

Gajah Gallery presents

In Honor of Form

*The First Major Presentation of National Artist
Benedicto “BenCab” Cabrera’s Sculptural Practice*



BenCab, Reunion

2026, Bronze, 208 x 158 x 118cm, Edition of 3 and 1 Artist Proof

Gajah Gallery Manila

18 October to 22 November 2026

Curated by Dannie R. Alvarez

Manila, Philippines - October 7, 2026 — **Gajah Gallery Manila** is proud to present *In Honor of Form*, the first formal presentation of National Artist **Benedicto ‘BenCab’ Cabrera’s** sculptural practice. Centered on ten bronze sculptures realized in collaboration with **Yogya Art Lab (YAL)**, the gallery’s foundry and production arm, the exhibition brings a new dimension to one of the Philippines’ most enduring artistic practices. A selection of works on loan from the **BenCab Museum** will also be on view, bringing into focus the subjects and forms that have sustained and evolved over the course of his practice.

Developed over three years, from 2023 to 2026, the new bronze sculptures revisit some of BenCab’s most recognizable figures, giving these forms a renewed physical presence. The characteristic linearity of his paintings carries into the modeling of the figures, while the flowing drapery and rhythmic folds animate the sculptures with a sense of movement. In three dimensions, these figures unfold beyond the picture plane, their contours and gestures taking on a new resonance in space.

BenCab's movement between mediums has long been integral to his practice. Over the years, he has returned to familiar subjects through different materials, scales and configurations, allowing images and forms to evolve across different media. His sculptural practice continues this trajectory, extending his longstanding exploration of the human figure into three dimensions. BenCab's engagement with sculpture also has roots in his years at the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts, where he studied under sculptor Anastacio Caedo.

Complementing the sculptures is a selection of works spanning different periods of the artist's career, generously loaned by the BenCab Museum. Together, they place the new bronzes within the broader trajectory of BenCab's practice, tracing how his recurring subjects have evolved across materials and periods.

With a long history of capturing Filipino identity in his art, BenCab's tender figures have remained deeply embedded in the national consciousness. *In Honor of Form* brings these figures into a new spatial and material context, underscoring the enduring force of BenCab's artistic vision and the intimate gestures and everyday experiences and everyday experiences that have long made his work so resonant.



BenCab, *Two Filipinas in the Age of Multinationals*
2026, Bronze, 90.5 x 36.5 x 55 cm, Edition of 8 and 1 Artist Proof

More high-res images available [here](#), image credits to Gajah Gallery.
For images, interviews, and other media inquiries, contact art@gajahgallery.com

ABOUT THE ARTIST

A National Artist for Visual Arts since his conferment in 2006, Ben Cabrera, or BenCab, is an icon in the Philippines. He was a pioneer in the 1970s for addressing social and political issues, and for his portrayal of Filipino identity. He is acclaimed for his draftsmanship in expressing universal human sympathies and everyday narrative drama.

BenCab lives and works in Baguio City, the Philippines.

ABOUT GAJAH GALLERY

Founded in 1996, Gajah Gallery has developed a sustained, critically engaged commitment to Southeast Asian contemporary art, shaped through long-term collaboration with artists and the region's leading academics and art historians. Operating across Singapore, Jakarta, Yogyakarta, and Manila, the gallery presents a rigorous year-round exhibition program and maintains a strong presence across major regional and international platforms. Its activities extend to long-term research and scholarly engagement, as well as supporting the production of extensive printed publications on seminal artists and collectives, contributing to the scholarship and historiography of Southeast Asian art.

ABOUT YOGYA ART LAB

Co-founded by Gajah Gallery Director Jasdeep Sandhu and Indonesian artist Yunizar, Yogya Art Lab (YAL) was established to provide artists with a dedicated space to experiment with new mediums and to ensure access to high-quality materials. Under the direction of Foundry Director James Page, YAL has evolved into a world-class foundry and production house, enabling artists to realize new dimensions in their practice.

ABOUT BENCAB MUSEUM

Established in 2009, the BenCab Museum in Baguio houses the permanent collection of National Artist Benedicto, alongside works by established and emerging Filipino artists. Its collections span Philippine contemporary art as well as indigenous arts and crafts of the Cordilleras, reflecting BenCab's longstanding engagement with the region's culture and traditions. The museum is dedicated to the promotion of the arts and the preservation of Cordilleran heritage and the environment.