A Minute Theme in Art

Introduction from the Nadi Gallery

I always consider as important the matter of theme in an exhibition at the Nadi Gallery. It is through a theme that we can then decide on which artists we should invite to be involved in the exhibition. Linking between the theme of the exhibition and the invited artists, then, invariably needs the sharp vision of the curator.

This time, the theme offered by Nadi Gallery departs from the minute theme of the realm of objects. The theme of still life is naturally already familiar among the art community and the public at large. Apparently, working on the theme of the still life has been considered as an exercise in sharpening one's sensitivity on objective beauty, especially for young artists. It is common, then, if such a small theme is no longer looked upon as something important when the artists and their ideas are maturing and becoming more developed.

Rizki A Zaelani, the curator, then offers the theme of the still life as something to be explored more deeply by the artists. Of course, the realm of objects offered by the curator is not the world of restricted objects that have been neatly arranged and then realistically painted; rather, it is the theme about a certain object (or objects) that can be further interpreted.

The relation between the offered theme and the invited artists needs a separate discussion. Not only does the close connection between a certain theme and the tendency of an artist form an important point of consideration, but it is also important to think about other possibilities that might arise from the artists who can creatively interpreted the theme itself.

This time, the invited artists include known and emerging artists. Through a thematic exhibition, creative dialogues might be borne out among the artists, and the development of the artistic discourse might therefore be facilitated.

I thank Rizki A. Zaelani, Butet Kertarejasa, and the artists; who have all made this thematic exhibition at the Nadi Gallery possible.

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