

# **APOTIK KOMIK**

**DOKUMENTASI  
YAYASAN SENI CEMETI  
2000**

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Apotik Komik , "Sakit Berlanjut", Juli 1999, lokasi Jl. Perwakilan Yogyakarta, bahan : Karton, foto : Aji dan Arief





**Apotik Komik**  
 'Under Estimate'  
 Cardboard, paint  
 300 x 500 x 40 cm  
 1999

## MURAL PROJECT SAMA-SAMA

In the city of Yogyakarta, we experience an increase of violence and unrest, after the 'freedom' (1998 when Suharto stepped down). Partly this is visualized in graffiti and demolishing of patrimony. Furthermore in the increasing amount of street children, increase of intake of drugs, fights between rivaling gangs, non-talked about ninja murders, political and religious noisy demonstrations. Moreover the city is polluted and depleted. There is no money available to repair the streets, everything looks worn out and dirty. All this is a process of the last couple of years, with the economical crisis and with the sudden democracy, which means for many people the same as "everything may be done".

Besides all this negativity, a whole group of young people is living in Yogya and they are very consciously concerned about what is happening around them. Amongst them a group of artists.

They would like to join forces and leave their nests. By using their own medium, the arts, they would like to build on a proper democracy. Therefore, they have to bring this medium closer to the people of all levels of society in order to create an interaction between the artist and his arts, using public space. Murals in public places on public walls could bring their message closer to the common people. A message of peace, not only for a small art-loving elite, but also for the broad public. A message of 'hey, let us all be positive'. Already lots have been written on art during the time of suharto. Public space was mainly used to display symbols of power and propaganda for the regime. After 98, it became a sort of a fighting arena for competitive religious and political groups via graffiti, billboards, and banners. Now these artists want to take public space to where it belongs: the public.

With this project, young artists want to bring a message of positive hopes to enhance the identity of this city being a place of understanding between multi-ethnic groups, so vividly together on a small space. They want to voice their positive hopes to build on a democracy that is new for Indonesia. It will be a long and difficult process. Lots of study has been done on art in public space and it is common knowledge that it is not only a way to make a city more beautiful, but also that its is a strong media which pushes the interaction between the public with an effect of tolerance, trust and understanding.

With these basic ideas, Apotik Komik wants to launch a mural project in the city with as main theme 'sama-sama'. (Same-same). Yogya is a city of profound multi-ethnic diversity and yogya also gets the name to be a miniature Indonesia. Therefore, it is the ideal city for this pilot project. It will enhance the identity of the city, but it could also be the start of a learning process of understanding between the different ethnic groups living together in the city. It might sound like a cliché, but these artists want to build on a democracy with a message of peace.

PERPLU  
Yayasan Se