of the Year since its inception. Aside from coffee table books, his works have been published on academic publications, major newspapers as well as glossy travel magazines like Mabuhay, Silver Kris, Asian Spirit and Life Today.

He has also held various one-man shows and exhibits in the various parts of the country as well as in the United States.

Noli stays on top of his game by taking photos every day (yes, daily!). The awesome results are seen on his social media accounts. And with alert levels easing up, his guided photo safaris will hopefully resume soon.

(Continued on page 8)



Art In The Park
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Marlo Avila Roxas	Michael Benzon Lim
Mitchel Miquel	rtercuz
Rus Recaña	

Art In The Park. Four Zone V members, Alfred Uy Bompig, Jeff Dytuco, Marlo Roxas and Arlene Donaire, recently had their online art fair at Art In The Park. Participating zombies showed their best photo works in this annual art event.

Exposure Five is the official newsletter of **Zone V Camera Club**. This publication is produced by the **2022 ZVCC Communications Committee: Willie de Vera, Leys Masangcay, Emman Araullo, Argyle Camacho, Armi Yam, Corinne Blanco and Jian Choa.** Adviser: **Bern Wong**

Our New Inductees



Question & Answer: An Insight into the Minds (and Hearts) of Our Newly Inducted Members

This April 2022, four new Zone V Camera Club members were inducted after hurdling grueling requirements to be admitted into the hallowed halls of The Club.

We now take a peek as Corinne Blanco grilled them with insightful questions and read their witty, frank, funny and heartfelt answers!

1. Please tell us about yourself.

Emman: My family moved from Pampanga to Quezon City a few years after Mt. Pinatubo erupted; right when I was about to enter high school. I'm the youngest of 3 children. I'm getting married in June and my fiancée (Aicee) and I were actually introduced by a fellow Zone V member, Keisie Marfil.

I have a background in management and I am also a registered nurse. I started off with a degree in Marketing Management and worked corporate for a few years. Wanting a change, I pursued nursing. Since then, I've been shuffling between business and nursing. I went to Chicago in 2015 and earned my MBA. I also worked there as a nurse. I came back in 2019 right before COVID and have been working in the family business since then. Our business is involved in quarrying in Pampanga and some property rentals in Manila.

Kevin: Lumaki ako na walang Tatay at Nanay. My father died when I was 4 years old and my mother left after a month. Lumaki ako sa kapatid ng lola ko at sa tita ko. I have two sisters, my ate kasama na ng lola ko sa ibang bansa and the youngest is living in Pampanga. I'm living by myself today, renting a small place in Muntinlupa and working at the City Tourism Office here as a graphic designer and photographer. I document happenings in Muntinlupa as part of my job.

Wala akong ibang hobby ngayon bukod sa pag shshoot at pag dedesign ng mga posters. Gusto ko matapos yung college ko ngayon, bagay na hindi ko nagawa o ginawa noon, pero iba din kasi tlaag pag may pinag aralan ka. I'm taking IT in a college school here in Muntinlupa. Gusto kong rin gumaling sa Photography especially to learn the different genres.

Manny: I've been blessed with a small and very close family circle of 3 siblings with no major dramas in life or wealth as there's only so little to fight over. I'm a professor at the Asian Institute of Management teaching Leadership, Negotiations and Impact Evaluation, and also the Executive Director of the AIM Team Energy for Bridging Leadership where I oversee the leadership development programs of the Institute which caters to both public and private sectors here in the country and in the region. I've also done consulting work for international organizations such as ADB, EU, AUSAID,

International Alert, Overseas Development Institute, USAID, Economic and Social Research Council of the UK, ILO, ASEAN Interparliamentary Office and the ASEAN Foundation.

I enjoy travel a lot, especially with a good book to read in between the train, bus, boat and plane rides. I also enjoy going to the beach and have always been in search of the best beach spots in the county, especially those that are 'hidden' and not usually frequented by tourists. There, again I read that good book.

Nico: I'm a dad of 2 wonderful kids and the most beautiful golden retriever. Other than photography, I also enjoy surfing; single malt scotch; freshly roasted, ground, and brewed black coffee; sunsets with house music on the beach; and travelling without an itinerary or agenda (or sometimes, a return ticket).

