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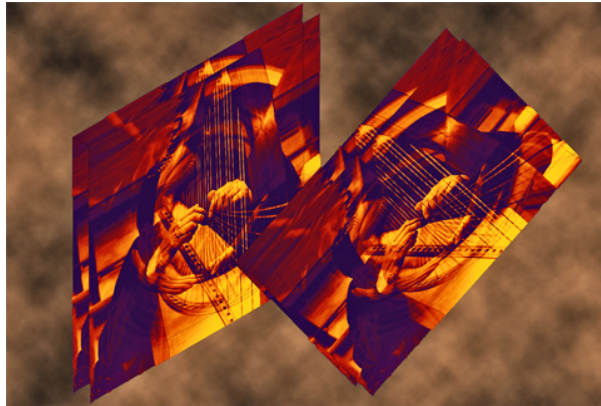
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DIGITAL ARTWORK AT THE PHILIPPINE CENTER JULY 2 - 13

Audacious art or kaleidoscopic painting? Photographer and digital artist Melissa Nolloedo-Christoffels sees more than what appears in her photographs. So she tweaks and twirls a black and white close-up of a performing harpist, pulls it apart till it free floats into monochromatic mirrors informing some hidden eye in the mind of its viewer.



The Harpist



Harpist's Lair

Christoffels, a 40-year-old artist from Oregon, says it was the farthest thing in her mind because she didn't set out to be "an artist-artist." Born of parents, who are both writers, Melissa is the daughter of Blanca and the late Wilfrido Nolloedo, prize-winning novelist ("But for the Lovers"). What would have been a natural fitting of her own life into her parent's mold, Christoffels chose the ubiquitous camera and also dabbled in occasional poetry. Today, she has had several exhibits in various group shows beyond Eugene, Oregon; and one of her artworks has graced the cover of the University of Miami's literary journal, Mangrove.

At the Philippine Center, 30 of Christoffels' works are on display. The largest piece measures 24 x 65 inches and the smallest a mere 8 x 10 inches. Titles included in this show are Woman Cradled, Migrations, Saxophonist at Farragut North, Duyan ("Cradle") and Manong and Manang (The Elders).

"Epiphanies of Flight" opens on July 2 (Artist's Reception) at the Philippine Center at 556 5th Avenue, New York, NY and continues through July 13, 2005. It is a world of art common to a generation's obsession with its computerized ability to manipulate an ordinary image beyond recognition. Digitalization is the hallucinatory tool. Layers of tinkering via a software to produce an artform borders on the incredible; and coming from the kaleidoscopic eye of Melissa Nolloedo-Christoffels, a totally believable experience.