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November 02, 2011 | by Marcel Thee

Cultural Glitch: Agan Harahap, Art Photographer



Anyone who has come across artist Agan Harahap's photography will find it difficult not to be struck by its aesthetic intrigue. His series "Superhistory" integrates images of superheroes such as Spiderman and Batman onto historic fields such as the Yalta Conference in 1945. The juxtaposition of characters and subjects onto completely unrelated scenes seems to be Agan's calling card (though not all of his artworks present such scenes).

What would you say is the common thread running through your art?

In most of my work, I talk about the irony of everyday life, but I present them as a satirical parody.

There is a lot of graphic manipulation of the subjects in your artworks. How did you come up with that particular style?

I mastered the field of photography and digital imaging. I manipulate — meaning I add, subtract, and modify — images according to the needs of the narrative. I then use the manipulated subject or object as a basis for the final product.

How would you describe your artistic process?

Hmmm.... Well, sometimes there are things that bug me, which often inspires my work. Then I'll begin to learn about the background, history, or cultural impact of whatever's on my mind. That's really the beginning of the artistic process. The process itself always happens differently, depending on the circumstances.

What are your most prized artistic achievements?

All of my artworks have their own special value to me. It might sound cliched, but as long as any of them are appreciated by people, that's enough for me.

What's ahead for Agan Harahap?

I try not to be unrealistic with my art, because this specific field that I'm in is something that is essentially new in the art world. I just hope that there is an increase in the public's appreciation and awareness of Indonesian photography.

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Jakarta Globe's lifestyle blog, Life Lived offers a menu of food, movies, music, fashion and more in Jakarta and beyond.

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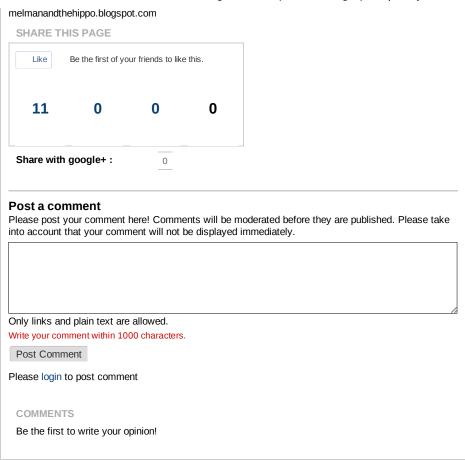
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9:58am | Changi's Fantastic, but Why Do... I definitely think that what you called "halo effect" is one of the most important benefits of a world class airport. It really *does* make a big

8:52pm | Stuff Indonesians Like: Rice... 'All of the above is still apparent in Indonesia and eating rice enables us to fight corruption, stupidity, laziness and it even helps in eradicat

8:44pm | The End of a 20-year Title Dro... Pathetic.

5:10pm | The End of a 20-year Title Dro... bro kzacar, lets be graceful in our triumph. This is the wrong site to express such a thought. Come to our own sites!

2:19am | The End of a 20-year Title Dro... A very sad writing. Believe me, we've been there (Malaysia). Indonesia has always a team that Malaysia would be nervous about. You have good home

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