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Exhibition #9

New Art from
Bali & Bandung

23 April - 21 May 2022

Curated by Mila Feng

Media Release

Seni Baru: New Art from Bali & Bandung

***Seni Baru* is a curated exhibition featuring new artworks by some of Indonesia's most interesting artists under 40 working in the vibrant contemporary art centres of Bali and Bandung.**

When people think of contemporary Indonesian art, the location that comes to mind is Yogyakarta. Home to the leading art school Institut Seni Indonesia (ISI), Jogja is famous as 'a city of artists'. Young people from around Indonesia interested in pursuing a career as artists often find their way to Jogja. In our Indonesian exhibitions to date, 16albermarle has featured predominantly artists from Jogja.

But Indonesia has other equally fascinating art scenes. Bandung for example, a large city east of Jakarta, is home to the other major art school Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB) and many of its graduates. ITB started in the mid 1950s with an interest in new and conceptual ideas, as opposed to ISI in Jogja, which had a focus on Indonesian art and culture. For decades the two schools competed, and their different philosophies could be seen in their graduates' work.

This exhibition features three artists each from Bandung and Bali. From Bandung, gallerist and sculptor/painter Maharani Mancanagara presents one of her most powerful works, *Unjustified Justify: amicus curiae*. First exhibited in Art Bali 2019, the assemblage of painted wooden sculptures acts as a powerful indictment of the collective amnesia of the 1965-1966 genocide in Indonesia. Mancanagara solidifies the crucial necessity of a collective, public memory of crimes against humanity.

One of the most interesting young video artists in Indonesia, Eldwin Pradipta debuted as a finalist in the Young Artist Award in ArtJog 2013. With his engaging, interactive video works, Eldwin showcases his versatility as a contemporary artist.

Meicy Sitorus, who has a long commitment to uncovering truths behind her culture's history, presents photographs recording personal experiences during Covid-19, from her ongoing series *The Painter*. Themes including time, memory and history are explored in photographs capturing the desolate urban cityscape where people are replaced with empty phrases and texts as the city streets become a 'vacuumed space'.

As a small island, Bali has a very different feel to Java, perhaps because it is a predominantly Hindu culture as opposed to the heavily Muslim presence in the rest of Indonesia. From Bali, the exhibition features husband and wife, Agugn Prabowo and Sekarputi 'Puti' Sidhiawati. After study in Bandung, they relocated to Bali to take up opportunities to expand their practice. They contribute innovative print-making and ceramics respectively to the local mix.

Agugn incorporates printmaking techniques and psychedelic visuals to create dynamic narratives regarding the human psyche within a complex web of environments whilst Puti, inspired by the female form and identity, aims to tell stories of women's "magic beauty and sins". Having previously exhibited at 16albermarle, Puti brings forth a new suite of wall mounted assemblages and ceramic vessels.

Finally, Citra Sasmita focuses on unravelling myths and misconceptions of Balinese art and culture. Avowedly feminist, her works use an exploration of the foundational myths of Balinese society and culture to question gender constructs as well as a woman's place within the social hierarchy.

Although access to new artworks from Indonesia has proven challenging during the Covid-19 pandemic, 16albermarle has collected a range of works from artists who have been associated with the gallery in past years. Some are key works which have not been available until now, and some are newly made for the exhibition.

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Bali



Agugn Prabowo
Human Supremacy II 2020
linocut reproduction on
handmade paper
119 x 77 cm
ed. 2 of 3

Agugn Prabowo

Agugn Prabowo aka Agugn was born in Bandung in 1985 and graduated with a Graphic Art major from the Faculty of Art and Design, ITB. He has explored various printmaking techniques, mostly linocut, and has also worked to push the boundaries between printmaking and installation. Fear, nature and shamanistic cultures have driven him to make art with anthropomorphic and psychoanalytic perspectives.

He held his first solo exhibition, *Natural Mystic*, in Bentara Budaya Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Solo and Bali, as part of his first prize for the Triennial Seni Grafis Indonesia 4 in 2012. His next solo show was in 2015 at Jogja Contemporary, titled *Unguarded guards* and in 2016, *AGUGN: Printing Live in the Cosmos* at Vinyl on Vinyl, Manila. His latest solo show, *Molasses*, was at Mizuma Gallery, Singapore in 2017. He has been in many group exhibitions internationally, including *Termasuk: Contemporary art from Indonesia* at Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney in 2019, *Multi-layered - New Print 2018/Summer* at the International Print Centre, New York in 2018, and *Java-Art Energy* at Institut des Cultures Islam, Paris in 2018, where he showed an installation that had been previously displayed in 2017 in *Re Emergence* at Selasar Sunaryo Artspace, Bandung.



Citra Sasmita
Rite of Passage 2022
acrylic on Kamasan
traditional canvas
57 x 40.5 cm

Citra Sasmita

Citra Sasmita is a contemporary artist from Bali whose work focuses on unravelling myths and misconceptions of Balinese art and culture. She is also deeply invested in questioning a woman's place in the social hierarchy and seeks to upend normative constructs of gender.

