



J. Elizalde Navarro

Untitled

c. 1960s

Welded metal

208 x 113 x 87.5 cm

Collection of National Gallery Singapore

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Look, Think and Connect!

1. Let's walk around this sculpture. How would you describe its forms and shapes?
What do they remind you of?
2. What do you feel when you encounter this artwork? How do you think the artwork has provoked these emotions?
3. What do you think the sculpture is made of? Why do you think the artist chose this material?
4. Where can you find this material in your daily life?
5. What do you think the artist is trying to portray through this artwork? What makes you say that?

Artwork Story

Untitled, a sculpture by J. Elizalde Navarro, is a dynamic configuration of abstract forms made of industrial materials. Throughout his career, the artist worked with a wide range of media, from painting to mixed media to sculpture, and easily shifted his style, from figurative to semi-figurative to abstract. This work highlights his affinity for three-dimensional abstraction and his attraction to linear forms. Navarro's use of welded steel here refers to the rapid industrialisation that took place in the Philippines after the end of World War II and the new reality of the machine age.

Visit the **UOB Southeast Asia Gallery 9** to view this artwork.

Artist Story

J. Elizalde Navarro (1924–1999) is considered a significant modernist in the Philippines. Bestowed the National Artist Award for the Visual Arts shortly after his death, he was among the first generation of modernists after the war. He studied fine arts at the University of the Philippines and the University of Santo Tomas while simultaneously working in an advertising agency. Throughout most of his artistic practice, he continued to work in advertising as an art director and design consultant.

Find Out More:

Cultural Center of the Philippines. *The National Artists of the Philippines 1999–2003*. Manila: Cultural Center of the Philippines, 2003.

Finale Art File. *Meaning To Be Modern: Philippine Paintings 1907–1959: A Selection from the Paulino Que Collection*. Makati: Finale Art File, 2010.

Flores, Patrick D. *Crossings: Philippine Works from the Singapore Art Museum*. Singapore: Singapore Art Museum, 2004.

Herrera, Victoria, Eileen Legaspi-Ramirez & Cid Reyes. *Cultural Cache: Selected Works from the Visual Arts Collection of the Cultural Center of the Philippines*. Edited by Wickie Mercado. Manila: Museum Foundation of the Philippines, Incorporated, 2018.

“Order of national artists: J. Elizalde Navarro.” National Commission for Culture and the Arts. <https://ncca.gov.ph/about-culture-and-arts/culture-profile/national-artists-of-the-philippines/j-elizalde-navarro/> (accessed 29 December 2021).

“Untitled.” Roots. <https://www.roots.gov.sg/Collection-Landing/listing/1262001> (accessed 29 December 2021).

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<https://collections.nationalgallery.sg>