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[Panorama, Specials](#)

## Filipino experimental art makes it to Greece

Published January 6, 2021, 8:00 AM  
by [Jules Vivas](#)

### Maxine Syjuco and Jack of None represents the Philippines in the 9th International Video Poetry Festival in Athens



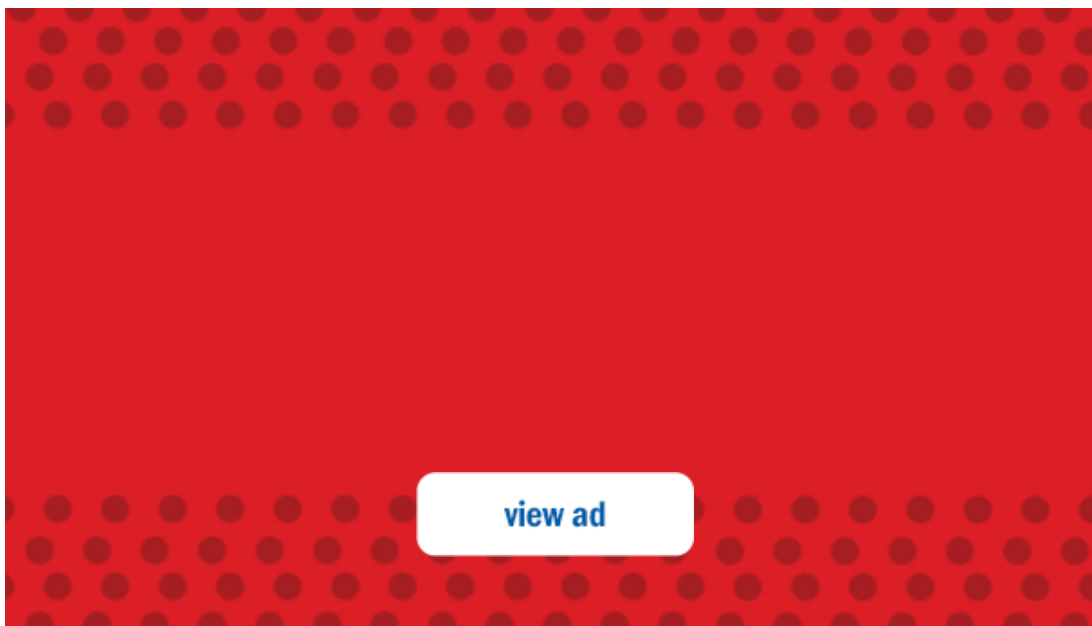
MUSIC AND POETRY Jack of None members and siblings A.G., Maxine, and Julian Syjuco; and *The Purpose of the Moon*

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*“Maman, nous sommes à la maison (Mom, we are at home), where did you hide the body?”*

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This is the first line of *“Maman’s”* critically acclaimed video, which marries dismal lyricism, avant-garde music, and visuals that couldn’t get more contemporary and experimental than it already is. An unsettling exchange between a daughter and her mother is presented in an equally haunting visual art.

This piece by Filipino band **Jack of None** was selected out of thousands of entries from around the world for the 9th International Video Poetry Festival in Athens, Greece.

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most outstanding video poems that highlight the avant-garde. This year's prestigious festival, set to happen in March, celebrates the forward-thinking artists whose exceptional works are developed through poetry presented in video form.

Written and directed by **Maxine Syjuco**, "*Maman*," is the first single from the recently released album of her art-rock band comprised of her two brothers **A.G.**, the composer and producer of the song, with **Julian**. The words or lyrics, art design, and vocals—that of the mother and the child—were Maxine's.

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The entry comes from *The Purpose of the Moon*, a seven-track album recorded by the siblings during the lockdown. This latest EP is a follow up to their award-winning releases from 2016 to 2018.

As a tribute to their father, **Cesare A.X. Syjuco**, the album explores the "7 Stages of Grief" and has been described by Chicago DJ, writer, and podcaster **James Van Osdol** as "experimental, dark, arty, inspiring, and challenging, it pushes at the edges and presents something so new that it cannot be compared to anything that's been done before." Likewise, Canadian music critic **Jeremy Gladstone** wrote, "Like all great art, Jack of None's music induces passionate emotions that provoke discussion. A.G., Maxine, and Julian are innovative groundbreakers of the independent art and music scene."

Maxine expresses herself through photography, digital collage, painting, and installation art. Her works are known to possess an intimate, philosophical, and often twisted voice in storytelling. Manipulating faces, unveiling poignant surrealities, and probing into abandoned rooms of the subconscious, the 36-year-old Filipina artist authors dark, thought-provoking

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images exist neither here nor there.

