



JP/P.J. Leo

Artist Dyan Anggraini Hutomo (*right*) talks with activist Debra Yatim. Debra formally opened her solo exhibition on Wednesday night at the CSIS building in Tanah Abang, Central Jakarta.

Painting exhibition takes off mask to reveal truth

Masks are considered powerful symbols that have been widely used by artists to represent invisible social ailments and messages that cannot be put into words.

Artist Dyan Anggraini Hutomo must be one of those who agree with this statement. In a selection of 40 paintings, Dyan showcases works that focus on the unceasing struggle of women and the bitter realities of their social and political lives in an exhibition titled *In(visible) Mask*.

Art curator Suwarno Wisetrotomo said, "Dyan Anggraini has been working with mask themes since 1980s.

Masks in her work can well be understood as manifestations of helplessness (as a result of imposed roles), of protection (from identity, from verbalism, from competing interests), and resistance (against various restrictions)."

"Besides the need for self-expression and self-actualization, Dyan's works from the cultural perspective can also be seen as media for continuously negotiating with various parties about various issues.

"Her works show that there is no such

thing as absolute attitude, meaning and understanding. A person with a thundering voice must be able to negotiate with manners and tenderness," Suwarno said in a statement made available to *The Jakarta Post*.

Born in the East Java town of Kediri on Feb. 2, 1957, Dyan first learnt how to paint from her father, Rais Rayan. Raised in an intellectual family, she was blessed with the opportunity to become involved in cultural studies, which sharpened her intuition as an artist.

Dyan is a graduate of the Indonesian Fine Arts Academy (ASRI) and has taken part in numerous exhibitions and art competitions at home and abroad.

— *The Jakarta Post*

In(visible) Mask, a solo painting exhibition by Dyan Anggraini, runs from May 19 through May 28 at the CSIS building, second floor, Jl. Tanah Abang III No 23-27, Central Jakarta.