

Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2025

Pasyon of the Philippines

Tradierte Texte und gelebte Traditionen zur
Leidensgeschichte Jesu / History, Form, Practice

Vernissage / Opening

10. Oktober 2025, 18.00 Uhr, Haus am Dom



Empfang Vorträge Workshops Lectures Reception

Mit:

Marie Yvette L. Banzon Abalos, Generalkonsulin der
Philippinen, Grußwort / welcoming message

Hon. Senator Loren Legarda, Senator, Republic of the
Philippines, Project Advocate, Message (recorded)

Patrick Flores, Kurator, Einführung / Introduction

Dr. Corazon Alvina, Lecture on Holy Week Practices

Dr. Lisa Straßberger, Moderation

Workshops

How to read of *Pasyon*

Leaf folding (Palaspas)

überwiegend auf Englisch / mostly in English

Freier Eintritt / Free Entrance

Haus am Dom

Domplatz 3

60311 Frankfurt a.M.



Pasyon of the Philippines

Ausstellung / Exhibition

11. Oktober - 4. Dezember 2025

The *Pasyon* is rhymed religious verse which flourished in several Philippine languages since the 17th century, chanting the life, sacrifice, and death of Jesus Christ.

Curated by
and DM
exhibition will
from five
that reveal
poetics,
graphic
printing
and

As social
Pasyon begins
gradually



Patrick Flores
Reyes, the
feature pages
Pasyon texts
modes of
translation,
design,
techniques,
illustrations.

practice, the
as text,
evolving as

music, ritual, drama, and symbolic act. Away from the Church's prescribed rites, it would persist as the people's text and master narrative, the customary *pabása*, a public reading of the *Pasyon* as a musical vigil, culminating on Good Friday, as the procession of the Santo Entierro (Dead Christ) and the Virgen de la Soledad (Our Lady of Sorrows) passes by. Elegiac in tone, this centuries-old rite of sacred poetry and drama is still rehearsed by devout Filipinos today. In the 21st century, many Philippine villages, towns, and cities sing it during Holy Week. Yet this poem of the Savior's passion reached the archipelago's shores as a colonial narrative. Some 130 years from 1521, native converts would appropriate the sacred story during the 17th century, creating the *Pasyon* to assert the color of their own expression and yearnings. The first *Pasyon*, as it sprang from the poetic branch of the Tagalog language, began as a translation of a long prayer for the dying. Through the *Pasyon's* poetry, oppressed subjects would claim an affinity with battered representations of Christ in the name of freedom, leading, in 1898, to the establishment of Asia's first republic.