

Rolling Stone

NOVEMBER 2008

FESTYLES ON THE EDGE

BADKISS

CHRISTINA BARTGES TAKES US FOR A SPIN
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FEATURING

NONA GARCIA / ISA LORENZO / BEA CAMACHO / LARA DE LOS REYES / PATRICIA EUSTAQUIO
YASMIN SISON / BEA VALDES / WANI MADROZA / HANNA PETTYJOHN / RACHEL RILLO
MAC VELDEZ / MARIA VICENTE / MM YU

PATRICIA EUSTAQUIO

Photographed on October 14, 2008 at Silverlens Gallery in Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City

HER DRESSES ARE AT ONCE FUN, LOOPY, AND SOPHISTICATED. Though she admittedly got into fashion “to pay the rent,” she’s proven herself to be a designer of considerable talent. With her much-talked-about exhibit at SLab (Silverlens Lab), Patricia Eustaquio made a conspicuous return to the art scene by drawing inspiration from music and musical instruments, as a tribute to the history of the space—once the Yamaha School of Music. For one artwork, she soaked a crocheted tablecloth in 32 liters of industrial-grade epoxy. She had all of 30 minutes to drape the cloth over a piano bravely lent by a family friend for the sticky endeavor. The ivory crochet wraps around the curves of the piano, cascading artfully to the floor. One would never know it at first glance, but the crochet stands on itself, looking fluffy as cotton but actually hard as coral. “I combine an old-world sensibility with a contemporary feel,” says Eustaquio. In her teens, Eustaquio won a grant to take her I.B. diploma in Italy, living in the seaside town of Trieste, and soaking in all good things Italian. This exposure continues to bear fruit. Her art, says this magna cum laude graduate from U.P., is “mostly about the intersection between the beautiful and the grotesque; life and death, the balance and relationship between the two.” In *Death to the Major Viva Minor*, Eustaquio presents what she calls the minor, “more crafty” arts, side by side with the major arts like painting. Peeled open like human flesh, a violin of ceramic stoneware reveals a heart and the vein that connects the heart to the arm and hands. It’s as if Eustaquio is telling us: From my heart and with my hands, I craft my art. It is at once her greatest and most humble offering as an artist. When she straddled the worlds of art and fashion, she notes, “There was always an undertone: You can’t be a successful artist if you’re a fashion designer. Why discriminate?”

KARLA P. DELGADO



