

The passing of painter Amang Rachman

JAKARTA (JP): Indonesian surrealist painter Amang Rachman can now be remembered only through his work. The 70-year-old painter passed away on Jan. 15, 2001, leaving numerous records for the country's art history.

Born in Surabaya on Nov. 21, the artist is survived by his wife and four children. He also left 40 of his latest works in his studio in Jl. Klai Kepiting, Surabaya.

According to one of his children, as quoted by the *Kompas* daily, Amang passed away after

suffering a minor heart attack.

His death came as a surprise since the artist still had big plans. According to his child, Amang was planning to hold a major exhibition and publish a book this year.

Amang told the writer of this article two months before his death that his work reflected his life.

"I learned about the art of painting through literature, my artistic talents have driven me to live in the world of painting," he told the writer in an interview, which will be published in

a book titled *Dialog of 100 Indonesian Artists*.

According to painter and fine arts observer Sriwarso Wahono, the country has lost one of its greatest artists as Amang was known for his strong devotion to humanism.

"I feel a great loss because we were very close," Sriwarso said.

Herry Dim, a painter from Bandung and the author of *Jawinul Jalan-Jalan di Rimba Kebudayaan* (Jawinul Is Walking in a Cultural Wilderness, 1995), found Amang to be an artist who had

his own realm.

He said Amang was not a follower of other surrealist artists such as Andre Breton and Dali. "For him, his loneliness is everything," Herry wrote.

Amang was very close to everyone in the art world. In the literary world, for instance, he was close to Trisnoyuwono and Toh Muchtar in Bandung, and also to other noted literary figures in the country. In the painting arena, he was considered a senior because of his works and dedication. (Aendra H. Medita)



JP/Aendra H. Medita

Amang Rachman with some of his paintings in his studio in a 1995 photo. The surrealist artist died of a heart attack in mid-January this year.

Women artists together for a cause

By Matdon

BANDUNG (JP): It is still relatively uncommon for women artists, either alone or in joint exhibitions, to have a forum to show their art. Some notable exceptions in recent years were the 1995 Group Six Exhibition, one of 100 Indonesian women painters, the Triumvirate Exhibition and Elly Djohariah Roedyat's solo exhibition.

The dearth of exhibitions is notwithstanding the many outstanding women painters in the country, some of whom are part of the Association of Indonesian Women Painters (IWPI). They often arrange their own exhibitions in Jakarta, Yogyakarta and other cities.

Their most recent venture is

in Bandung, where 25 noted women painters are taking part in the exhibition, *Care for Fellow Humans*, at Hidayat Gallery, Jl. Sulanjana 36, Bandung. The exhibition, which opened on Jan. 27, runs until Feb. 14.

The women painters are Elly Djohariah, Nakis Barli, Anna Witri, Ammi S. Kandi, Clara Aida, Engelina Firmansyah, Fachdila Bebasari, Hamisah Haryoso, Indrawati Halim, Irene Endarti, Judy Indahwati, Lenawaty Tjandradsa, Lili

Simon, Mettanada, Pegawati Lina, Prie Ernalia, Rukmini Yusuf, Samsunuwiyati, Sri Hartini, Susiawati, Syeni Setiayu Roedyat, Soedjanah Darusman, Theresia Haryanto, Yulia Sugiarti and Fatimah.

Each painter is exhibiting two works, with the proceeds from sales to be donated to school dropouts, orphans, elderly people with disabilities and victims of natural disasters. The works are on sale from Rp 500,000 to Rp 12.5 million per piece.

Exhibition committee chairwoman Elly Djohariah said the motivation for the event came from a sense of responsibility and desire to participate in

nation building, particularly in developing the fine arts in Indonesia.

The women artists are not newcomers, but are experienced in showing their works. Elly, for instance, has held exhibitions since 1950. Most of the women are in their 50s and, while their works vary, they tend to show landscapes and the beauty of flora and fauna.

The women said their involvement in IWPI was a forum to create and carry out humanitarian activities was not separated from the guidance of notable Bandung artist Barli Sasmitawinata. Barli also has allowed his gallery to be used as a secretariat for the IWPI.