

Telling Truer Stories

AN ANTHOLOGY FOR SAFE AND LEGAL ABORTION



PHILIPPINE SAFE ABORTION ADVOCACY NETWORK

ABOUT PINSAN

The Philippine Safe Abortion Advocacy Network (PINSAN) is a network of human rights advocates which include representatives from women's/human rights organisations, lawyers and youth networks willing to work openly on the issue of unsafe abortion for the first time in Philippine history.

PINSAN opens up a space for the development of a coherent and coordinated strategy to address the high incidence of unsafe abortion; to address the stigma that surrounds abortion in the country; promote appropriate post abortion care meeting WHO guidelines; and to decriminalise abortion in the country and extend the exceptions to the current law.



TELLING TRUER STORIES

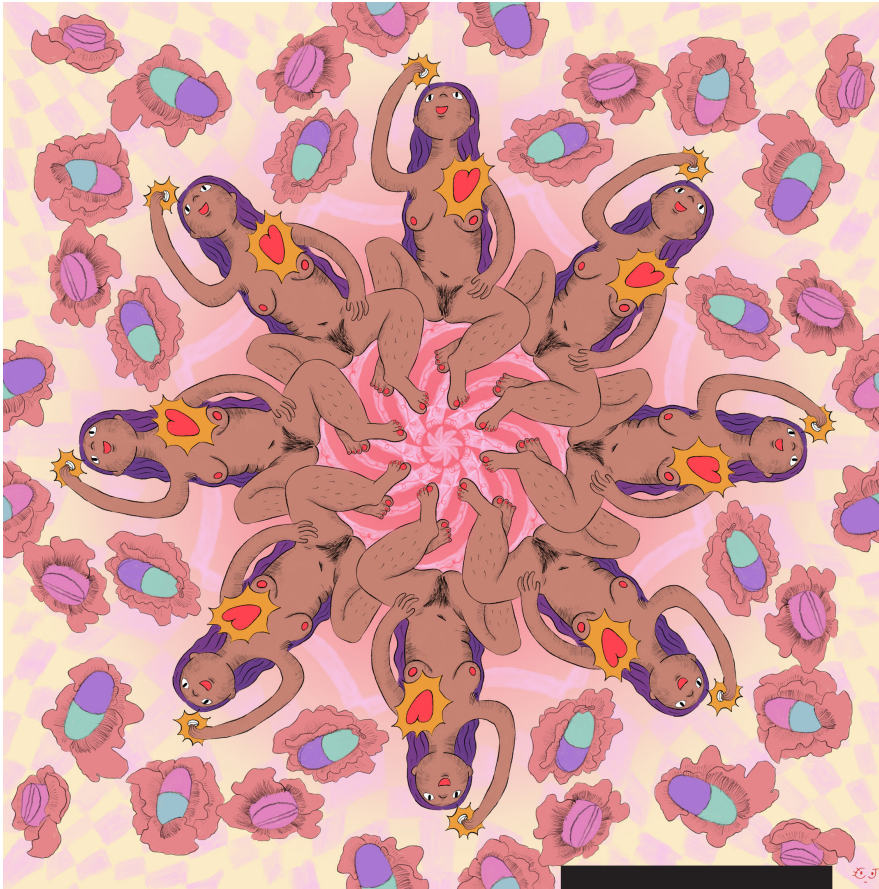
In the Philippines, more than 600,000 abortions happen every year. Every day, around 3 women die due to abortion complications. Yet little do we hear about this from the news or even from the people around us. Abortion is talked about in hushed voices, if at all. And when it is talked about it is usually done so from a position of fear, anger, or ignorance – rarely compassion. Which is why it's no surprise that when it's portrayed in mainstream media, we always witness the same kinds of stories – women who end their pregnancies are often portrayed as sad, poor, and disempowered, and the people around them are prejudiced and judgmental, rarely supportive and understanding. These stories do not reflect the realities and truths that women live every day. And such stories only serve to perpetuate the conservative and stigmatizing status quo that ultimately hurts women, leading to their suffering, morbidity, and even death.

We've invited artists and storytellers to join the first art anthology for safe and legal abortion in the Philippines. We've collected visual art, video, and creative nonfiction for the purpose of destigmatizing, demystifying, and decriminalizing abortion in our country.

