

## Decolonial Minimalism Art Movement Historical Record

**Founder:** IJWBAA (Paul “Pao” Hafalla)

**Date of Origination** (first public appearance): January 20, 2025, through social media posts on [Instagram](#), [FB](#), [Twitter X](#), and a virtual exhibition on [OncyberIQ](#)

— The term Decolonial Minimalism was first conceived and rigorously cultivated by IJWBAA beginning in August 2022, laying over two years of sustained philosophical, aesthetic, and cultural groundwork prior to its formal declaration. In February 2024, [the movement was given its definitive name](#).

**Location of Origination:** Philippines / Online ([Wannabe Labs](#))

**Movement Type:** Contemporary Visual Art / Critical Minimalism

**Core Focus:** Postcolonial identity, Filipino cultural narratives, minimalistic aesthetics with decolonial intent

**Primary Mediums:** Digital illustration, new media, VR-based installation

**Secondary Mediums:** Painting, sculpture, printmaking, mixed media, physical installation, textile works, performance, conceptual objects, sound art, video art, augmented reality

### Manifesto and Conceptual Foundation

#### Published Manifesto:

Hafalla, P. (2025). *Decolonial Minimalism* [Online Manifesto]. Retrieved from [Wannabe Labs](#)

#### Provenance Statement

A full provenance statement establishing authorship, ethical framework, and usage guidelines for Decolonial Minimalism is available at: ([IJWBAA, “Provenance Statement for Decolonial Minimalism.” July 4, 2025](#))

#### Linguistic Documentation:

Decolonial Minimalism. *Urban Dictionary*, 15 June 2025. <https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=decolonial%20minimalism>.

Decolonial Minimalist. *Urban Dictionary*, 16 June 2025. <https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=decolonial%20minimalist>.

IJWBAA. *Urban Dictionary*. 16 June 2025. <https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=IJWBAA>.

IJWBAA. *Abbreviations.com*. STANDS4 LLC, 2025. Web. 16 June 2025. <https://www.abbreviations.com/IJWBAA>.

Decolonial Minimalism. *Collins English Dictionary, HarperCollins Publisher*. 15 June 2025. <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/submission/979421/decolonial+minimalism>.

Decolonial Minimalist. *Collins English Dictionary, HarperCollins Publisher*. 20 June 2025. <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/submission/991994/decolonial+minimalist>.

IJWBAA. *Collins English Dictionary, HarperCollins Publisher*. 4 July 2025. <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/submission/1082339/IJWBAA>

Decolonial Minimalism. *Definitions.net*. STANDS4 LLC, 2025. Web. 28 June 2025. <https://www.definitions.net/definition/decolonial+minimalism>.

Decolonial Minimalist. *Definitions.net*. STANDS4 LLC, 2025. Web. 28 June 2025. <https://www.definitions.net/definition/decolonial+minimalist>.

IJWBAA. *Definitions.net*. STANDS4 LLC, 2025. Web. 4 Jul 2025. <https://www.definitions.net/definition/ijwbaa>.

#### Lexicographical Traceability

IJWBAA. “Proposal: ‘decolonial minimalism’ as a Neologism with Philosophical/Artistic Usage.” Wiktionary Tea Room, 6 July 2025, [https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Wiktionary:Tea\\_room/2025/July?markasread=37460816&markasreadwiki=enwiktionary#c-Lambiam-20250705143200-IJWBAA-20250705063800](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Wiktionary:Tea_room/2025/July?markasread=37460816&markasreadwiki=enwiktionary#c-Lambiam-20250705143200-IJWBAA-20250705063800)

#### Theoretical Journals & Critical Framework:

Hafalla, P. (2025). *Becoming Decolonial: The Living Journal of IJWBAA*, Issues [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#).

*Becoming Decolonial* functions as an evolving intellectual space, critically engaging with fragmented memory, resistance, and the aesthetics of decolonization. It provides theoretical depth to *Decolonial Minimalism* and documents its artistic and cultural interventions.

