



Pacita Abad: Door to Life

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Pacita Abad: Door to Life, 1999 15 x 15 cm 115 pages, 105 color plates Text by James T. Bennett These paintings were based on a trip that Pacita took to Yemen in 1998. The trip to Yemen was a dream. In Yemen, she was overwhelmed by the beauty of the doors of houses, buildings and places of worship. She spent fascinating hours walking around alleys and streets of cities and villages, just looking at the houses and their doors. The doors come in an array of materials, colors and designs. Pacita was more partial to the steel doors than to the wooden doors, as they were painted in strong, loud, pure colors softened by the sun and the sand. She was also attracted to their design, as in many instances, the doors were covered with colorful symbols such as hearts, flowers and Islamic verses. Pacita made many sketches with pastel crayons, most of them abstract images inspired by the symbols, graffiti and images on the doors. The sketches were all done on 30 x 30 cm paper and later transferred to canvases the same size. This is why, except for the eight large works, her doors are square. The days in Yemen were a non-stop creative challenge, every day a new idea, every day a new door. Pacita was always rushing to finish one door and then she was drawn to the next door. She always wished that she had more time, always more time.



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