2. Share with us some thoughts on your ZVCC Probee experience.

Emman: "Intimidating". As a probee, I was greeted by a long list of requirements and I doubted whether I could accomplish all of them within the specified time period. Add to that the first glimpse into the monthly contest where I saw amazing photos taken by the members that got me thinking "what did I get myself into?"

"Challenging". After a while I realized that the requirements, while not easy, were attainable. Digging through past images and creating new ones to submit took a lot of effort. But the most difficult part was the Probee Christmas party traditions. Initiation? Jk!

"Rewarding". I can definitely say that I have improved as a photographer. The mentorship process was helpful in that regard. Also, the club's initiative in making the probees a part of the committees was helpful in making myself acquainted with the more seasoned members of the club.

Kevin: My personal experience sa club... Masaya. Sinasabi ko nga lagi to yung amazed factor nangyare sakinnung first na umattend ako sa Zone V Christmas Party last 2019 lalo nung nakita ko yung top 10 POTY ganun padin nararamdaman ko ngayon na part na ako ng Zone V. Masaya ako dito sa Zone V kasi na chachallenge ako at natututo ako sa photography na lelevel up ko pa sya.

Manny: I have only been a hobbyist since 2007 when I first bought my SLR but joining ZVCC last year has made me take photography with great enthusiasm by reading up on photography techniques, styles and contribution of the equipment, and in watching various content via YouTube until my eyes give up. With such excellent pieces from members and probees alike in the monthly contests, I've had a deeper appreciation of the skill, the amount of energy, the critical eye and the passion to produce magnificent photos from all the participants. Likewise, the camaraderie fostered from both the online sessions and walking tours has also been a source of inspiration, sense of identity and mutual respect for the talent that is so abundant in the group. I know that these are the key elements that would build on towards great bonds and friendships.

Nico: I got so much more out of it than I expected. I joined Zone V excited, solely, by the idea of being challenged with different monthly contest themes. I really just wanted ideas on things I can shoot other than my dog and my kids (there are a lot, it turns out). The monthly workshops were a pleasant surprise, considering the caliber of our speakers. The photowalks were

an exciting experience I never knew I needed. And of course, the people are all very warm and accommodating. What's not to love about Zone V?

3. Share with us three places you'd like to go visit for photography.

Emman: Dream photography destinations are Iceland and Yellowstone for their scenic landscapes. Japan too, for the diverse opportunities available: bustling streets, cityscapes, serene countryside.

Kevin: South Island sa New Zealand: gusto ko makita personal yung Wana-ka Tree. Then yung lantern festival sa Thailand and yung colored festival sa India.

Manny: Only 3?! Given my mental state now, it would be Matera, Italy; Granada, Spain; and Lake District, England.

Nico: New York (for street photography). Tubbataha Reef (for underwater photography). Hawaii (for surf photography).

4. What type of movies and music do you enjoy?

Emman: Music - I listen to everything - old to new; classical to metal. But the bulk of my playlist is made up of 90's music. mostly hip-hop/rap. I am also currently in a jazz phase so I've been listening to a lot of that recently. Movies - I really just like to be entertained when I watch movies so that involves a lot of comedies.

Kevin: Mahilig ako sa mga action movie na in real life naganap; also Sci-Fi movies and horror. Sa music naman I like country music and yung pang Starbucks na music: Jazzy pero with mix ng Hiphop.

Manny: I'm stuck with the songs of the 80s and I enjoy historical movies dealing with conquests, adventures, political scandals and crime.

Nico: I would watch movies with the hope of being relaxed. With that said, I only (willingly) watch comedies, musicals adaptations, chick flicks, and documentaries. Action and horror movies aren't relaxing for me at all.

5. If you were given a chance to spend one day with a famous personality (living or dead), who would that person be and why?

Emman: Top of my head, I'd say Anthony Bourdain. Just seems like a cool guy with a lot of stories to tell. Am actually a fan who followed his show religiously. Fun fact: I have a signed copy of his cook book!

Kevin: Ang gusto ko mameet ay si Jack Ma. Every morning paulit-ulit pinakikingan ko yung motivational speeches nya sa YouTube, ginagamit ko syang motivation ko personally.