### Historical Influences & Antecedents

While firmly situated within contemporary visual art, *Decolonial Minimalism* engages with several key movements that inform its aesthetic and ideological foundation:

**Minimalism (1960s–present)** – The movement’s rejection of excess and focus on essential form parallels artists like Donald Judd and Agnes Martin. However, *Decolonial Minimalism* subverts traditional minimalism by embedding postcolonial critique within its stripped-down forms.

**Postcolonial Art & Theory** – The works of Frantz Fanon, Edward Said, and Filipino scholars in cultural studies provide a critical lens for reinterpreting minimalist aesthetics as a tool for reclaiming lost histories.

**Indigenous & Filipino Visual Traditions** – The movement draws from pre-colonial iconographies and indigenous artistic philosophies, recontextualizing traditional symbols through new media and VR installations.

### Founding Works & Exhibitions

#### Founding Works:

Hafalla, P. (2025). *Founding Works of Decolonial Minimalism*. Retrieved from [Wannabe Labs](#)

#### Pre-Movement Works (Early Artistic Explorations)

- IJWBAA’s [Catalogue Raisonné](#): *Documenting the Evolution of Decolonial Minimalism* (August 2022–Present)
- Hafalla, P. (2023, 2024). *I Just Wannabe an Artist* (Books 1 & 2).  
These books document Hafalla’s initial exploration of minimalist aesthetics and Filipino cultural narratives, serving as early creative foundations for *Decolonial Minimalism*.

#### Recognitions

Since their publication in 2023 and 2024, *I Just Wannabe an Artist* (Books 1 & 2) have been officially archived and cataloged by prestigious institutions worldwide, including the **Getty Research Institute**, **Library of Congress**, **British Library**, **Bibliotheca Alexandrina**, **National Library Board (Singapore)**, **National Library of the Philippines**, and **Asia Art Archive (Hong Kong)**. Their recognition extends to major museums such as the **Cultural Center of the Philippines**, **National Museum of the Philippines**, **Uffizi Gallery (Italy)**, **Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia (Spain)**, **Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal (Canada)**, and **Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo (Japan)**. Furthermore, leading academic institutions—including the **Royal College of Art (UK)**, **Tokyo University of the Arts (Japan)**, and **University of the Philippines, Diliman**—have acknowledged their contributions to contemporary art and postcolonial discourse.

#### Exhibitions of Founding Works:

[Filipino Deities](#) VR Exhibit, OncyberIO, June 1-31, 2025

[What Makes a Filipino](#), VR Exhibit, OncyberIO, April 1-30, 2025

[Filipino Folklore](#), VR Exhibit, OncyberIO, January 2025

*The Wrong Biennale – 7th Edition*, [Open Pavilion \(Linkedin\)](#), Spain, Nov 1, 2025 – Mar 31, 2026

#### Interview Featuring Founding Works:

[Collect Artwork Org](#) - *Men Art (Special Edition)*, Vol 61, Tbilisi Georgia, March 13, 2025

#### Publication Featuring Founding Works:

The Global Filipino Magazine UAE - [Filipino Artist IJWBAA Redefines Minimalism with a Decolonial Lens](#), May 27, 2025

Digital Arts Blog NY USA - [Quiet Power: How I Elevate Filipino Art Through Decolonial Minimalism](#), May 26, 2025

[Artells Magazine](#) (digital and print) - *Fine Art and Visual Arts*, Vol 3194, New York USA, May 14, 2025

[6x Media](#) (digital and print) - *Fine Arts*, Vol 119, pages 54–56, New York USA, May 1, 2025

365 Art+ Magazine ([Digital](#) and [Print](#)) - *Case 76*, Tokyo Japan, March 15, 2025

Collect Artwork Org ([print](#)) - [Men Art \(Special Edition\)](#), Pg 65–68, Tbilisi Georgia, March 3–20, 2025

## Theoretical Expansion & Formal Artistic Principles

### Key Papers:

- Hafalla, P. (2025). *Decolonial Minimalism in Art: Reclaiming Space, Silence, and Memory*. [Academia.edu](#), May 23, 2025 and [Zenodo](#), Aug 4, 2025.
- Hafalla, P. (2025). *Manifesto of Decolonial Minimalism*. [Academia.edu](#), June 22, 2025 and [Zenodo](#), Aug 4, 2025
- IJWBAA. *Decolonial Minimalism in Art*. [Anticolonial Research Library Org](#), June 20, 2025.
- Hafalla, P. (2025). *Provenance Statement of Decolonial Minimalism*. [Academia.edu](#) and [Zenodo](#), Aug 4, 2025.
- Hafalla, P. (2025). *Decolonial Minimalism: A Historical and Theoretical Record of an Ethics-Driven Art Movement*. [Academia.edu](#) and [Zenodo](#), Aug 4, 2025.