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VISUAL ART



FIRST PLACE

"Choices"
Christine Silva



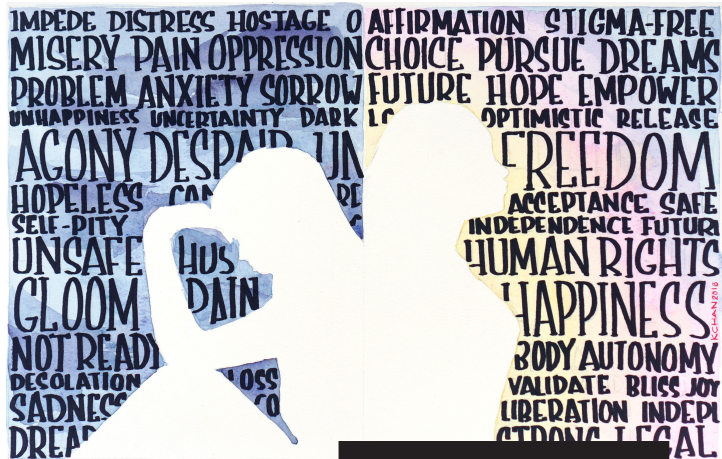
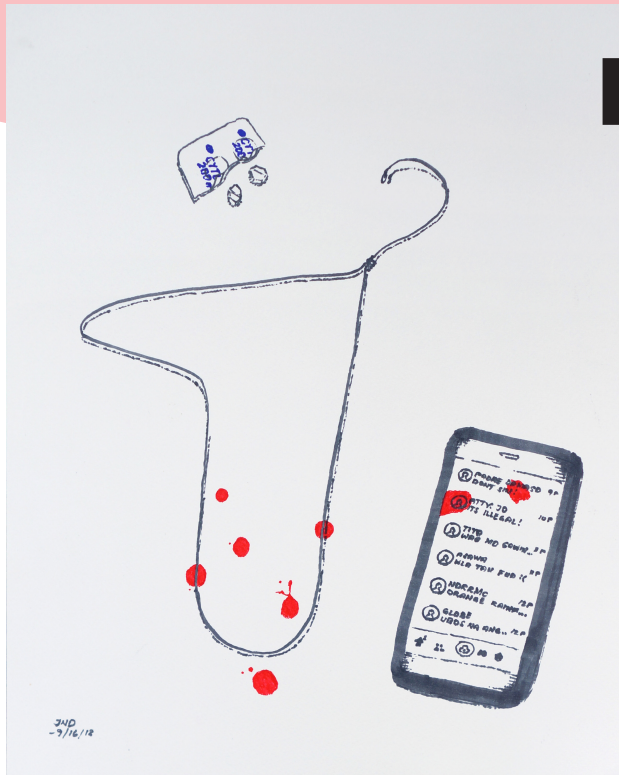
SECOND PLACE