Manny: It would be interesting to spend the whole day discussing with Gandhi on how he sees the future of social movements and non-violent resistance given the current milieu of strongman rule and with the advent of social media.

6. If you could master one skill right now that you don't currently have, what would it be?

Emman: Anything that has to do with music. I'd love to be able to play the saxophone! I started self-studying the piano during the pandemic but was not able to continue once life started to get busy again.

Kevin: Singing!

Manny: To be a good storyteller with great pictures because who knows, photography can be my next career!

Nico: If I could magically, collectively acquire the "photographic eye" of the master photographers of every field of photography, that would be super. All the other skills are easy to learn on Youtube these days. :)

7. What have you been most proud of learning lately?

Emman: I am most proud of learning baking/cooking skills. I never really cooked until I was forced to do it when I was in the US. My mom even ended up stealing some of my recipes and has started claiming them as her own.

Nico: Double exposure in Photoshop (or just using Photoshop in general!).

For more of this Q&A, check out the complete write up on Z Hub.



By Jian Choa

Late last year, a survey held by Zone V Camera Club revealed “lighting” to be the most requested topic for additional learning. The members certainly weren’t left hanging as the Z Academy team decided to hold its 4th session this year as the first face-to-face workshop, specifically on lighting techniques. We were all elated to find out that the speaker is none other than Mr. Jiggie Alejandrino - renowned portrait and wedding photographer, well recognized for his masterful and creative use of light.

Jiggie has also given a Zoom seminar for the club last February 2021, showcasing his lighting techniques from his home studio in the middle of the pandemic. (Check out his Youtube channel if you haven’t!)

With this live workshop, the members now get a rare chance to learn and apply his teachings in person.

So came the day of the workshop: It was an early Friday morning as I headed off to Raw Honey Lab studio, pleasantly nestled away in a hidden house along a quiet street in Sta. Ana, Manila. Going up the stairs and into the entrance, I was greeted by a huge tiled black accent wall, and enclosing this room were large white window panes (this particular area was aptly nicknamed “The Glass Box”).

Moving further inside, there is an array of archaic steel windows with frosted glass lining the entire studio unit, providing a crazy amount of natural light. A lot of interesting items filled the room: plants, vases, chairs, tables, lamps, books, vintage cameras, vinyls ... even a bath tub and macramé swing found their way into this quaint 100 sqm+ space. Raw Honey Lab was created and designed by the talented Kitty Bunag, also a professional photographer and fellow Sony ambassador.

All this definitely set the perfect playground for what Jiggie had in store for us!



The lecture:

Jiggie then started the lecture, quickly moving through his slides and stressing that majority of our time will be spent shooting. I mentally took down notes amidst the flurry of terms and occasional trick questions he threw at us. He was steadfast not to overload us with technical information and gave very unique insights, some of which I’m happy to share below:

- Ambient light – everything already available in the scene
- Artificial light – everything you add to the scene
- Contrast - combination of shadows, true tone, and highlights. This is what gives the image depth and pop.

He remarked that using flash/continuous light is not about removing all the shadows, but to use it to enhance the image. Contrast is actually what gives photos that 3D effect. Oh and as a bonus, shadows will always slim down your subjects!

I know that as amateur photographers, we would usually wait for golden hour or get into the shade when shooting. It’s amazing how Jiggie actually prefers to shoot midday. He asserted that highlights and shadows are actually our friends, and to always be a problem solver and not a complainer.

Always look for the nice ambient light despite any weather. Artificial light really is just about how to better emulate what we see with the naked eye, which has a lot more dynamic range than our cameras.



The artificial light should also have these 3 things:

- 1) Same quality as the ambient light
- 2) Same color as the ambient light
- 3) Should come from the same general direction of the ambient light

Following these will give your photos a very natural look. Jiggie’s best photos often leave the viewer wondering where the artificial light was fired, or if any was used!

The shoot:

The lecture ended there and Jiggie excitedly said: “Ok guys let’s shoot!”

Sony PH happened to be a supporter of this event and we were led to a table full of Sony A7R series bodies and lenses to try out. I took a deep breath as we reformatted our memory cards and got ready for the Sony mirrorless experience. To help with the shoot, Jiggie mirrored his camera’s viewfinder to a big screen TV. Now we could see his shooting process in real time.