Born in Bali in 1990, Citra has never formally graduated from an art institution. She studied for a Literature diploma at Udayana University (2008) and at the Faculty of Mathematics and Sciences, Ganesha University of Education, majoring in Physics Education (2009).

One of her long term projects, *Timur Merah Project; Harbour of Restless Spirits*, represents a geography of female figures, fires and various natural elements, composed whimsically in an unfolding of pansexual energy. While rooted in mythological thinking with specific Hindu and Balinese references, the scenes are equally part of the contemporary process of imagining a secular and empowered mythology for a post-patriarchal future.

Citra was a Gold Award Winner UOB Painting of The Year 2017. She was included in Biennale Yogyakarta 2019 and her solo exhibition *Ode To The Sun* ran at Yeo Workshop, Singapore in 2020.

Bandung



Left:
Eldwin Pradipta
Who Watches the Watchers #2 (still) 2020
3.5-inch LCD screen, camera, acrylic
ed. of 4 +1 AP
15 x 20 x 6 cm

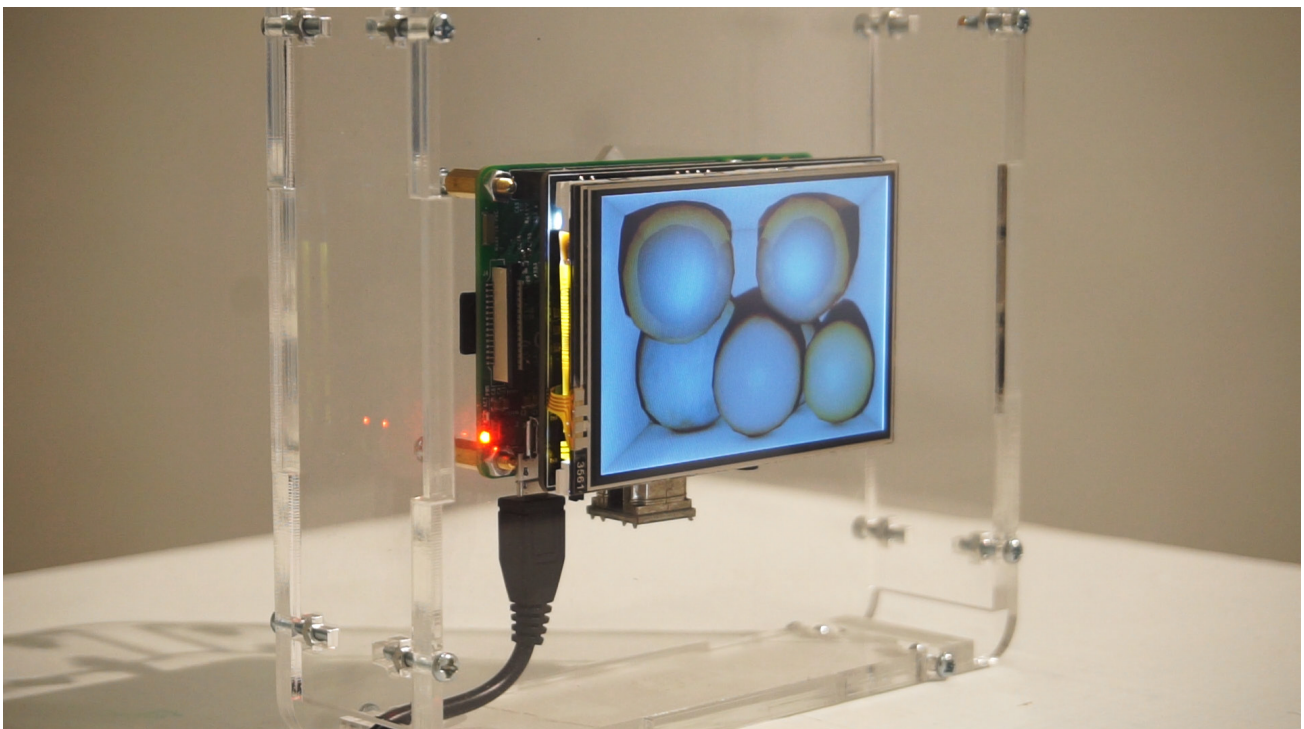
Below:
Eldwin Pradipta
It Fits, Therefore I Sit (still) 2020
3 x 3.5-inch LCD screens, single channel
video, acrylic
15 x 15 x 4.5 cm

Eldwin Pradipta

Born in Jakarta in 1990, Eldwin Pradipta is a multimedia artist who works mostly in Bandung. He completed his bachelor degree from the Faculty of Visual Art and Design, ITB, majoring in Inter-media Studio, in 2013. His works explore video and digital projection as a medium, and the interesting position of new media between high and low art.

His work focuses on populist or low art in Indonesia, dichotomized with the objects and praxis of high art, to put forward a disjuncture that ruptures the order of the daily life in Indonesia as a third world country.

