

MEDIA KIT

John Cruthers and Indo Art Link in association with
Darren Knight Gallery present

Termasuk: Contemporary art from Indonesia

19 January - 16 February 2019

Darren Knight Gallery

840 Elizabeth Street Waterloo NSW 2017



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MEDIA RELEASE

Termasuk: Contemporary art from Indonesia will showcase recent work by artists based in Indonesia, one of the world's most vibrant contemporary art scenes.

Sydney, Australia: Including work by 12 younger and mid-career artists, six women and six men, *Termasuk* presents recent contemporary art from Indonesia to Australian audiences. Reflecting the Indonesian art scene, the exhibition will include works in a diverse range of media – painting, works on paper, prints, textiles, embroidery, ceramics and sculpture.

Home to 265 million people, Indonesia is the world's 4th most populous country and one of our region's few successful democracies. It is currently the world's 16th largest economy; by 2050 it will be the fourth largest. And yet besides tourism, few Australians engage with it. But as exhibition co-curator John Cruthers reports, "Indonesian art, already established on the world stage, is a fantastic entry point to the country and its diverse cultures. It is creative, adventurous, passionate and distinctive. While it has not been easy for Australians to see, learn about or collect Indonesian art, *Termasuk* brings a range of works by the best younger artists to Australia."

The works selected will be connected by a curatorial investigation of the Indonesian word 'termasuk'. *Termasuk* means "to be included". By extension it refers to "being considered, to connect, to take part, to enter into, to belong". This exhibition was initiated to offer an entry point from which to illustrate the vibrancy and depth of current art practices within Indonesia – an invitation to connect, to take part.

Artworks selected explore ideas associated with belonging, where the artists have interrogated their society, their community, their connections, their home life and themselves. Identity and inclusivity are central to the concept of belonging within a diverse society, and this exhibition portrays a variety of views on this theme - the densely rich and the unadorned rawness of both the personal and the political. The exhibition will provide intimate access to the output of artists' studios across Jakarta, Bandung, Yogyakarta and Bali. Being the first time many of the artists have exhibited in Australia, we endeavour to present a suite of works by each artist to illustrate their practice.

Co-curator Lauren Parker first lived in Yogyakarta in 2005 and has remained closely involved in the art scene. Lauren says: "With little government support and an under-developed commercial gallery and museum sector, young artists in Indonesia must band together to support one another, often forming collectives that work together to manage studio and exhibition spaces, and to build their practice. Often they work with community groups and use their art as a vehicle to communicate local or regional concerns to a wider audience. As a result, art from Indonesia is lively, passionate and committed."

Termasuk will provide a platform from which to discuss broader topics - both where these artists and their work sit within current trends in contemporary art internationally, and within Indonesian art history. Accompanying the exhibition will be two public programs allowing Australian audiences to better understand Indonesian contemporary art. It is hoped the wider community of curators, artists, collectors, academics, researchers and writers will all participate in this discussion – bringing all voices and experience together.

As more Indonesian artworks enter Australian museums, and with a growing list of Australian artists spending time in art communities in Indonesia, it can be argued that Indonesian contemporary art is increasingly more at home here in Australia and vice versa. *Termasuk* aims to strengthen this connection. The art we think of as Indonesian is not only the big, bold installation works that have been exhibited here to date. It can also be varied, subtle, delicate and surprising in its choice of media and approach. By including newer artists and practices, *Termasuk* provides a different understanding of Indonesian contemporary art and the culture and society from which it is drawn.

Lauren Parker, founder of Indo Art Link, says “This exhibition presents a unique opportunity to see the vibrancy and variety of visual art being produced in Indonesia today.

“Indo Art Link began in October 2017. However when I think back, I began connecting artists, curators, collectors and researchers to the art scene in Indonesia, both formally, while working for the Biennale of Sydney, and informally through art community networks and friends since 2005.

“When I first met John I instantly knew he was committed to supporting and advocating for the artists he had met in Indonesia – he just needed some help in sustaining this connection and navigating the busy realm that is the contemporary art scene in Indonesia. This exhibition is the result of my on-going collaboration with John.

“*Termasuk* means ‘to be included’ in Indonesian and this exhibition is a rare chance to be introduced to artists who are not yet well known in Australia but are well respected and supported in Indonesia and abroad. By including these artists we hope to attract a wide audience of art lovers and include them in our embrace of the more subtle and understated side of contemporary Indonesian art.

“There is such a depth to the consistent vibrancy of contemporary art in Indonesia, and with so many links now forming between individuals here in Australia and in Indonesia, this exhibition is another step towards greater connection between the artworlds of the two countries.”

John Cruthers, an art adviser and collector, says, “Since 1985 I’ve worked with Australian private collectors to build collections of Australian and Indigenous art. In 2012-13 I began to look at southeast Asian art, through the Asia Pacific Triennial, Sydney Contemporary and the Singapore Biennale. The work was a revelation, and I’ve spent the years since travelling in the region learning about each country’s art and art scene.