"The Unraveling"
Galaxie Maria Delfino

Artworks can be viewed at:
pinsan.ph/anthology/

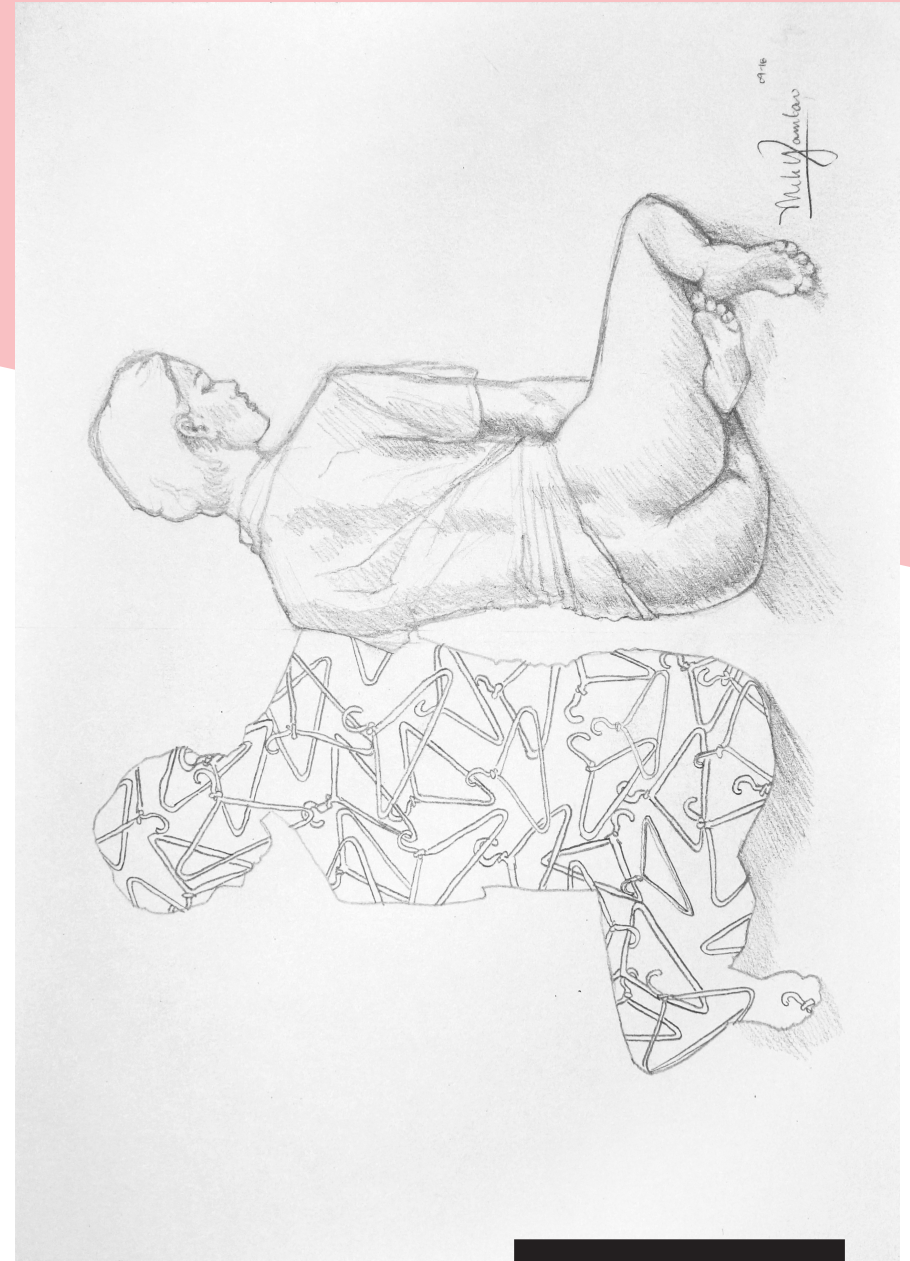
THIRD PLACE

Jann Decano



CONTRIBUTION

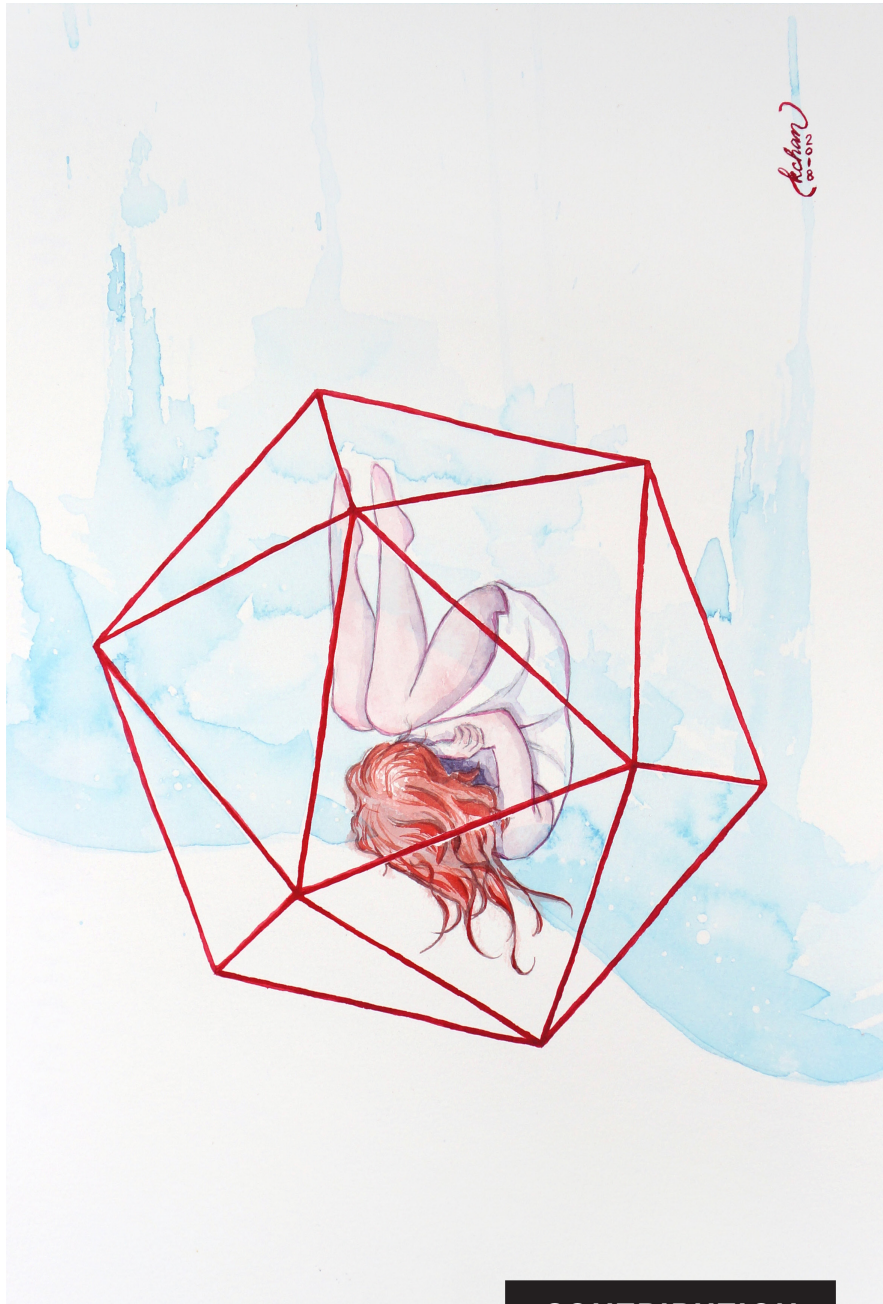
Kristine Chan



CONTRIBUTION

Mek Yambao

www.mekyambao.com



CONTRIBUTION

Kristine Chan

VIDEO



FIRST PLACE

“HELE with Helen - How to use a Hanger”

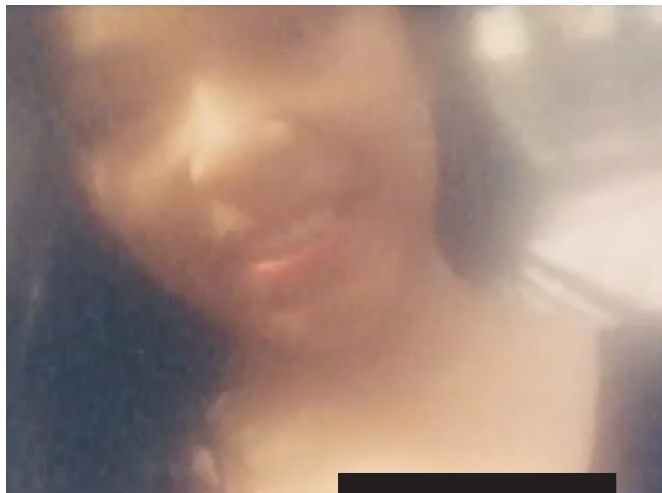
Emilie Batard

Videos can be viewed at:
pinsan.ph/anthology/



SECOND PLACE

Dawn Macahilo



THIRD PLACE

“Mga Tuyong Tawa ng Paglimot, Mga
Manhid na Luha ng Pag alala”
Cha Roque

CONTRIBUTIONS



Carlos Celdran
Nicole Curato
Sharmila Parmanand
Liezl Parajas

Arnel Rostom Deiparine
Kevin de Vera
Quennie Maravillas
Amihan Soriano
Chang Longcanaya

Videos can be viewed at:
pinsan.ph/anthology/

CREATIVE NON-FICTION

Abortion in the time of social media

“

Unfortunately, our stories were mostly met with anger, insult, ill-informed and unsolicited advice.

The reality is that abortion is happening in the Philippines, and thousands of women are dying precisely because abortion is illegal in this country. Many of us choose to ignore this truth.

As long as we keep our minds shut, we will always have a negative perception of abortion. As long as we keep mum, nothing will change.

FIRST PLACE

Fritz Rodriguez

Full Text at: pinsan.ph/anthology/

The stories she heard

“

The worst stories she'd heard came from the nurses over at Fabella, about women who didn't have enough money or contacts, and opted to do it themselves:

There were the ones who tried to fish it out with a hanger.

The ones that were advised to expel it with laundry detergent.

The ones who “fell” down flights of stairs in an attempt to dislodge it.

