

MEDIA RELEASE
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KOMPILASI

A SURVEY OF CONTEMPORARY INDONESIAN ART
MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA 24TH FEBRUARY-14TH MARCH

OPENS 6PM TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY

BUS GALLERY

Bus Gallery 117 Lt Lonsdale, Melbourne 3000
Opens 6pm 24 February / Artists' Talks 1pm 28 February
www.bus117.com

Horse Bazaar 397 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000
Film Screening 7pm 26 February

Attending artists: Tintin Wulia (Denpasar/Melbourne), Bambang 'Toko' Witjaksono (Yogyakarta), Bayu (Yogyakarta), Angki Purbandono (Yogyakarta) & Ardi Gunawan (Jakarta/Melbourne)

Also featuring the work of: Video Battles, Ruang MES 56, Taring Padi, Video Babes, Jompet Kuswindananto, Yes No Wave Music, Black Ribbon, Iyok Prayogo, Uji 'Hahan' Saputro & Forum Lenteng

KOMPILASI draws upon the contemporary art scene of Yogyakarta, Bandung and Jakarta in Indonesia to present a diverse exhibition of photography, installation, sculpture, interactive art, video, film, drawing, sound, graphic/street art and product design. Co-curated by Kristi Monfries, Timothy O'Donoghue and Georgia Sedgwick with the assistance of the artists involved, the exhibition will be held at one of Melbourne's most innovative independent arts organisations, Bus Gallery, and will include a program of performances and artist's talks as well as film screenings at Horse Bazaar and listening stations and product displays at Sunshine & Grease (a record shop located in Bus Gallery).

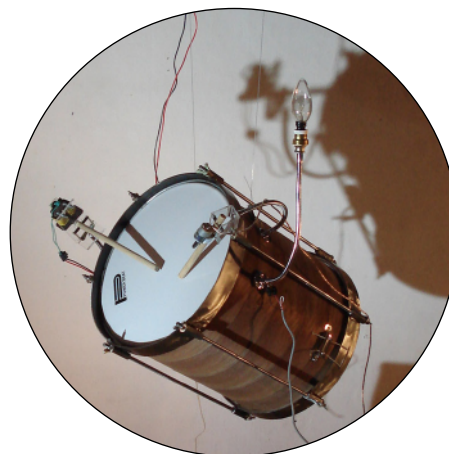
This exhibition comes out of a sense the curators had that there is real momentum locally for critical engagement with the Indonesian contemporary arts scene. In Melbourne, Indonesian student numbers are at their highest. Increasingly too, these students are undertaking study in arts-related disciplines such as fashion, graphic design, architecture and fine arts and are beginning to find a place in the local arts scene. In much the same way there is increased traffic to Indonesia by Australian artists with programs like the Asialink residencies and the successful Sydney-based arts festival Gang program gaining traction within local arts communities. Myriad connections have been established but too much of the traffic is one-way. *KOMPILASI* gives Melbourne audiences the opportunity to be exposed to the next generation of contemporary Indonesian artists through an exhibition that is not only representative of the scene but enables dialogue and engagement with the artists themselves.

Many contemporary Australian artists work across a range of platforms; visual artists not only paint, draw or make installations but they also create music, are in bands and make their own films. This too has been the natural method of creation for artists in Indonesia and so in presenting a program which spans all artistic disciplines *KOMPILASI* attempts to highlight these very real artistic parallels between the contemporary arts scenes of Indonesia and Australia and in doing so uncover the vast opportunities for collaboration and exchange that these parallels offer.

*Artists and curators available for interview from
19 February 2009*

More information

Georgia Sedgwick: georgia_sedgwick@yahoo.co.uk /0403 932 598



ARTISTS

Angki Purbandono of Ruang MES 56

Ruang MES 56 is an artist-run initiative established in 2002. Active in the field of photography Ruang MES 56 emphasizes the exploratory approach of contemporary photography, both in theory and practice, conceptually and contextually, with a view to developing discourse on contemporary photography in Indonesia. Ruang MES 56 operates several programs, Exhibition, Creative Exchange, Workshop, and Archiving. All these programs are done with self-financing and the support from several donors, either non-profit institution or commercial companies. All programs have the aim to empower the pop-culture society in Indonesia. For online examples see: <http://www.mes56.com>