Most recently, Eldwin has explored the rules and systems that govern the contemporary art world. With satirical language he critiques several limitations that face the contemporary artist and their audience. In 2022, Eldwin will participate in the 3rd Jakarta Contemporary Ceramic Biennale, hoping to bring a dynamic potential to the exhibition space—dominated by ceramic works—with his aptitude in using digital-media. His works are represented in Tumurun Private Museum, Surakarta, and the Project Eleven Collection, Melbourne.



Maharani Mancanagara

Maharani Mancanagara, born in Padang, West Sumatra in 1990, is an Indonesian artist who lives and works in Bandung. She graduated from Institut Teknologi Bandung, Faculty of Art and Design, in 2013, majoring in Printmaking Studio. She works primarily in the mediums of printmaking, mixed media and drawing.

Maharani has participated in a number of group exhibitions presenting emerging Indonesian artists. In 2013 she received the Soemardja Award #3 from Soemardja Gallery, and was nominated for Indonesia Art Award 2013 and 2015. In 2014, she was nominated for the Young Artist Award from Art Show Busan, South Korea. In 2015, she was nominated for Bandung Contemporary Art Award #4.

Her works explore Indonesia's history from ancient times to the present, based on her personal and family experiences. Drawing on her personal background, Maharani developed her interest in visualising the long history of education in Indonesia – partly derived from artefacts and documents she found in her late grandfather's possessions. Her grandfather was imprisoned on Baru Island from 1965 - 1978 as part of the government's crackdown on left-wing political groups and sympathisers. Based on this perspective, Maharani aims to express these objects and events in works of art, identifying herself with them - which she hopes could provide recognition for a larger sphere of people with similar experiences.



Above:
Maharani Mancanagara
Unjustified Justify: amicus curiae #1 (detail) 2019
charcoal on shaped wood
150 x 700 x 15 cm (configuration)

Below:
Maharani Mancanagara
Unjustified Justify: amicus curiae #1 2019
charcoal on shaped wood
150 x 700 x 15 cm (configuration)





Meicy Sitorius
Jurang 2020
inkjet print on Galerie Smooth Pearl paper
90 x 90 cm

Meicy Sitorus

Born in 1984, Meicy Sitorus graduated in Industrial Design in the Arts and Design Faculty, ITB. She has a consuming interest in photography, is involved in photography workshops and has staged several photography exhibitions.

Her photographs focus on personal matters, usually associated with memory, time and history. For Meicy, photography is not just a medium of work and a documentation tool; it is one of the ways to establish communication with her surroundings. It is also a tool to help her in researching and simple mapping to support the process, which is influenced by her background in design.

Meicy is currently working as a freelance photographer and a graphic designer. In 2013, she founded a duo called 'Tetangga Pak Gesang' with Arum Tresnaningtyas Dayuputri and has been actively performing around Indonesia ever since, as a sideline project alongside her main passion, photography.

Exhibition Personnel

Mila Feng (Curator)

Born in Shenzhen (1999), Mila Feng is an emerging contemporary artist from New Zealand who is now working on the traditional land of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, Sydney. As a recent graduate from Sydney College of The Arts (SCA), Mila continues her practice as both a sculptor and video artist. With an aim to create multidimensional works that engage with a wide range of audiences, she dissects complex theories within culture and philosophy. In her visual art practice, she explores ideas of human intimacy and impermanence. Although primarily trained as an artist, Mila is also extremely passionate about gallery spaces and is working as a curator at 16albermarle Project Space, with a focus on Southeast Asian Art.

16albermarle Project Space

16albermarle is a Project Space in inner-city Sydney founded to present new art from southeast Asia to Australian audiences. Director John Cruthers has travelled widely in the region learning about contemporary art.. His first exhibition *Termasuk: Contemporary art from Indonesia*, featured 12 artists and ran successfully at Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney in early 2019. Since opening in October 2019, 16albermarle has presented six exhibitions of new contemporary art from countries including Indonesia, Thailand and Myanmar, and two exhibitions of Australian art.



Artists

Top row (from left to right): Citra Sasmita, Eldwin Pradipta, Meicy Sitorus

Bottom row (from left to right): Agugn Prabowo, Sekarputri 'Puti' Sidhiawati, Maharani Mancanagara



Exhibition #9

Seni Baru New Art from Bali & Bandung

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Acknowledgements

Curator	Mila Feng
Installation	Mary-Anne Cornford
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Printing	DarkStar Digital

16albermarle acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the traditional owners of the land on which we work. We pay our respects to elders, past, present and emerging, and acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

16albermarle
project space

16 Albermarle Street
Newtown NSW 2042 Australia
Thu - Sat, 11am - 5pm, or by appointment
16albermarle.com

Maharani Mancanagara
Unjustified Justify: amicus curiae #1 (detail) 2019
charcoal on shaped wood
150 x 700 x 15 cm (configuration)