SECOND PLACE

Danielle Hill

Full Text at: pinsan.ph/anthology/

No Regrets

“

I wrote this because I am tired of girls
being made to regret decisions
that involve their own bodies.
I am tired of women having to do
what they don't want to do
because of the fear of being judged.
Motherhood is a gift but it is also a decision.

So if I could go back to the exact same
situation where I had to choose between
keeping the baby or not would I still do it?
Yes, and hopefully in a more sanitized,
safe place for abortions.

THIRD PLACE

Candice

Full Text at: pinsan.ph/anthology/

Dalamhati

Tandang-tanda ko pa
Nag-ring ang aking
telepono

Sa kabilang linya
Ang mareng pulis
Tungkol pala sa kaso

Isang rape victim
Tawagin natin s'yang
Maria

21 ang edad
May dwarfism

Hanggang baywang
Ang taas

Pinagsamantalahan
Nabuntis

Peligrosong
panganak
Namatay pagkatapos
manganak

Nang makausap ko
Ang ina ni Maria

Tinanong ko
Kung alam kaya ni
Maria
Kung saan may safe
abortion

Palagay nyo
Pupunta sya?

Sagot ng ina
Kung alam lang namin
Kung saan

Sana buhay pa ang
Anak ko ngayon

Magulo ang linya
Malayo si Nanay
Ngunit dama ko
Ang kanyang dalamhati

CONTRIBUTION

Atty. Clara Rita A. Padilla

Open Secrets

I heard about Jenny,
she got hers in Hong Kong
it cost a pretty penny,
she was six weeks along

I heard about Tanya,
she took the week end
and flew off to California
with her special friend

I heard about Nella,
hers was in Sing
Her next stop, Coachella,
she spent the arvo
shopping

I heard about Mary,
she went to Vancouver
so she could have hers
sucked out by a Hoover

I heard about Andie,
her boyfriend is Swiss
he took her to Zurich
when something was
amiss

I heard about Ophelia,
too broke for a flight
she had a local hilot
take care of her plight

I heard about 'Minda,
she had no choice
she "fell" down the stairs,
in front of her boys

I heard about Matet,
who prayed and prayed
and got beaten bloody
when she was delayed

I heard about Liselle,
she chanced Quiapo church
a plastic of poison was
the fruit of her search

I heard about Joanne,
she drank her elixir
and dropped down dead
in front of her fixer

I heard about Rissa,
I heard that she died
I heard that they caught her,
I heard no one cried

CONTRIBUTION

Sabrina Schnabel

Bleeding

Laying in bed
I feel burning
contractions
Increasing in strength
in my uterus
I can feel the lasting pain
Continuously with
no pause
Hold me
I am fading away

Silently crying
My muscles are twitching
Violently cramping
Uncontrollably shaking
Hurry...please hurry
I don't want to die
I closed my eyes praying.

Blood is oozing
Screaming
Roaring
Enough
I am going to live
I have to fight back
I have to see the
beautiful sunlight
I made my own decision
I made my own choice
It's over
The real fear is gone
No more blood
The bleeding stopped
I am alive

CONTRIBUTION

Ana P. Ebo

Rebirth

I saw the first light
Out of nowhere
As I opened my eyes
Sunshine reappearing
Wondering am I dreaming?

Willing to remember
Releasing
The unconscious feeling
Incarnating
The trapped soul of my being.

Awaken
Embracing the wholeness of my soul
Beckoning
The renewed feeling
Totally liberating

CONTRIBUTION

Ana P. Ebo

Pinagdaanan

Sapatos nami'y sukatin,
landas nami'y tahakin,
daing nami'y pakinggan,
daang ito'y lakaran.

Duda at panghuhusga,
pangungutya at pagpuna
ang aming naranasan
dahil hindi naiintindihan.

Kung nangyari sa inyo
anong gagawin ninyo?

Ang aming kailangan
sana'y pagbigyan:
pagdamay at pagunawa
respeto at simpatiya

Kalusugan at kaligtasan
ay aming karapatan.
Pagpalaglag na pinagdaanan
sana inyong igalang.

CONTRIBUTION

Red Tani



PHILIPPINE SAFE ABORTION ADVOCACY NETWORK

We are committed to working towards achieving full realization of women and girls' human rights – including their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

✉ pinsan.network@gmail.com

📘 facebook.com/pinsanorg

🐦 twitter.com/pinsanorg

pinsan.ph