The music video closes with an appalling revelation, with the mother saying, “*Bon voyage, ma petit cuckoo* (Have a nice trip, my little cuckoo). The body you were looking for was yours.”

*Watch the video here. To to learn more about Jack of None’s latest album, The Purpose of the Moon, visit [www.jackofnone.net](http://www.jackofnone.net) | Official accounts are also available on YouTube, Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music, Bandcamp, Facebook, and Instagram.*

### JACK OF NONE - "Maman" (Official Video) - 2020



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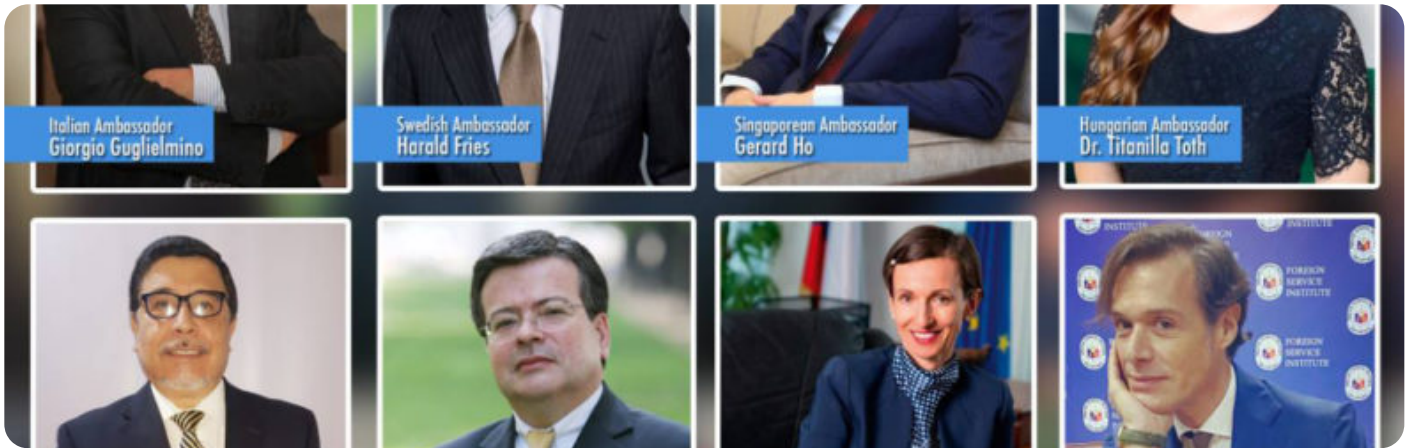


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[Agriculture, Specials](#)

## How to properly sow seeds and care for plants as they grow

January 06, 2021, 10:00 AM  
by Patricia Bianca Taculao

Many gardeners think that seed sowing, the first step in growing plants, is fairly easy to do. At a glance, it seems like something that can be done by anyone without needing any special skills. But seed sowing is an entire process of its own that contributes greatly to the growth and development of the plants.

To better equip people with proper seed sowing practices, millennial farmer Carlo Sumaoang discussed the topic on AgriTalk 2020, a webinar held in partnership with the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Training Institute and Manila Bulletin.

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## Some tips on pest management and fertilization

January 06, 2021, 10:00 AM  
by Patricia Bianca Taculao

Watering is only the basic thing to do when it comes to caring for plants. Advanced care requires fertilization and pest management to make sure that the plants are free from disease and pests, and are healthy as they grow.

Millennial farmer and founder of MNL Grow Kits Carlo Sumaoang shared some of his

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become well-versed in caring for plants.

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[Agriculture, Specials](#)

## Earning more through value-adding: Making herbal liniment oil

January 07, 2021, 10:00 AM  
by Vina Medenilla

Herbs are popular for their culinary and medicinal uses. Because of their high market demand, herbs may also provide profitable business opportunities.

Naomi D. Dimpas, a Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) cooperator and owner of Dimpas Greentigrated Agri-Tourism Farm, demonstrated how to process herbs on the second episode of AgriTalk 2020 Davao with the theme “Usapang Pangkabuhayan at Dagdag na Kita.”

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## A Filipino food revolution in Amsterdam

January 07, 2021, 05:52 PM  
by MB Lifestyle

And it starts on the street, where it should, as Kalye is set to make its mark with food, culture, and dreams as its pillars

By Ieth Inolino Idzerda

‘For me, it’s home. It’s the kaldero on the table. There’s nothing beautiful about it. It’s practical and you enjoy the flavor. It’s good because you grew up with it.’

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sycamore trees almost down to their last remaining leaves.

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## FISH KILL: Why do they occur?

