

# LEESE STREET STUDIO



Named for the work space of Filipino American artist, educator, and activist Carlos Villa (1936–2013), Leese Street Studio presents interdisciplinary visual work by artists of the Filipinx diaspora.

## *Johanna Poethig*

Johanna Poethig is a contemporary artist known for her monumentally scaled murals and architecturally integrated public art, socially engaged collaborations, painting, multi-media installations, and performance. She grew up in the Philippines and has been active in Filipino American arts and Philippines-based arts projects since the 1980s. She has split her practice between public art, gallery, and performance that mix idealism, satire, feminism, and cultural critique. Poethig draws on her cross-cultural experience to create inclusive work offering an alternative to American conventions of individualism and competition. Her wide-ranging gallery and performance art investigates issues involving colonization, identity, consumerism, and a fabulist storytelling that draws on predictive practices, science, and the mathematical patterns of life systems. She recently completed a nine-mile public artwork for the Alameda County Transit's new Tempo line and a mosaic for Rainbow Recreation Center in Oakland. She has been commissioned to create public art projects throughout the Bay Area and California, and in Chicago, Milwaukee, Cuba, Washington State, New York, and Tbilisi, Georgia. She has exhibited internationally, and at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Bronx Museum of the Arts, Boston Center for the Arts, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. She has been recognized with awards from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and California Arts Council, among others. Poethig received her MFA at Mills College and is Professor Emeritus of Painting and Public Art at the Visual and Public Art department at California State University, Monterey Bay.

# LAKAS SAMBAYANAN - PEOPLE POWER MURAL

Johanna Poethig, Vicente Clemente, and Presco Tabios



## **Lakas Sambayanan (People Power Mural), 1986**

Alemany Blvd., San Francisco

Acrylic on concrete

35 x 80 ft.

San Francisco Mural Resource Center

This 35 x 80 ft. mural by Johanna Poethig, Vicente Clemente, and Presco Tabios in San Francisco commemorates the 1986 People Power revolution. At the center, the monumental concrete head that Marcos had built on the side of a mountain is blown up as the torch of freedom and a bird emerge. People hold back the military tanks, *sakada* workers are trapped behind sugarcane, a young girl scavenges on “Smokey Mountain,” and Cory Aquino holds her assassinated husband, “Ninoy,” in front of protesters marching on EDSA. The culture and history of the Philippines are represented in the *Muslim kulintang*, Christmas *parol*, and the revolutionary hero Gabriela Silang.

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Detail from **Lakas Sambayanan (People Power Mural)**, 1986

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Detail from the mural that depicts the 99-ft. high bust of Ferdinand Marcos built on the side of a mountain in La Union along the Aspiras-Palispis Highway. The construction of it displaced indigenous Ibaloi residents. The torch of freedom rises out of its fragments.

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Protestors push back against the military tanks in an image that includes women, men, and nuns standing together. The bird flying out of the top is based on a symbol created by Marcos regime political prisoners.

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*Johanna Poethig, Vicente Clemente, and Presco Tabios*



Photo of muralists Johanna Poethig, Vicente Clemente, and Presco Tabios at the dedication of the mural at 300 Alemany Blvd. in San Francisco.

# FILIPINO AMERICAN MURALS

Johanna Poethig



## **Filipino American Murals**

Link to video: <https://vimeo.com/513083295>

This video was created by Johanna Poethig as documentation of the making of the San Francisco murals, *Lakas Sambayanan* and *Ang Lipi ni Lapu Lapu*, that depict the history of the Philippines and waves of Filipino American immigration. The video edits together TV News coverage, artist interviews, and photographs of the process.

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