“Because it’s so large and diverse, I’ve spent the most time in Indonesia. I visit the Art Jog exhibition in Yogyakarta every year, the biennales in Jakarta and Yogyakarta and the art fairs in Jakarta. But mostly I meet artists and visit studios. Commercial galleries are not common and many artists represent themselves and make a living from their work. It’s fascinating and enriching to meet artists and be able to hear first hand the impetus for their work and its contribution to national debates about key issues in culture and society.

“I began collecting Indonesian art on my first visit in 2014, with a focus on art by women. For me it’s a fascinating contrast to the Australian art I grew up with and work with every day. It also represents the challenge of learning about a new country and its art. From my first purchase I’ve been confident that other Australian collectors would share my enthusiasm if I could find a way to introduce them to the work. Meeting Lauren Parker has helped make this possible, with *Termasuk* the outcome of five years of meeting artists and looking at their work.”

Ends

ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

Agung 'Agugn' Prabowo (b. 1985, Bandung, Indonesia)

Printmaker, studied at the Bandung Institute of Technology under Tisna Sanjaya. Has shown widely in the region. Moved to Bali in 2018, with his wife and fellow artist Sekar Puti and family.

Arwin Hidayat (b. 1983, Yogyakarta, Indonesia)

Painting, batik and work on paper. Graduate of the Indonesian Institute of Art. Worked as Eko Nugroho's assistant before focusing on his own practice. Consistently shown in Indonesia and abroad.

Fika Ria Santika (b. 1987, Padang, Indonesia)

Sculpture and photography. Moved from Padang to Jogja to complete a Masters at the Indonesian Institute of Arts. Frequently shown in Singapore and abroad with Gajah Gallery.

Maharani Mancanagara (b. 1990, Padang, Indonesia)

Mixed media installation and drawing. Based in Bandung, graduate of the Bandung Institute of Technology. Work plays with narrative and history, using oral histories and other personal sources.

Mohamad 'Ucup' Yusuf (b. 1975, Lumajang, Indonesia).

Printmaker, well known for his depictions of local social justice issues. Active in long standing Jogja based collective Taring Padi. Graduate of the Indonesian Institute of Art.

Mohammad Taufiq (emte) (b. 1979, Jakarta, Indonesia)

Illustrator/painter/comic artist. Frequently exhibited and commissioned in Indonesia and the region. 'Gugug', his graphic novel was recently released. Graduate of the Jakarta Institute of Arts.

Restu Ratnaningtyas (b. 1981, Tangerang, Indonesia)

Embroidery and works on paper. Graduate of the Jakarta State University, lives and works in Yogyakarta. Shown widely in Indonesia and had a solo show in Los Angeles in 2017.

Ruth Marbun (b. 1985, Medan, Indonesia)

Mixed media paintings and soft sculpture. Studied Fashion Design at Goldsmiths, London and Raffles Design Institute, Singapore. Frequently shown in Indonesia and Japan.

Sekar Puti (b. 1986, Jakarta, Indonesia)

Ceramics. Graduate of the Bandung Institute of Technology. Moved to Bali in 2018 with family. Her work deals with themes of self-improvement and reflection.

Setu Legi (b. 1971, Yogyakarta, Indonesia)

Printmaker, mixed media installations. Frequently shown in Indonesia, Germany and the Netherlands, his work focusses on environmental justice and related social issues.

Surya Wirawan (b. 1973, Mojokerto, Indonesia)

Prints and drawings. Highly respected in Yogyakarta but rarely exhibited, graduate of the Indonesian Institute of Art. His works are delicately detailed and sought after by private collectors and artists.

Theresia Agustina Sitompul (b. 1981, Yogyakarta, Indonesia)

Mixed media installation and prints. Graduate of the Indonesian Institute of Art. Frequently shown in Indonesia and abroad. Selected as one of 10 prominent artists in Art Jakarta's 10 year anniversary presentation in 2018.

ABOUT JOHN CRUTHERS AND INDO ART LINK:

Indo Art Link founder Lauren Parker and adviser/collector/curator John Cruthers are working together to stage the exhibition, in partnership with Darren Knight of Darren Knight Gallery. John and Lauren first began working together in 2016, when Lauren assisted John in arranging an itinerary of studio visits during his annual visit to ArtJog in Yogyakarta.

John Cruthers has 30 years experience working with clients to build art collections. He's a collector himself and his family donated the Cruthers Collection of Women's Art to the University of Western Australia in 2007. It now numbers close to 800 artworks and is Australia's largest stand-alone collection of women's art and one of the largest in the world. He's the chair of SHEILA A Foundation for Women in Visual Art, writes about art and is a valuer under the Australian government's Cultural Gifts Program.

