

Affandi

(1907 – 1990)

AFFANDI was born in Cirebon, West Java, in May 1907. A self-taught artist, he is one of Indonesia's greatest painters. In 1945 he moved to Yogyakarta and founded the Seniman Masjarakat (Community Artists), which merged with Seniman Indonesia Moeda (SIM, Young Indonesian Artists). In 1947, he and Hendra Gunawan founded the Pelukis Rakyat (People's Painters). Affandi moved to Jakarta in 1948 and became one of the founders of Gabungan Pelukis Indonesia (GPI, Union of Indonesian Painters). He received a scholarship from the Indian government to study in India from 1949 to 1951, and continued on to Europe where he held solo exhibitions in several cities. The artist represented Indonesia at the Sao Paulo Biennale in Brazil in 1953, and Venice Biennale in Italy in 1964. He did a fresco mural at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, as artist in residence in 1967. Affandi participated in important group exhibitions in Indonesia and abroad. He received the Anugerah Seni art award from Indonesia in 1969, an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from the University of Singapore in 1974, the Prix International Dag Hammarskjöld Prize in 1976 in Florence, Italy, and the Bintang Jasa Utama award from Indonesia in 1978. His life and work were documented in the books, *Affandi (1976)* and *Affandi (1981)*. In Yogyakarta he opened to the public his unique studio-home, which became the Museum Affandi. He passed away on 23 May 1990 and was buried in the grounds of his museum. The artist's expressionistic works were painted directly from paint tubes onto canvases. The themes have strong empathy with the common people, family relations, daily life and even mistreated animals.



TOGOG PENGHALAU BURUNG - 1975 - Oil on canvas - 100 x 130 cm