

2017

MANILA
FAME

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SHOWS

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THE LAST OF THE
MAMBABATOK

For many generations, the people of Buscalan, Kalinga held onto their prized art of traditional tattooing or *"pagbabatok"*. Their tattoos were a symbol of pride earned by betrothed women and men for their valor and strength, their skins a living canvas embellished with the cultural heritage of their tribe.

Considered as a dying art in the turn of the century, the *"pagbabatok"* now rests on the shoulders of Whang-Od Oggay, the last "mambabatok" of her generation in Kalinga and the Philippines' oldest tattoo artist, and her successors, Grace Palicas and Ilyang Wigan.

The unsung heroes of our generation, the *"mambabatoks"* will join the best craftsmen in the country in the 66th edition of Manila FAME to show the world the Philippine culture as it continues to move forward without forgetting its past.