

# surface

asia

FASHION / DESIGN / ARCHITECTURE / ART / CULTURE

03

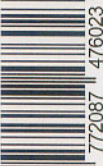


## UNMASKED

THE NEW FACES OF  
CONTEMPORARY ASIAN ART  
EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE:  
BLUEPRINT FASHION 2011  
20 EMERGING  
PRODUCT DESIGNERS

SGD 890 (incl GST)  
HKD 60  
NZD 995 (incl GST)  
JPY 760  
PHP 300  
IDR 75000  
BHT 200  
RM 1950  
VND 130000

ISSN 208 747 66



9 772087 476023



# JOMPET

*Java's multitudinous history and culture provide a fertile landscape for Indonesian artist Jompet to explore.*

WORDS AGUNG HUJATNIKAJENNONG

Known for his unique approach in presenting self-assembled electronic equipment, video and synchronised sound and performance, Jompet is an artist who in the last five years has emerged as Indonesia's representative at several major international art events and fora, including the *Yokohama Triennale* (2008), *Lyon Biennale* (2009) and *Jakarta Biennale* (2009), among others. He was one of the six finalists for the prestigious Asian Art Award Forum in 2010, which awarded him a residency and solo exhibition at National Museum of Korea, Seoul.

Most of Jompet's works represent a unique artistic practice that combines social research, the richness of living traditions, technological approaches and critical attitudes to the post-colonial condition that is inseparable in Asian nations' history. Jompet has long been interested in exploring the cultural aspects of the society in Java: an island in the vast Indonesian archipelago that served as

one of the axes in the ancient silk road trade route. The uniqueness of the island lies in the collage of cultures that reflects the early history of syncretism in Asia. Within the Indonesian context, this process of reconciling and combining conflicting beliefs cannot be separated from the trading process and encounters between different native cultures, colonisation, modernisation and globalisation.

One of Jompet's major works is the ongoing project *Java's Machine*, which intelligently questions the myriad of definitions regarding social and cultural concepts amidst the persistent changes that have taken place in the society. Realised in the form of an installation series, *Java's Machine: Phantasmagoria* (2008-2009) explores the idea of syncretism which has been 'the machine' for the survival of culture in Java up until now. In the works, Jompet combines three-dimensional objects in the forms of a group of 'ghost soldiers' playing drums, the projection of synchronised moving images, and sound, producing a mixed theatrical ambience; it explores the fragility of boundaries between reality and phantasm; the material and the immaterial; the mechanic and the magic. Using the history of Java as a departure, Jompet hints at the complexity of living in today's world, especially when globalisation has created more and more contradictions in the cultural concepts and values. ☺

