

# Erica Olavario

visual arts & documentary  
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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.

## Education

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|------|---|
| 2023 | Haliburton School of Art + Design, Diploma in Integrated Design & Certificate in Photo Arts |
| 2016 | University of the Philippines, Bachelor of Arts, Linguistics                                |

## Languages

Tagalog: Native | English: Fluent | Korean: Intermediate

## Areas of Interest

Filmmaking, Photography, Printmaking, Storytelling, Writing, Arts & Crafts, Language & Culture

## Selected Exhibitions

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|------|---|
| 2023 | <i>Daluyan</i> , Photo Installation (Analogue & Digital, Cyanotypes, Van Dykes, Ambrotypes), Haliburton School of Art + Design, Haliburton, ON. |
|      | <i>Ugnayan</i> , Photo & Video Installation (Analogue & Digital), Haliburton School of Art + Design, Haliburton, ON.                            |

## Selected Public Screenings

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|------|---|
| 2024 | <i>Ugnayan</i> , The Filipino Channel (TFC), iWantTFC streaming, Worldwide.                           |
| 2023 | <i>Ugnayan</i> , Screening & Artist Talk, Haliburton School of Art + Design, Haliburton, ON.          |
|      | <i>Ugnayan</i> , Nominee for Best Short Documentary, San Diego Filipino Film Festival, San Diego, CA. |
|      | <i>Ugnayan</i> , 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

- 2024 "Exploring Afrofuturism in Textile Art: AJA Louden's Prairie Star Deck Exhibition." Shot & Edited by Erica Olavario, *YouTube*, *Alberta Craft*, July 2024.

## Selected Press

- 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)
- 2016 *Cum Laude* Latin Honors (University of the Philippines)

## Professional Development

- Aug 2024 - Present     *Photo Lab Technician*, Smart Photography
- I perform precise color correction and image editing using Photoshop and Lightroom to ensure high-quality school portraits and group images.
- Jun 2024 - July 2024     *Graphic Designer & Gallery Assistant*, Alberta Craft Council
- I designed and developed digital and branding materials, such as promotional graphics and in-house photography, to enhance brand identity and engage customers.
- Sep 2016 - May 2022     *UX Designer & Web Developer*, Ernst & Young
- I lead UX/UI and visual design projects, create responsive designs, and manage website development. I oversee CMS systems for seamless web access, ensuring branding and WCAG compliance. Collaborating with UX writers, I enhance content strategies to improve user experience, while generating social media alerts for platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

## Volunteer Experience

- 2024     *Photographer & Exhibit Opening Assistant*, "Drawn" by Mckenzie Frère, Alberta Craft Council  
*Photographer*, Alberta Filipino Journal, Edmonton, AB  
*Photographer & Exhibit Installation*, Cultural & Heritage Zone, YEG Pinoy Fiesta, UP Alumni Association Edmonton  
*Studio Maintenance*, Film and Video Arts Society of Alberta
- 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