

Nakita Sa Makati

Reflections on Photography, Attention, and the Ordinary

By Bernie Bacosa

I recently published a photobook entitled “Nakita Sa Makati,” which contains 87 photographs I took in Makati, a selected number of which is currently being exhibited at the Yuchengco Museum in Ayala Avenue until the end of June, 2026.

While the photos were taken in Makati, they reflect realities that can also be seen across much of the metropolis outside the gated villages and beneath high-rise business districts.

Since the word “Makati” itself refers to the ebbing of the tide—and since the images reflect realities that can also be seen across other parts of Metro Manila—the English title of the book is *Seen at the Ebb*.

The photographs focus on ordinary people and everyday life, particularly people who are quietly struggling just to have enough.

My hope is that having the images in print will give viewers opportunities to pause and take in scenes we often let pass as we rush to our destinations in daily life.

At the very least, working on this book has allowed me to reflect—and I hope it also invites viewers to reflect:

How do I, like many ordinary people, stoop low enough to see clearly and be attentive to what is ordinary but is still true, good, and beautiful in my own stream of life?

A French philosopher by the name of Simone Weil once wrote: “Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity.”

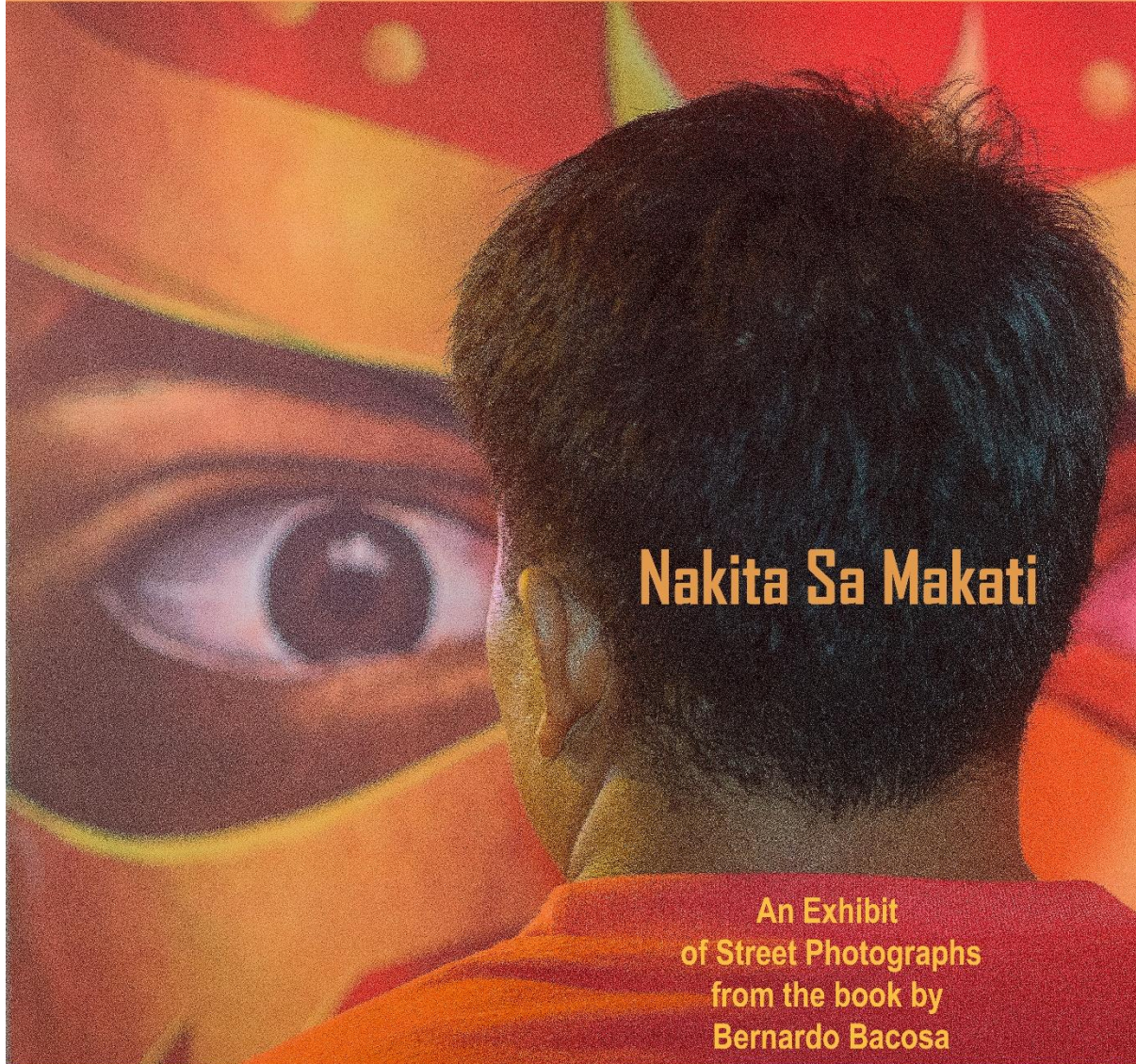
In many ways, this project has been my own attempt to practice that attention.

I do not claim to observe better than others or discern perfectly. I too struggle to see clearly. But photography has simply taught me how much I miss when I am not ready for the moment or when I move through it too quickly. Along the way, I have come to realize that many relationships and communities weaken not because people hate one another, but because busyness, distraction, routine, and the demands of everyday life gradually make us inattentive to one another —unable at times to slow down, stoop low, and truly see.

Finishing this work has helped me pay closer attention—to people, to Brods, to life, and to the simple realities and blessings already around me.

And if those who view the photographs become a little more attentive, grounded, humble or compassionate, that is enough.

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**An Exhibit
of Street Photographs
from the book by
Bernardo Bacosa**

for details scan



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