Lauren began Indo Art Link in October 2017 as a platform from which to connect people in her personal and professional networks to Indonesian contemporary art. Lauren has over 12 years experience in the arts sector working for community based organisations, private art collectors and commercial galleries, and in public institutions (AGNSW, MAAS, Biennale of Sydney). Lauren has a Bachelor of Communications, a Bachelor of International Studies (Indonesian Major) and a Masters of Museum Studies. For more information on Indo Art Link, please contact indoartlink@gmail.com

ABOUT DARREN KNIGHT GALLERY:

Located in Sydney's inner city, Darren Knight Gallery is a successful commercial gallery focusing on younger and mid career artists. Two artists with Indonesian connections represented by Darren Knight Gallery are Uji Handoko Eko Saputro and Danius Kesminas (Punkasila).

<https://www.darrenknightgallery.com/>

TERMASUK KEY DATES:

Presentations and Artist talks: Saturday 19 January 2019 2pm – 4pm

Presentations on the history of Indonesian contemporary art and the key art scenes, as well as Artist talks. Come early to meet the artists and hear them talk about their works and creative processes.

Exhibition Opening event: Saturday 19 January 2019 4pm – 6pm

To be opened by Indonesian Ambassador to Australia, Honorable H.E Kristiarto Legowo

Public Program: Saturday 2 February 2019 2pm – 4pm

Presentation by major Indonesian art collector Konfir Kabo and panel discussions on collecting Indonesian art and Indonesian–Australian art connections.

Exhibition dates: 19 January - 16 February 2019

SELECTED IMAGES:



**Mohamad 'Ucup'
Yusuf**
On the way, 2018
reduction woodblock
print, Edition 6
90 x 61 cm



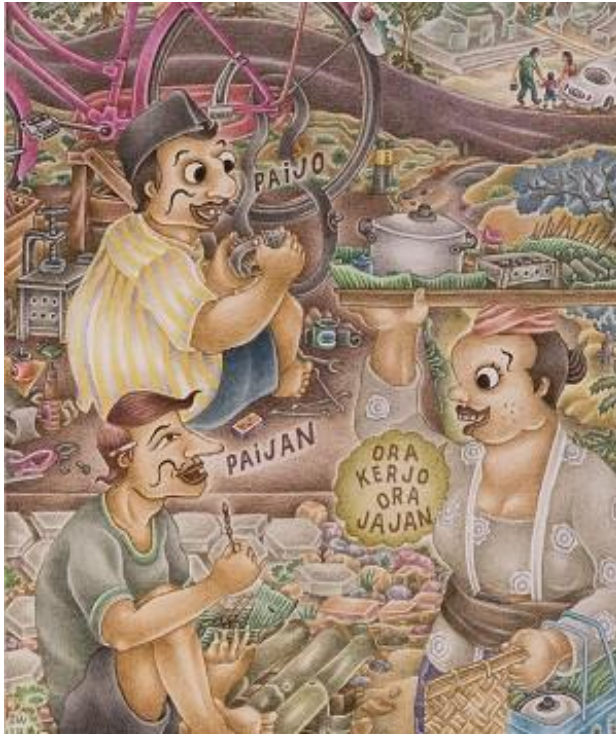
Sekar Puti
some reading for self love,
2017
ceramic, various dimensions



Maharani
Mancanagara
Babad hikayat
wanitentrem #6, 2018
charcoal on wood
190 x 240 x 15 cm



Fika Ria Santika
Tumpuk lapis, tampak isi:
Bayang 2, 2018
resin, acrylic, pigment, nylon,
beads, spotlight, stainless
steel
25 x 10 cm each (13 pieces)



Surya Wirawan
Petitah - petitih, 2018
 aquarelle on paper
 15 x 18 cm



Arwin Hidayat
Kadang malam kadang siang
 #3, 2016
 batik on primisima
 196 x 147 cm

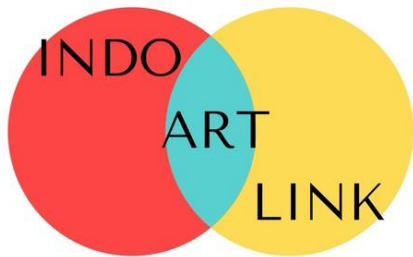


Artist Setu Legi working on *Akar peradaban 2018 (The roots of civilisation)*

MORE IMAGES AVAILABLE VIA:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/viupvpjnh881v6q/AABXU6RkekSQTrCHUjQa7yg_a?dl=0

TERMASUK IS PRESENTED BY:



JOHN CRUTHERS
rococo pop pty ltd

TERMASUK IS SUPPORTED BY:

**DARREN
KNIGHT
GALLERY**

**PROJECT
ELEVEN**



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