Before we could even think of pressing the shutter button, Jiggie taught us how to set up the shoot first. He now introduced and welcomed our lovely model Jasmine.

He said that before anything else, we should first identify where the subject’s profile (beauty side) is, which we can usually find out if we ask the model. If he/she is unaware of their profile, we may ask them to turn their head left to right, and then identify the masculine/feminine side. To Jasmine’s surprise, Jiggie quickly identified hers, and we used this newfound info to find the best ambient light location for her.

The soft diffused window light flattered Jasmine’s face well. However, we were immediately corrected by Jiggie as he shot her profile in the short (shadow) side, away from the window. This immediately added depth and enhanced her facial features.

Then it was time to set up the scene for our composition. This turned into an impromptu test of haphazardly finding which objects fit the scene, moving and removing stuff to make sure there are ZERO distracting elements.

We were already quite happy shooting when Jiggie quickly followed with “But is ambient light good enough?”



This is his favorite trick question and the (secret) answer is “How can we make it great?” He decided to fire a flash into the nearby plants to create even more shadows in the background, making the scene more mysterious and forest-like.

We continued trying out a variety of scenes and lighting, but taking care to always prioritize the ambient light. We

want to work with the light, not against it. I remember the one scene that amazed me the most. It was just a simple window shot, but Jiggie decided to put a flash right by the window. He directed it at Jasmine’s face while slightly underexposing the ambient light. This gave an immediate warm glow to the subject, and was so unlike the soft lighting that I was so used to working with.

I deem it best to end this article with something Jiggie affirmed to us at the very start: “No one has the right to tell you that your photograph is ugly, the only person who can say that is you.” This is because our photographs are a representation of who we are. How-

ever, we also have to “be our own harshest critic”.

With the lessons we’ve learned, we will keep striving to improve our photos as we go beyond ambient light, beyond ourselves and our current capabilities. A big thank you to Mr. Jiggie Alejandrino, Zone V Camera Club, Z Academy, Raw Honey Lab, and Sony Philippines for this highly enlightening experience!

**Zone V Camera Club
POTY Ranking 2022 as of April 2022**

RANK	MEMBER NAME	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	TOTAL
1	Bern Wong	8.243	7.667	8.287	8.342	32.539
2	Jeff Dytuco	8.337	7.458	8.606	7.959	32.359
3	Angela Panilio	8.631	7.254	8.084	8.089	32.059
4	David Lim	8.612	6.868	8.185	8.312	31.976
5	Willie de Vera	7.957	7.680	7.888	7.435	30.960
6	Leys Masangcay	7.831	8.290	7.849	6.981	30.951
7	Arlene Donaire	8.369	5.631	8.436	7.342	29.778
8	Lester Abes	8.378	6.749	7.061	7.456	29.645
9	Cha Pagdilao	8.730	3.000	8.921	8.511	29.162
10	Billy Palatino	8.333	5.579	8.203	6.731	28.846

(Continued from page 3)

Recollections Past with Noli

This author remember years ago when this giant in the industry was the photo safari leader in his hometown of Sabtang. At one point we were to shoot the Milky Way. We were wading blindly through sea water in pitch darkness, with the weight of our gear on our backs. Then he told us to start shooting! I didn't know what to do then but to backtrack and go ashore. But how I enjoyed that experience and learned so much from it.

I will definitely join his guided photo tours again given the chance. Noli conducts photo expeditions on your chosen destination as to where and when to best shoot the place. He goes two days in advance to scout the best spots for sunrise, sunset, and Milky Way shots if he is not familiar with the place. He has regular participants who go out several times a year for shoots.

Words of the Wise

I share with you some sage advice from Noli himself as to how he keeps on top of the game – “always keep the DRIVE burning! As in every craft, if you lose the drive you lose the passion, and interest. So keep on learning new things. Embrace and adapt to new technology. Use it to enhance your creativity.”

Finally, in one interview with a journalist, Noli was once asked to describe Batanes, he only had one word to say – ‘unique.’ Just like his beloved hometown, Noli is truly one of a kind.

Acknowledgements:

Many thanks to Alfred Uy Bomping for the research, and to Leys Masangcay for helping build this feature article.

Photographer of the Month: **Mac Omega**
Members' Cup: **Oscar Soriano**