

MEDIA KIT

16albermarle Project Space



GHOSTS FROM THE PAST

Ipeh Nur & Enka Komariah

15 April - 20 May 2023

Media Release

***Ghosts from the Past* brings to Australian audiences a body of work by Yogyakarta artist couple Enka Komariah and Ipeh Nur that engages head-on with many of the contested historical narratives and collective memories of Indonesia since independence. The artists suggest that not until these issues are faced up to and discussed will the Indonesian nation and people be able to move forward.**

16albermarle is pleased to present *Ghosts from the Past*, the first collaborative exhibition by Enka Komariah (b 1993) and Ipeh Nur (b 1993) in Sydney. On this occasion, the Yogyakarta-based artists will exhibit artworks rooted in research-based projects concerned with historical narratives and memories.

The exhibition at 16albermarle is anchored by *Rumah Yang Yahud (A Cool House) 2022*, a collaborative installation comprising 19 drawings, paintings and objects measuring approximately 400 x 300 cm. The installation was inspired by the lyrics of the band Naif in their song of the same name -

*Yours is mine
All belong together
There is no secret that is never revealed
Build a cool house
Where can we be together
No-one can sneak inside*

The work includes reproductions of images from historical events in Indonesia using painting and drawing techniques, and building scaffolding arranged as a symbolic depiction of a coveted 'house'. *Rumah Yang Yahud*, translated as *A Cool House*, portrays the process of rethinking and rebuilding Indonesia as a national identity, in the context of the post-Pacific War and the country's independence from 1945 onwards. Furthermore, the artists explore the persistence of violent histories over this period through speculative narratives, as responses to their absence in the official historiography.

In other works in the exhibition, Ipeh Nur presents a selection of works based on her observation of the life of the Pambusuang Mandar coastal community in West Sulawesi, along with her involvement in the boat-building ritual in Tana Beru, South Sulawesi. The artist will exhibit two large mixed media paintings, *Manuskrip Perjalanan 2022* and *Keluar untuk Ke Dalam 2022*, in addition to *Menghanyut: Tubuh dan Perjalanan 2022*, a 22 minute video work she made in collaboration with Tajriani Thalib. These works developed from her travel notes, body memories, reflections and other insights during the observations. Moreover, her involvement in boat-building rituals fostered an oddly strong bond between her and the sea. In Sulawesi, Ipeh Nur saw the way of life of coastal communities, their rites and oral traditions as the basis for conceptualizing her works.

In the Australian context, the exhibition will inform the Australian public how a younger generation of Indonesian artists articulates their perspectives on the path of their country's history. The linking of speculative history with artistic research has not only contributed to the current debates on contemporary artistic practices and their possibilities, but it can also be an alternate way of looking at the past in our complex present.

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Ipeh Nur & Enka Komariah
Rumah Yang Yahud (A Cool House) 2022
installation view at ArtJog 2022

Cover: *Monumen Pembebasan (Freedom Monument) 2022*
oil on paper, 107 x 79 cm

Artists' Profile



Left - Enka Komariah | Right - Ipeh Nur
(Image courtesy of the artists)

ENKA KOMARIAH

Born in Klaten in 1993, Enka graduated from the Department of Graphic Arts at the Indonesian Institute of the Arts of Yogyakarta in 2017. His work stands out for its imaginative narratives and the use of a variety of mediums, with a preference for drawing on paper. Enka often incorporates satirical and ironic symbols into his art, blurring the lines between societal taboos and norms. He also explores his personal identity by drawing from the agrarian traditions of Java Nan and contrasting them with popular cultural images.

Enka is a member of several art collectives, including Barasub (comics), Gegerboyo (murals), and Beresyit (illustrations). He has exhibited widely in Indonesia, winning the Young Artist Award at Art Jog in 2019. He participated in the exhibition *Indonesia Calling 2020* at 16albermarle in Sydney. With the collective Gegerboyo, Enka's work was featured in the 2022 Setouchi Triennale in Japan. Also in 2022 his collaborative work with Ipeh Nur, *Rumah Yang Yahud (A Cool House)*, was presented at Art Jog 2022.

IPEH NUR

Born in Yogyakarta in 1993, Ipeh graduated from the Department of Graphic Arts at the Indonesian Institute of the Arts in Yogyakarta, where she currently lives and works. Her art draws inspiration from personal experiences, everyday struggles, memories and historical events. Ipeh enjoys creating dramatic visuals that evoke the feeling of being on stage, featuring several plots or narratives within a single image. While most of her practice comprises black and white drawings on paper, she also experiments with other mediums and techniques such as batik, ceramics, screen printing, etching, sculpture, resin relief and mural painting.

Ipeh has exhibited extensively in Indonesia, Australia and the region. In 2018, her work was featured in the exhibition *Women, Art & Politics* at FCAC Roslyn Smorgon Gallery in Melbourne. In 2019 she did a residency at Kelana Laut, Pambusuang, Mandar, West Sulawesi and Tana Beru, South Sulawesi, through Biennale Jogja XV residency program. In 2021 she had a joint solo exhibition *Dhomala Dhawu / Macassan Sail Story* at The Cross Art Projects in Sydney, and at 16albermarle she has been included in the exhibitions *Indonesia Calling 2020* and *Our Grandfather Road: The (gendered) body and place in southeast Asian art*. Ipeh's collaborative work with her partner Enka Komariah, *Rumah Yang Yahud (A Cool House)*, was presented at Art Jog 2022 in Yogyakarta.

Selected Works

Ipeh Nur & Enka Komariah
Rumah Yang Yahud (A Cool House) 2022



Rumah Yang Yahud (A Cool House) 2022
installation view at ArtJog 2022



Selamat Datang (Welcome) 2022
oil on paper, 152 x 56 cm



Tahanan Politik (Political Prisoners) 2022
oil on paper, 79 x 107 cm



Eksil (Exile) 2022
oil on paper, 107 x 79 cm



Djiwa Baroe (New Soul) 2022
oil, cloves extract, charcoal, rock powder on canvas, 160 x 400 cm



Image: Ipeh Nur, artist works on *Naskah: Perjalanan (The Journey)* 2022

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Installation

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