Erica Olavario

photography, filmmaking, visual arts & design | ericaolavario.com

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Erica Olavario (b. 1994, Manila) is a photo-based artist, printmaker, and filmmaker based in Edmonton, AB. Her dedication lies in crafting immersive digital experiences through the art of visual storytelling. Through her personal branding DIWA, she creates pieces that capture the essence of our collective memory and experience. Her work aims to promote empathy, understanding, and acceptance, while also showcasing the beauty and diversity of different cultures. In particular, she uses her skills and talents to identify and represent the lives of her Filipino diaspora, to connect with her rich heritage and explore the current human condition.

Short Doc

2023	*Ugnayan,* 18 min

Selected Exhibitions

Oct 2026	*One Day In Edmonton,* Group Photo Exhibit, Nice Photo Club, The Parks, Edmonton, AB.
April 2026	*SAMA-SAMA: our stories, our visions*, Video & Art Exhibit, UPAAE, EPL Millwoods, Edmonton, AB.
June 2025	*Hands to Table,* Book Launch & Photo Installation, The Hungry Crew Collective, Queen Elizabeth II Building, Edmonton, AB.
Dec 2023	*Daluyan,* Photo Installation (Analogue & Digital, Cyanotypes, Van Dykes, Ambrotypes), Haliburton School of Art + Design, Haliburton, ON.
April 2023	*Ugnayan,* Photo & Video Installation (Analogue & Digital), Haliburton School of Art + Design, Haliburton, ON.

Selected Public Screenings

2024	*Ugnayan,* The Filipino Channel (TFC), iWantTFC streaming, Worldwide.
2023	*Ugnayan,* Screening & Artist Talk, Haliburton School of Art + Design, Haliburton, ON. *Ugnayan,* Nominee for Best Short Documentary, San Diego Filipino Film Festival, San Diego, CA. *Ugnayan,* Limbic Collective, Haliburton, ON.

Selected Public Talks & Presentations

2023	*Ugnayan,* Artist Talk & Presenter, Memoir and Autofiction in the Asian American Diaspora, Brown University, Providence, RI. *Ugnayan,* Screening & Artist Talk, Haliburton School of Art + Design, Haliburton, ON.

Selected Publications

2025	*Hands to Table: Cookbook & Stories,* Artist Talk & Book Launch, Migrante Alberta, Queen Elizabeth II Building, Edmonton, AB. (supported by the Government of Alberta)

Selected Press

2026	OMNI News, "*Dokumentaryo tungkol sa racism na danas ng mga Pilipino sa Canada*", April 16, 2026. YouTube, https://youtu.be/m_kcJX__Wwg?si=u_vFGJ3hYre-R6f4
	CBC Radio Active, *"Edmonton project uses personal stories to challenge racism, bring people together",* April 8, 2026. CBC Edmonton, *https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-52-radio-active/clip/16207579-edmonton-project-uses-personal-stories-challenge-racism-bring*
2025	OMNI News, *"Kwento ng mga migrante sentro sa librong Hands to Table",* June 16, 2025. YouTube, https://youtu.be/5x6xYwgXj8E?si=K-NKjm5wh8sC2dj9
	CBC Radio Active, "*Hands to Table*", June 3, 2025, CBC Edmonton, https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/9.6784184
	Erica Olavario. "*The Hungry Crew to launch 'Hands to Table"*. *Alberta Filipino Journal, May 2025.*
2024	Pia Lopezbanos-Carrion. "*San Diego Filipino Film Festival Showcase to Premiere on TFC Cable and Satellite.*" *ABS-CBN News*
	Mike Baker, et al. "*Student Film Sheds Light on Adapting to Highlands.*" *The Highlander*, 25 Jan. 2024.
2023	"*20 Short Films You Shouldn't Miss at the 3rd San Diego Filipino Film Festival (Part 2)." Asian Film Festivals, 29 Sept. 2023.*

Awards & Distinctions

2024	President's Honour Roll (HSAD) Photo Arts Certificate Award (HSAD)
2023	Nominee for Best Short Documentary, *Ugnayan,* San Diego Filipino Film Festival Advanced Haliburton Art Bursary (Fall 2023, HSAD) East Asia Academic Excellence Entry Scholarship (HSAD)
2022	Global Merit-based International Student Scholarship (HSAD) Advanced Haliburton Art Bursary (Fall 2022, HSAD)

Professional Development

July 2025 - April 2026	*Videographer & Editor, SAMA-SAMA (UPAAE,* supported by GoA Immigration & Multicultural program*)*
Aug 2025 - Nov 2025	*Creative Director, Cinematographer, Videographer* The Hungry Crew Film Collective (AWARE, supported by GoA Immigration & Multicultural program)
Nov 2024 - June 2025	*Videographer & Photographer, Book & Cover Designer, Logo Designer, Illustrator*

	The Hungry Crew Film Collective (Migrante Alberta, supported by GoA)
Oct 2024 - Present	*Photojournalist/Contributing Writer,* Alberta Filipino Journal
Aug 2024 - Present	*Seasonal Photo Lab Technician,* Smart Photography
Jun 2024 - July 2024	*Graphic Designer & Gallery Assistant,* Alberta Craft Gallery
Sep 2016 - May 2022	*UX Designer & Web Developer,* Ernst & Young

Workshops Attended

April 2026	*Documentary Production with Sandro Silva,* Fascinasian Edmonton
March 2026	*Camera Basics, Alberta Film School* *Production Development with Gordie Lucius*, Fascinasian Edmonton
Feb 2026	*BIPOC Media Lab with Heather Hatch*, Fascinasian Edmonton
Sept 2025	*Cinematography Workshop*, FAVA
March 2025	*Studio Setup with Don Bouzek*, Ground Zero Productions
Feb 2025	*Film Workshop*, DOC Alberta

Volunteer Experience

2024
- *Assistant, Justice4Reel Film Festival,* Migrante Alberta x the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights (JHC)
- *Assistant, Print Affair 2024: The Longest Night,* Snap Gallery
- *Photographer & Exhibit Assistant, Joint reception: Innovative Threads Contemporary Weaving + Drawn,* Alberta Craft Gallery
- *Photojournalist/Contributing Writer,* Alberta Filipino Journal, Edmonton, AB
- *Photographer & Exhibit Installation, Cultural & Heritage Zone,* YEG Pinoy Fiesta, UP Alumni Association Edmonton x Philippine Edmonton Events and Arts Society (PHIDEAS)
- *Studio Maintenance,* Film and Video Arts Society of Alberta (FAVA)

2019
- *Lead Organizer, Building a Colorful World 2.0,* Ernst & Young & Concordia Children's Services

2018
- *Lead Organizer, Building a Colorful World,* Ernst & Young & Concordia Children's Services

2013
- *Korean Language Class Teacher,* UP Arirang, University of the Philippines
- *Cultural & Academic Affairs Committee Head,* UP Arirang, University of the Philippines

Education

Haliburton School of Art + Design, Diploma in Integrated Design & Certificate in Photo Arts

University of the Philippines, Bachelor of Arts, Linguistics

Languages

Tagalog: Native | English: Fluent | Korean: Intermediate