## **PIT**STOP















## **Artistic Expression and 'Spirits' Collide**

Explore your creativity while having a drink or two at this unique art studio in Quezon City

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Everyone starts with a blank canvas. For a first timer with no previous painting or sketching experience, one might easily feel intimidated. The session doesn't just include painting. Each one sketches their own work as well. It is definitely not a Paint by Numbers kit as some people might think. Not to worry though, painting instructors and in-house artists, who are fine arts graduates from top universities, are there to assist.

Sip & Gogh is the first paint and sip studio in the country. Located in Capitol Hills in Quezon City, away from the hustle and bustle of city life, it is just the right setting to put you in a relaxed mood. Christopher Cruz, one of the owners shared, "The idea actually came from one of the partners who attended a similar painting session in California in the US. While having a drink last year, he brought up the idea and said it was something he was thinking about."

The idea soon became a reality, and Sip & Gogh was born. It is a unique concept. It is a studio and bar. It's a place for artists and non-artists alike. All you need is an interest or a desire to try your hand at painting. With the studio's mantra, "No painting skills required," everyone is welcome to participate. As many as 40 guests can be accommodated per session.

You can choose from several artworks to serve as your guide. As you pick up the pencil to start drawing your chosen piece, still unsure of yourself, you might worry about making a mistake. Relax. If you do make a mistake, simply erase the drawing and start again. After completing your sketch, the instructors will then fill your palette with different colors of acrylic paint. The painting part begins and the picture starts coming alive.

Midway through the session, drinks and snacks are served. By this time, you have gotten the hang of it. You loosen up and actually enjoy the process. This is also a great opportunity to chat with your fellow artists-in-the-making.

At the end of three hours, everybody gets to go home with their masterpieces. You can proudly show everyone your artwork and say "I did this!" Indeed, after just one painting session at Sip & Gogh.

As Vincent Van Gogh, the artist who inspired the place, would say, "If you hear a voice within you say 'you cannot paint,' then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced."

Sip & Gogh is located at 1 Capitol Hills Drive, Quezon City. Visit http://www. sipandgogh.com