

Known for their combination of pop culture aesthetics, playful social commentary and use of traditional Javanese story telling motifs indieguerillas (made up of Indonesian husband and wife duo Miko Bawono and Santi Ariestyowanti) present their latest solo exhibition at Valentine Willie Fine Art Singapore. HAPPY VICTIMS sees the pair focus on the ongoing social malaise associated with Capitalism: greed. The prevalence of aspirational economic values has meant that we can become, as Indieguerillas comment, ‘happy victims’ of consumerism. Beset with desires for the latest products and lifestyle marketing to symbolise our success, contemporary society is in a constant state of spectacularised consumption. The exhibition, through indieguerilla’s signature style of acid colours, graphic lines and memorable characters, wryly conveys this social love affair with material culture.

Aesthetically indieguerillas approach is a roller coaster fusion of influences and attitudes. With a grounding in design they incorporate urban fashion and music, Japanese manga, street art, skateboarding and bmx culture, tattoo aesthetics and video games, into elaborate compositions on canvas, sculpture, animation and installation. Observing contemporary life in Yogyakarta where the duo based, they create new and translated characters from historical Javanese stories to become contemporary performers on a theatrical stage of struggle and celebration. However, far from being locked into context specificity, they present universal question and insights into the human condition through their own unique visual lens.

HAPPY VICTIMS, their newest body of work presents such a panoply of experiences. Focusing on the corruption of truth by insatiable Capitalism and greed, Miko and Santi create a playground of hybrid ideas and pop icons. Whilst contemplating urban aesthetics in the form of overlarge sneakers, wayang kulit (shadow puppetry) structures and colourful cartoon like characters, indieguerillas sends audiences on a wild ride through a fantastical new world. As a result light and darkness, play and critique, desire and detachment all complete in the pair’s most ambitious project to date.