### Core Visual & Artistic Principles:

Negative Space as Postcolonial Disruption – Silence, voids, and absences act as spaces of reclamation, reworking traditional minimalist aesthetics.

Fragmented Memory as Resistance – The movement embraces abstraction and disruption to challenge colonial narratives and reassert Filipino identity.

Digital Expansion – VR, digital illustration, and algorithmic art serve as contemporary vehicles for reimagining decolonial aesthetics.

Indigenous Motifs Recontextualized – By integrating pre-colonial visual elements into minimalist structures, *Decolonial Minimalism* disrupts historical erasure.

## Audience & Engagement

### Early Reception & Global Engagement:

The movement has begun gaining traction across artistic and scholarly circles, receiving early documentation and exhibition across three continents: Asia, Europe, and North America.

*Filipino Mythology*, [Art Future Club](#) Hong Kong, Instagram, Jan 25, 2025 – expanding movement themes in international spaces.

Critical discussions emerging across academia, curatorial practices, and digital art platforms.

## Digital Presence & Documentation

### Official Platforms:

Website: [Wannabe Labs](#) – Primary archive for the movement’s manifesto, founding works, exhibitions, and publications.

Social Media Presence:

[Instagram](#): [@IJWBAA] – Showcasing artworks, exhibition highlights, and ongoing discourse.

[Facebook](#): [@IJWBAA] – Archiving works, engaging with community discussions, and sharing movement developments.

[Twitter/X](#): [@IJWBAA] – Engaging with scholars, curators, and artists in postcolonial and minimalist discourse.

[LinkedIn](#): [@IJWBAA] – Professional documentation, collaborations, and international recognition.

### Archived Website Capture:

Hafalla, Paul. Wannabe Labs: Decolonial Minimalism. Internet Archive, archived 2025, <https://web.archive.org/web/202500000000000/wannabelabs.com>. Accessed 22 June 2025.

### Notable Social Media Contributions:

Documenting major exhibits, interviews, and theoretical developments.

Conversations expanding the movement’s reach and impact.

### YouTube Documentation

Hafalla, Paul. Decolonial Minimalism: Redefining Art with IJWBAA. YouTube, uploaded by IJWBAA, 14 Aug. 2025, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4RTZ976EpM>.

### Future Research & Trajectory

- *Decolonial Minimalism* stands at a compelling crossroads of digital curatorial practices, Filipino cultural resurgence, and anti-colonial theory. Future research may explore:
- Institutional collaborations with museums, universities, and interdisciplinary scholars.
- Expansion into NFT-based platforms and emerging digital art ecosystems.
- Deeper engagement with indigenous archives and visual historiography.
- **Copyright officially registered with IPOPHL as of May 27, 2025**

### Decolonial Minimalism Protection Clause

IJWBAA's practice of *decolonial minimalism* represents a distinctive artistic and intellectual framework aimed at critically reinterpreting aesthetic hierarchies through postcolonial methodologies. As such, all references to decolonial minimalism within the *Catalogue Raisonné*—including artworks, annotations, research materials, and intellectual discourse—are protected under the following terms:

1. **Intellectual and Cultural Ownership**

The concept, terminology, and artistic works related to decolonial minimalism are the intellectual property of IJWBAA. Any unauthorized use, adaptation, or representation—whether in written, visual, or digital form—without explicit written consent from IJWBAA is strictly prohibited.

2. **Usage Restrictions**

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3. **Cultural Integrity and Ethical Representation**

Any engagement with decolonial minimalism must uphold the ethical principles of anti-colonial discourse and respect its intended conceptual framework. Misrepresentation, dilution, or distortion of its meaning is not permitted.

4. **Copyright and Legal Enforcement**

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