Opposite Attract

Writer: Maya Sujatmiko

Painting and Photography are both medium of art. However, there are debates continuously over whether photography is considered as a form of art. At least of how we define photography – is it commercial, photo journalism? Is it capable of artistic expression? Some simple answer is; it is through the hand of a true artists its production becomes art.

Louis Figuier, a French naturalist: "Until now, the artist has had the brush, the pencil and the burin: now in addition, he has the photographic lens. The lens is an instrument like the pencil and brush, and photography is a process like engraving and drawing, for what makes an artist is the process but the feeling".

During the contemporary art days, photography often categorized as new media, not only because the usage of the "new" medium but the history of photography art started only on the late 1800s. This new "technology" medium very highly related to daily life – capturing and documenting life events, history, innovations and so on – which creating opportunities of important professionals. However, numbers of artists dedicate themselves to these tools (medium) of arts. The power of time is the strength of this artworks - artists can immediately capture their expression into an artworks.

This exhibition will highlight both artists who have different background: photography and paintings, Andy Dewantoro and Akiq AW. They are both known Indonesian contemporary artists who have gained outstanding reputation both nationally and internationally. Andy graduated from Institute of Technology Bandung majoring in Interior design but he is a full time artist (painter) by profession. Akiq AW choose photography as his professional career.

Having different routine daily life, both has different explorations. Andy with his photographic, precise landscape and architectural images of painting and Akiq AW involve actively and professionally in his "photography job" focusing in fashion, wedding and documentary. With his profession, Akiq AW capturing motions, live events, beauty with colors – images with various of real life colors to enhance the "liveness" of the picture. Whereas Andy, most of time paint using monochromatic "color" – black and white or grey and white and so on. Andy's painting become strong in structures and objects without any color interventions.

For this exhibition: they present themselves the opposite way. The contrary of their daily routines. Akiq AW will exhibit images of black and white without the presence of color whereas Andy with his images of colors. Both of them will use photography as the medium and both of them will use their "out of the box" way of thinking.

Together, they will exchange expressions among themselves not only as artists but also as artists from the same generations with different backgrounds and mediums. They will switch their daily routines into a harmony – a monochromatic and colorful minds becomes the opposite perspective of attractions.