



**PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL
PRESS RELEASE**

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**“BULOL: A PHILIPPINE RICE-GOD VISITS NEW YORK”
*Art Exhibit in celebration of Philippine Independence Day***



The exhibit was formally opened by Consul General Mario L. de Leon, Jr. with the artist Hadrian Mendoza and renowned fashion designer Ms. Josie Natori



The crowd at the reception expressed delight at the fifteen pieces of the Bulol as well as the other decorative and functional pieces on display



NEW YORK – On 8 June 2011 Consul Mario L. De Leon, Jr., along with renowned Filipino fashion designer Ms. Josie Cruz Natori, opened the showcase art exhibit of the Philippine Consulate General New York and the Philippine Center New York for the Philippine Independence Month of June - “Bulol: A Philippine Rice-God Visits New York by Virginia-based sculptor and artist in clay Hadrian Mendoza.

This is the second art exhibit at the Philippine Center by the artist, following his successful show in 2005. This month’s exhibit has already generated much interest from the artistic and creative communities; National Artist Ben Cabrera, who collects art from Northern Luzon, already purchased one piece before the exhibit even opened. Many of the guests during the reception also expressed a keen interest in making their own purchases.

A stoneware potter, Mendoza graduated from the Mary Washington College in Virginia and a former student at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington DC, where he was awarded the prestigious 1996-1997 Anne and Arnold Abramson award for Excellence in Ceramics. In 1997 he searched for his roots and moved back to the Philippines, opening his kiln in Calamba Laguna where he pursued his art, with clay as his medium. His art focuses on reinterpreting Southeast Asia’s indigenous forms. In 2009 he moved his family back to Virginia where he is presently the artist-in-residence at the north ceramics department of the three-year old Lorton Art Foundation.

The showcase exhibit of the Consulate General and the Philippine Center will be open to the public until the 17th of June 2011. END