

# Dewi Sri stoops to conquer in Widayanto exhibition

**F**rom Tuesday to Thursday, Dewi Sri the rice goddess will come down from on high to the newly installed paddy fields at Galeri Nasional in Central Jakarta.

Is this a stunt or just some figment of a wild imagination, a dream or wishful thinking?

Perhaps it is a bit of everything, but whatever it may be, noted ceramic artist F. Widayanto is going to make it happen. Known for his bizarre imageries visualized in exaggerated forms representing images from Javanese mythology, the artist has molded 30 guises of the goddess — who is revered as the goddess of prosperity and worshiped by farmers to implore fertile rice-producing fields — in what is partly

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titled a “ceramic sculptures fashion show”.

Legend has it that Dewi Sri was born out of an egg that the god Anta brought to Batara Guru. When Dewi Sri developed into a beautiful princess, Batara Guru is said to have fallen in love with her, much to the sorrow of the other gods who then conspired to have her killed and buried in a secret place.

Miraculously, as she was being buried, from her eyes grew the plant that is called paddy.

