

contemporary art

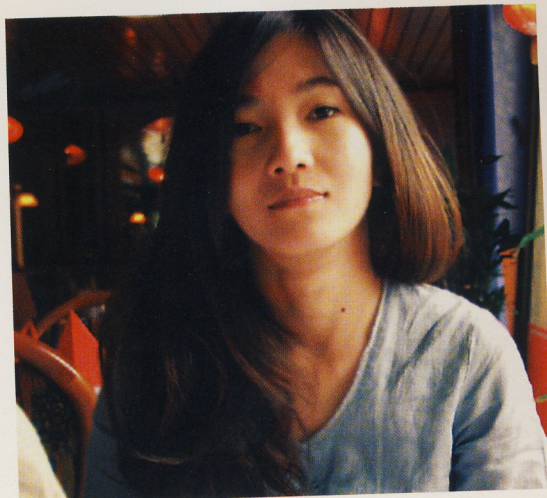
# Being Herself

Ay Tjoe Christine's name has emerged as one of Indonesia's prominent artists through her works reflecting the human subconscious. *Vidhyasuri Utami* talks to the timid artist



**T**he human subconscious has inspired a great deal of thought to be translated into works of art. From Freud, Jung, to Dali, the ego poses as the main focus. Nonetheless, the intriguing subject has also inspired the younger generation, composed of both thinkers and artists. One of them would be Ay Tjoe Christine. Her name emerged when she joined the Bandung Art Event in 2001 gathering special attention to her work, in particular the bronze piece inspired by the reverse method of Cirebonan's glass painting.

Educated from the renowned Art Department of the Bandung Institute of Technology, her name skyrocketed when she was selected as one of the top five finalists for the prestigious Philip Morris Award in 2001 through *King of Pilgrim*. Though often considered as her "political" work, Christine has a different perspective for this particular collection. "Everybody has the right to learn something from the displayed works through their perceptions. Achieving a political connotation or something else, I think it is a developing perception in the public that occurs," she explains. But the work is more



Ms Ay Tjoe Christine

times it is a combination of previous recollections and present experiences. "The most intriguing thing would be when the pieces of new perception that I find complete the puzzle in my memory like a perfected road or steps," she adds.

Christine is currently working with a new media aside from canvas. Her photographic works feature her installations created from soft fabrics. This particular work – *Purgatory I* – had been displayed in the "Taboo and Transgression in Contemporary Indonesia Art"

**Her creative process oftentimes is a combination of previous recollections and present experiences**

personal for her, than political, since it reflects the paved path that she pursues (reflected by the thick lines in the works combined by the surrounding dots among them).

According to Christine, her creative process happens every time and everywhere that often-

exhibition (organised by Cemeti Art House) at Cornell University. She will be having an upcoming exhibition at Edwin's Gallery – reflecting the concomitant aspect of self-preservation creating an abstract thought with a real function for human life. □