A portrait of the artist as filipino an elegy in three scenes nick joaquin

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The Story Behind "A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino"

The iconic painting "A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino" by Juan Luna (1857-1899) holds a profound significance in Philippine history and art.

Plot and Conflict

The painting depicts Luna himself, clad in a traditional barong tagalog, holding a palette and brush. The background is a stormy landscape, symbolizing the artist's struggles and the turbulent political climate of his time.

Theme

The central theme of the portrait is the artist's search for national identity in the face of colonial oppression. Luna's gaze is defiant, expressing his determination to portray the true essence of Filipino identity.

Meaning

The painting has become a symbol of Philippine nationalism and artistic expression. It represents the struggle for independence and the affirmation of Filipino culture and heritage.

The Repertory Philippines 2009 Production

In 2009, Repertory Philippines staged a repertory production of "A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino." The play explored the historical context behind Luna's painting and his personal journey as an artist.

"Ang Larawan"

"Ang Larawan" is a contemporary musical adaptation of "A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino." It tells the story of two sisters who inherit a painting that holds the key to their family's history and the Filipino people's struggle through history.

Message of a Portrait

A portrait is not merely a physical likeness but also a reflection of the subject's inner self, their values, and their experiences. Luna's "A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino" encapsulates the indomitable spirit of the Filipino people and their desire for liberation and self-determination.

Father of Filipino Painting

Juan Luna is considered the Father of Filipino Painting. His famous self-portrait, "A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino," marked the birth of Filipino art and established its distinct identity from European influences.

Story of the Painting

The painting was created in 1892, when Luna was studying in Paris. It was inspired by the Philippine Revolution and Luna's desire to convey the Filipino people's struggle for independence.

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