

smile

FOR CEBU PACIFIC

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days in Kuala Lumpur **p52**

JUNE 2026

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Gear up

Shopping finds for savvy travelers

#LoveLocal #CreativeFinds

Handmade haul

These homegrown brands proudly champion Filipino culture and craftsmanship through pieces that exude creative flair

● Text by Sunshine Selga Puna

BAO BEADS

Founder: **Ailinn Ang**

 **baobeadsph**

Intricate beadwork and eye-catching designs rooted in daily life instantly make Bao Beads bags stand out. Each piece, whether it's a pouch or a shoulder bag, is meticulously handmade by local artisans. "It's about taking something familiar and turning it into something you can wear and carry with you," says Ailinn. The Tindahan Bag, for example, depicts the sari-sari store and its colorful assortment of merchandise.

Bao Beads bags are made from excess or recycled beads. What used to be a surplus problem turned out to have a creative solution. "Over time, it became part of how we design - working with what we have, making things in small batches and focusing more on thoughtful pieces rather than mass production," Ailinn adds.



Bituin Bag, P8,900,
available at *Spatio*
in *Opus Mall*



Tindahan Bag, P9,500, available
at *Spatio* in *Opus Mall*



Bulalo Pouch, P3,000, available
at *Spatio* in *Opus Mall*



Brethren Trainer in Red,
P4,490



Brethren Trainer in Carbon,
P4,490



**Brethren
Trainer in Cream,**
P4,490

BRETHREN HERITAGE

Founders: **Paolo and Patrick Lansangan**

 **brethrenheritage**

Brethren Heritage is the product of an idea shared between brothers Paolo and Patrick, hence the brand name. Both favor timeless pieces, so it came naturally for the siblings to focus on classic trainers reworked with modern sensibilities. The result? Comfortable, versatile footwear.

Brethren shoes are made from locally sourced leather and suede and are crafted by Marikina shoemakers. Keeping every aspect of the production local is a deliberate decision, connecting the brand to the artisans that assemble each pair. It's also a way to support the Marikina shoemaking industry.

TROPIK BEATNIK

Founder: **Carla Cruz-Bellare**
@ [tropikbeatnik](#)

Carla's love for color is at the heart of Tropik Beatnik, along with her desire to inspire others to celebrate the beauty of ordinary things like indigenous blooms and local snacks. Each vibrant accessory evokes a "sense of play, care and connection".

The founder takes pride in the intentional work that goes into Tropik Beatnik items, which are all handcrafted by moms from a Gawad Kalinga community. This partnership highlights the artistry of every maker who creates each piece.



Prutas Fiesta
Necklace, P2,200



Kakanin Necklace, P2,200



Santan Necklace, P1,650



Baliw Keyboard Rest, P3,000



Rafflesia Coasters, P795 each



Soleil's Girl Wall Hanging, P9,500

PROFANITY

Founder: **Asha Angeles**
@ [profanity.ph](#)

Make a statement – quite literally – with Profanity's irreverent, hand-tufted creations. Swear words on area rugs are rendered in elegant typography and colorful yarns, while private parts are transformed into abstract-looking coasters. "Pairing profane, absurd phrases with a soft, unassuming art style reflected something deeper," says Asha. "It reminded me of real life, where things aren't always what they seem."

If colloquial expletives are not your cup of tea, Profanity also has more restrained designs in dainty floral patterns or bold pop art.

Asha also collaborates with other local artists for limited-edition pieces.

ROMMEL CAHILO

Founder: **Rommel Cahilo**
@ [rcdraws](#)

Rommel's brand of art is all about familiar scenes that Pinoys can easily recognize, like MRT and LRT trains, neighborhood hardware stores and bowls of sinigang and pinakbet. All these are drawn with painstaking attention to detail. Rommel, a visual artist represented by Space Encounters Gallery, gets inspiration from "the desire to preserve a collection of memories, fleeting moments and everyday observations". These are translated into something tangible, like key chains and postcards.



A6 & A5 Art Prints,
from P100 to P200 each



Key Chains, P200 to P250 each



Stickers, P40 each or P100 for 3 pieces