January 06, 2021, 12:00 AM  
by Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz

The Philippines has witnessed several occurrences of fish kill in the past years. But why do they even occur?

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) said fish kill is a sudden and significant mortality of either wild or cultured fish.

Also called “fish die-off,” BFAR further defined fish kill as the “massive death of fish stocks in a certain area due to unfavorable water quality parameters of a certain aquatic environment that are intolerable or toxic to the fish stocks.”

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[Drive](#)

## What is the DTI’s safeguard duty and how will it affect new imported cars?

January 05, 2021, 04:22 PM  
by Inigo Roces

Just a few days ago, the Department of Trade and Industry announced the imposition of a safeguard duty or tariff on imported cars in response to a petition made by the Philippine Metalworkers Alliance (PMA).

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for imported passenger cars and P110,000/unit imported for light commercial vehicles (LCV). The Bureau of Customs (BOC) will collect the duties for 200 days while the Tariff Commission (TC) studies the situation to determine a more permanent solution.

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**Agriculture, Specials**

## Four “Ps” to consider when marketing your products and agribusiness

January 05, 2021, 10:00 AM  
by Vina Medenilla

Marketing is a crucial element that serves as the backbone of your success when it comes to selling farm products and services. Regardless of how big or small your operations are, you have the ability to find consistent clients to help your business grow.

“When we talk about marketing, it’s always as important as your production,” said Carlo Sumaoang of Ragsak Family Farm on the sixth episode of AgriTalk 2020, a free webinar series presented by Agriculture Magazine and the Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Training Institute.

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**Drive**

## Take a virtual drive through Skyway Stage 3

January 05, 2021, 08:27 AM  
by Inigo Roces

Haven’t tried Skyway Stage 3? We’ve got you covered. Ride along as we take a joyride on the new elevated road. As an added treat, we even time it to see if it lives up to the promise of 18-



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For this video, we enter the Skyway from NAIAX, driving over the existing Skyway alignment and entering the new Stage 3. We take Stage 3 all the way north as it lands us directly into NLEX.

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## Profound Reflections

January 05, 2021, 01:16 AM  
by Ronald Jayme

Photographer of the Week: Jan Levent

By Maan D'Asis Pamaran

This is a story of a Filipino's determination to pursue a passion in photography. Jan Levent from Cajidiocan, Romblon was inspired by his grandfather Antioco, who was the first professional photographer in their community. "He would even develop black-and-white films, back in the day," he recalled.

His mother had other plans for him, though, and encouraged him to take up the seaman's life, because they had a relative who had a shipping line. "I took up Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation at PMI Colleges and started working on the seas in 1997, but I knew that this was not the career for me. I went home and took a Computer Secretarial Course at the San Sebastian College, then went to work in Japan, in another seafarer-related job called 'lashing' or fastening cargo. It was my dream to travel to Japan, but I had another travel goal to go, and that was to go to the UK."

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## Photographs & Memories: I Dreamed of Mindanao

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Text and photos by Ibarra Siapno

February of 2019, I went back to Mindanao for a different kind of photo assignment. The region was still under Martial Law so there were military checkpoints and curfews. I brought an unconventional seven-day itinerary starting from General Santos then to Laguindingan as my last stop.

I missed the first flight and waited hours for the next. Upon arrival, I took a two-hour van ride and reached in the afternoon at my first stop in Lake Sebu. This cultural landscape is known for the T’Boli tribes, gongs, and the fascinating weaving tradition T’nalak. Just a walking distance from the hotel where I stayed, I visited the T’Boli museum and souvenir store to get a good introduction and grasp of the rich culture of the T’Bolis. That was for my first day.

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## Photo of the Week

January 04, 2021, 07:37 PM  
by Ronald Jayme

“This photo was taken in Bugallon, Pangasinan using Huawei Nova 3i. I took this photo of my niece in the middle of cornfield, complementing the red color of her dress with the green color of corn leaves.” – Daryl Salazar Our appreciation to Neutral Ground Reborn (NGR) (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/neutralgroundreborn/>). This photo was also chosen as NGR’s Photo of the Day (Week 43, Day 2) of Season 4 – 2020.

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## cacao in Davao de Oro

January 03, 2021, 01:00 PM  
by Manila Bulletin

By Ruel Kenneth Felices

Cacao has been in the history of the Philippines for many years. But it is only recently that the country has reawakened as a potential source for high-quality cacao. The cacao industry in the Philippines is now having its moment in the limelight but faced with the increasing pressure to supply the world market the sector is dealing with complex economic, social, and environmental issues.

