

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MANILA
The Reflective Practitioner

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Department of Arts and Communication
College of Arts and Sciences
University of the Philippines Manila

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The Reflective Practitioner is the official publication of the Department of Arts and Communication of the University of the Philippines Manila. It publishes annually a wide variety of scholarly and original articles by younger as well as established scholars.

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Editor's Note

When we took the first steps to give life to this project, we were confronted by questions of appropriateness. There were people who said that our project to gather creative work about the pandemic was insensitive and exploitative. Among what has been said was that there were more important things than pandemic poetry and morose prose. Among what was asked was about the good that verses about the quarantine will bring to society. Looking at the days between the start of this project and its culmination, the answer, like the eight thousand peso-*ayuda*, stares us right in the eye: a lot.

They may be just words and images, but they are actually vessels of hope. In this pandemic, where disease drowns us in a mucus-filled state of despair, the pieces submitted are coughs that attempt to clear our lungs and throats. They are proofs of life, a declaration that we are not ready to go gently into that good night.

Every work submitted for consideration is a soul being lit. It is a human being who refused to lay down and give up. It is a human who is trying to make sense of this contagion. In that sense lies the will to live.

With this edition of the Reflective Practitioner, we intend to show that the will to live has not been locked down. With every word, rhyme, and emotion, this will is a statement, an assertion of resolve.

Gratitude is felt towards the authors and artists who trusted us with their works. Their enthusiastic response to our call made us believe that this project was worth all the trouble. Without them, this project wouldn't have been possible.

Thank you also to the officials of the University of the Philippines Manila who provided us support and encouragement. Our dear Dean Dr. Leonardo Estacio was an inspiration for us. He continues to show that his administration is always a place of succor for the Arts. Our Chairperson Prof. Alice Adeva was a pillar of support and helped us go forward with this project.

My esteemed co-editors, Dachele Parrocha and Kenneth Recio, were a joy to work with. Chadwick Co Sy Su, after several years as editor-in-chief of The Reflective Practitioner, has stepped back from editorial responsibilities, but not before extending the sort of care and diligence that I see very rarely in others now. Their work ethic and sharp insight provided this project the depth and weight it needed. Their participation in this project ensured that our output will be of quality and something that our institution will be proud of. You have my eternal gratitude and respect. *Maraming salamat po.*

Jose Velando Ogatis-I
Editor-in-Chief