Ardi Gunawan

Ardi Gunawan (IND) is currently completing his MFA thesis on the concept of entropy and chance, at Monash University. He is currently undertaking a (2 year) studio residency at Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces. His practice is interested in a bricolage activity with cheap, readily (found) materials: institutional office-furniture, scrap bits of wood and other building detritus. He reconfigures them without a particular order. Recently, he began experimenting with Cage's use of the I-Ching or 'chance operation' as a model for the constitution of his assemblage sculpture. Recent group, solo and collaborative exhibition includes: the Super Light, Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces, (2008); THROW with Bianca Hester, Meat Market, (2008); in praise of blandness, Monash Faculty Gallery, (2008); Substructures, Conical, Melbourne, (2007). Ardi Gunawan lives and works in Melbourne.

Michael Farrell (AUS) is a poet and a Phd student. He coordinated the chance poetics discussion 'timekeeper zero' at THIS IS NOT ART in Newcastle 2008. His latest book of poetry is 'A Raiders Guide'.

ABSTRACT:

Ardi Gunawan and Michael Farrell will deliver a talk on their recent collaborative work Time-Talk-Racing. Time-Talk-Racing is a project made specifically for artist's talk/lecture situation. The talk will be delivered with several demonstration of improvised actions and objects. Its investigation is focus on the sculptural attitudes towards the theater, the music, and the everyday with implements from John Cage experimental use of the I-Ching method. The throw of the coins produces chancy encounter.

Tintin Wulia

Tintin Wulia (born 1972, Bali) works with media-, mural- and object-based installation in space; her work often includes performative elements. Originally trained as an architect and composer, since 2000 her work has been awarded, screened, exhibited, and collected internationally, amongst others in the International Film Festival Rotterdam, Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival, New York Underground Film Festival, SBS TV Australia, Istanbul Biennial, Yokohama Triennial, Jakarta Biennial, Van Abbemuseum, Haus der Kulturen der Welt and London's Institute of Contemporary Arts. Now based in Melbourne, and represented by Motive Gallery, Amsterdam, Tintin's artistic research inspires from geopolitical boundaries and effects of its renegotiations in the global and local, macro- and micropolitical context. She is currently working on her PhD (Fine Art) at RMIT University, Melbourne.

Bayu Widodo of Taring Padi

Bayu Widodo plies his craft as part of community-based political arts collective Taring Padi. Internationally renowned for their stirring brand of cultural activism, Taring Padi's images of striking workers and industrial nightmares and message of democratisation through art. Since 1998 this group of young Indonesian artists and activists from Yogyakarta, a city in central Java, wearing punk hairstyles and tattoos and calling themselves the 'Lembaga Budaya Kerakyatan Taring Padi', or the Organisation of People's Culture Fangs of Rice, have initiated an art movement opposed to the 'art business' in galleries because of its obvious associations with capitalism. Living and working in a deserted school building, they design images, posters, banners, cartoons and t-shirts based on political and social themes and display them in public places and at demonstrations.

Bambang Toko

Bambang Toko born 1973 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Since completing his BA in print making at Indonesia the Yogyakarta Institute of Art Institute and MA at Faculty of Art and Design Bandung Institute of Technology, Bambang has presented his work locally and internationally at galleries and spaces such as: Darwin Visual Art Association—Darwin, Australia, Kedai Kebun—Yogyakarta, Indonesia, TOIMOI Art and Design Gallery—Jakarta, Indonesia, Singapore Art Fair—Singapore, China International Gallery Exhibition—Beijing, China, Valentine Willie Gallery—Singapore, Indonesia National Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia. Bambang has also completed residences in Switzerland, India and most recently Darwin, Australia.

Augustinus Kus Windananto aka Jompot - Installation/Interactive/Sculpture

Jompot was born in Jogjakarta, 1976, and studied at the Communication Department, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Gadjah Mada University. Jompot uses varied new media techniques to elaborate social ideas. In his installation/interactive/sculptural practice Jompot experiments with various electronic instruments in an attempt to present visual images through moving objects. In his performance work Jompot uses elaborate mechanical set-ups that he interfaces with electronic equipment. He investigates the idiosyncrasies of embracing technology and the disregard of the human biomechanical system. Jompot uses body movement coupled with reactive electronic sensors to achieve a synergistic energy between man and machine - introducing a fully interactive experience. His work explores natural situations as a battle of power and exhibits a sense of irony about human communication.

