

Translation of "19870705 Pameran Seni Rupa-Rupa"  
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***Just Relax***

**"Indonesia in the year 2000 Plus: A Variety of Art Exhibitions"**

by *Arwah Setiawan*

After watching the recent exhibition organized by the New Fine Arts Group (*Kelompok Seni Rupa Baru*) at TIM entitled, "Fantasy World Department Store," (*"Pasaraya Dunia Fantasi"*), I sat on a park bench a bit away from the exhibition grounds outside so as not to be considered part of the exhibit. Suddenly a man appeared next to me. He was a foreigner who had traveled by time machine from the year 2000 Plus. I thought he must be a fictional character.

"Let me introduce myself," he said, introducing himself, "I am a fictitinal character. I come from the future, the year 2000 Plus. I traveled here by time machine, exactly as you thought."

"What do you need from me?" I asked, wanting to be needed.

"Yes. You seem interested in this exhibition," he said. "Are you interested in it?"

"Yes," I answered briefly, but lying. Briefly because it was a lie.

"Ah, if you are interested in the art here, then you will be more interested in the exhibition going on in the future right now, in the year 2000 Plus. The exhibition is very advanced, much more sophisticated than this here. It is called 'The Enhanced Fine Arts Movement,' " he continued.

I suppose what he said could be compared to linguistics. There used to be a system of Old Spelling (*Ejaan Lama*), followed by New Spelling (*Ejaan Baru*), and finally by an Enhanced Spelling (*Ejaan Yang Disempurnakan*). It makes sense that there also could be an Enhanced Fine Arts Movement. "What I mean by it being enhanced," the Fictional Character continued, "is that it is more a part of everyday, more objective, more

massive, it is even more *total*<sup>1</sup>—there is no space that is not utilized. But instead of listening to my ramblings, come with me to see the exhibition." Then he invited a few more people to time traveler and we went together in groups on a *package tour*<sup>2</sup>.

Arriving at our destination in the future, the fictional character now acted as a our guide and invited us outside as he began giving a *tour*<sup>3</sup> around a very spacious exhibition area. First we were brought to see a large statue, a tall *pedestal*<sup>4</sup> in a circular pool with water radiating out around it. The statue depicted a pair of men standing with their legs open and waving their hands above.

"This is a classic work from the era of the Old Order dynasty," the cultural guide explained. As he invited us to walk to the other side, he continued by pointing to a magnificently large building, "this another piece from the the same era. At that time, according to the inscription, the building was called HI. "

From there we hustled down the corridor to a building on the left, going into the back, past a long line of other works such as vehicles passing by, honking and roaring, blowing CO gas into our noses. "And look at that!" He exclaimed pointing upwards. We looked up. "Look at the *real*<sup>5</sup> sky, not like the one exhibited in your age. According to the critic Sanento Yuliman, skies had not even been explored at that time. This one has truly been explored, with bright *lightning*<sup>6</sup>, fluffy clouds and sky that is as blue as the sky." Finally we arrived at a work entitled "*Pasar Tanah Abang*,"<sup>7</sup> full of people buying newspapers and magazines, *teh bottle*<sup>8</sup>, secondhand pants, used car tires and parts, all the way down to the garbage and forest floor with mud, crowded with a confusion of customers. When someone from our group criticized the artwork as ugly, our guide gave an explanation.

"Enhanced Fine Arts does not recognize a person's individual taste, neither viewers nor creators. Tastes are entirely dependent on the object itself. Garbage, for example, if it wants to be ugly, let it be ugly. What is important is that the garbage is in our environment, because this art is *contextual* art, *anti-bourgeois elitist* art, and *non-*

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1 Uses the English word.

2 Uses the English word.

3 Uses the English word.

4 Uses the English word.

5 Uses the English word.

6 Uses the English word.

7 A historic textile market in Central Jakarta.

8 A popular brand of bottled tea.

*transcendental*.<sup>9</sup> So if we are dirty and rotten, it is ok, display works that are dirty and rotten. This is not just about art, but *total*<sup>10</sup> art—it should be appreciated with all the senses. Since a work of art is contextual and total, you are not just limited to look at the art, but also to feel and to taste it." To strengthen this explanation he invited us to a place with piece entitled "Herbal Medicine Seller" (*Jamu Gendong*). We were invited to hold bottles of traditional herbs, even to taste them. But there was one jerk among us who pretending to misunderstand and grabbed at the woman seller.

"Well, it is con-sexual, is it not?" the guide commented to us. \*\*\*

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9 Uses the English words.

10 Uses the English word.