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## Yearender: New breed of Metro mayors take innovative steps in battle vs COVID-19

January 03, 2021, 11:38 AM  
by Jhon Aldrin Casinas

Neophyte mayors in Metro Manila were propelled into a major battleground this 2020, just months after assuming office following their victory in the 2019 midterm elections. With the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in March, the local chief executives of the Cities of Pasig and San Juan mustered their experiences in governance and employed innovative measures to curb the spread of the disease in their respective localities.

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## boholensis

January 03, 2021, 10:00 AM  
by Manila Bulletin

A new, tiny jewel orchid has been discovered on the island of Bohol and named *Corybas boholensis* as described by researchers from multiple academic institutions in the Philippines, Taiwan, and USA. The finding was recently published in the scientific journal *Phytotaxa* on December 24, 2020.

Plants in the genus *Corybas* typically possess a small, single leaf and a single flower with a hood-like dorsal sepal, earning them the nickname “helmet orchids” in the botanical and horticultural worlds. Helmet orchids are also considered “jewel orchids” due to their striking foliage. They are difficult to find and study as they are miniscule and usually hidden amongst forest debris and other plants.

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## It was a year in hell, but is it too soon to laugh at 2020?

January 03, 2021, 08:00 AM  
by AA Patawaran

Black Mirror creators Charlie Brooker and Annabel Jones drop *Death to 2020* on Netflix over the holidays and deliver what seems to be a bad joke

As soon as Netflix dropped *Death to 2020* after Christmas, I checked it out. I told myself if I didn't laugh out loud in the first five minutes, I'd flip back to my anime series *Death Note*, but it cracked me up in 30 seconds.

I admit that it got me at *Death to 2020*, a rather precise wording of my personal feelings, but it helped draw my attention to this 70-minute Netflix mockumentary about “a year so momentous they named it twice” (which made me laugh) that behind it are the creators of Emmy Award-winning seminal series *Black Mirror* Charlie Brooker and Annabel Jones.

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## What does 2021 have in store for you?

January 02, 2021, 06:00 PM  
by Manila Bulletin

2021 love, money, and career forecast according to your astrological sign

By Sarah May Low

Pat yourself on the back for surviving 2020! Healing, change, and hard work are the main themes of 2021. Many people will build or rebuild new foundations in their lives. Many would feel brave to go out of their comfort zone as they would feel inspired to pursue something new –business, knowledge, relationships, social circles, hobbies, and skills.

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## Boracay lover gets the Star of Italy

January 02, 2021, 01:00 PM  
by Manila Bulletin

Property veteran Marco Biggiogero receives knighthood for promoting Italian business culture in the Philippines

Marco Biggiogero recently received the Cavaliere dell'ordine della stella d'Italia, which is awarded to any person who has taken every effort and opportunity to preserve and promote Italy abroad through whatever field they are currently working in. The award seeks to acknowledge those who have fostered stronger ties between Italy and other countries.

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Filipino, Specials

## Discovery Hospitality brings clean drinking water to Angat, Bulacan

January 02, 2021, 10:30 AM

by Manila Bulletin

Launched in partnership with Waves for Water Philippines, 'Together for Water' is now on its fourth year

Despite being in an industry hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic, Discovery Hospitality Corporation (DHC) celebrated the season of giving with the residents of Laog, Angat, Bulacan, who were severely devastated by the Typhoon Ulysses.

In its continuing commitment to provide clean drinking water to underprivileged communities, DHC executives together with Waves for Water Philippines, distributed five water filters that will positively impact 500 people for up to five years. The residents of the riverside community cross the river for potable drinking water. The area was heavily flooded during the onslaught of the typhoon, and houses made of light materials were washed away. This made access to drinking water even more problematic.

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Drive

## Have an RFID ready and other Skyway Stage 3 tips

January 01, 2021, 10:56 AM

by Inigo Roces

Easily the biggest news for motorists over the holidays was the highly anticipated opening of the Skyway Stage 3, the elevated expressway that speeds up travel between the north and south points of Metro Manila.

Bear in mind that, while the Skyway Stage 3 has been opened, it's still on a partial basis. As such, many things we've come to expect from our modern expressways may still be lacking or are currently under construction.

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## Mazda delivers a Christmas gift for Palawan Pangolins

January 01, 2021, 08:01 AM  
by Inigo Roces

The Palawan Pangolins can look forward to a brighter and more secure 2020 as Mazda Philippines has formally turned over a BT-50 3.2-liter 4X4 Pangolin Edition to the Katala Foundation to support the NGO's conservation activities for the endangered Palawan Pangolin. The brand new special series BT-50 will replace the organization's aging 1996 Mazda Proceed and is slated to see service with the foundation for one year to support its Pangolin monitoring and population checking activities in different locations around Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

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