For online examples see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYfqYeJcJ18>

CURATORS

Kristi Monfries

Kristi Monfries is a practicing artist and independent arts organiser. Over the past decade Kristi's work is dedicated to a range of mediums that include collage work, appropriation pieces, improvised and experimental music, single channel video and live video improvisation in combination with musicians, independent curating, print/design/web. Focused on an individual and whole artistic approach to living, feminine identity and sexuality, media gathering and re-invention.

She has independently curated two international shows for Home Gallery-Prague, Czech Republic, ROOM Galerij (w/ Edwoud Van Rijn and Karin De Jong)-Rotterdam, The Netherlands and hosted two shows in her home, HOMESHOWS 1 & 2 in Fitzroy, Melbourne. With NY composer David Shea she runs Metta Editions—an independent record label dedicated to releasing works focused on the Asian region. Currently she is working on a political publication A Decade of Turbulence with John Monfries (Indonesian Studies Lecturer at ANU and former diplomat) written by the late Geoff Forrester (former Deputy Secretary at DFAT).

Timothy O'Donoghue

Timothy O'Donoghue is an Australian artist, designer and organiser currently living in Jogjakarta, Indonesia. He is one of the founding members of independent arts organisation Bus (www.bus117.com), which currently runs an art space and studio complex in Melbourne Australia.

In addition to acting as director of Bus (2001-2007) he has also initiated and managed numerous projects throughout Australia and internationally such as: exchange projects with FirstDraft Gallery, MOP Projects and PhatSpace – Sydney Australia, InFlight Gallery – Tasmania, Australia, and DownTown Gallery – Adelaide, Australia; A Portable Model Of... Plimsol Gallery – Tasmania, Australia; an exhibition and performance series by Canadian artist Diane Laundry – Melbourne, Australia; Outer a series of experimental music compilations; Australia; Contemporary Australian Video ICA – London, England; and The Sensory Image Arts Aporia – Osaka, Japan.

Timothy has also been involved in infrequent exhibitions of audio and visual work such as: exhibitions at Citylights, WestSpace and Bus – Melbourne, Australia; installations for the Next Wave Festival – Melbourne, Australia, and the Melbourne and Adelaide Fringe Festivals; and participated in Perfurbance #3 & #4 International Performance Art Festival – Java, Indonesia. In the beginning of 2008 Timothy relocated to Jogjakarta, Indonesia to focus on new work and initiatives. Currently he is assisting the organisers of the Perfurbance Festival, Performance Klub with various projects.

Georgia Sedgwick

Is an independent arts organiser, working for over a decade in Indonesia and Australia on various arts projects and programs. In 2004 she completed a Bachelor of Arts degree with Honours in Indonesian Studies at Monash University. Her thesis focused on the role of Indonesian Arts Communities in post-Suharto Indonesia. In 2006 she completed a Graduate Certificate in Arts Management from the University of Melbourne. Georgia lived in Yogyakarta, Indonesia for six years from 1999-2004 researching and studying while working as a freelance writer, curator and translator.

Currently working as Communication manager at Regional Arts Victoria, Georgia was formerly Manager of the Visual Arts Residency program and the Indonesia-Australia Arts Management Program at Asialink, the University of Melbourne. During which time she co-developed a strategic partnership with the Northern Territory and Eastern Indonesia that comprised a series of creative collaborations between regional arts communities from these regions. The position enabled her to form close strategic relationships with arts and cultural organisations and communities in Indonesia and Australia.

She has initiated and managed numerous arts projects including: RuangPerRuang (Yogyakarta); Bunga Duka (Yogyakarta) the artistic program for Asialink's annual arts forum, Blind Dates & Foreign Affairs (Melbourne), Yogyakarta Art Auction (Art Play, Melbourne) and most recently co-curated Under My Skin (Manila, Singapore and Hanoi) as part of Asialink's international exhibition touring program. Georgia actively contributes articles and reviews to arts and culture publications including Artlink, Art & Australia, Groundwork, the International Institute of Asian Studies Journal as well as a number of catalogue essays. **Georgia is Currently communication coordinator at RAV to Program Coordinator at The South Project**