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'Observatories of the Self' by Sara Nuytemans opening in BIASA ArtSpace Kemang

Visual artist Sara Nuytemans celebrated the opening of her latest exhibition titled 'Observatories of the Self' on April 13 at BIASA ArtSpace's newly launched gallery in Kemang. The exhibition, part of an on-going project for Nuytemans since 2010, is its first presentation in Indonesia. The Belgium-born artist, who resides in Yogyakarta, has transformed the gallery into an experiential haven for contemporary art and fashion enthusiasts with seven interactive kinetic installations using reflective media, light and technology to create spaces or 'constellations' for viewers to enjoy. These carefully constructed and often motorized pieces allow the audience to capture themselves and their environment in a series of revolving, rotational, vibrating or distorted reflective media creating a kaleidoscopic view of themselves and the environment around them.

Nuytemans, who first discovered Indonesia through an artist residency in Yogyakarta, often draws inspiration from human interaction with the world. 'Observatories of the Self' is the product of her research into fundamental questions often posed: Why are we here? What is our role as human beings? Once audience step into the exhibition space, they will be welcomed by installation of a three meter globe structure constructed from over a thousand reflective stainless steel squares, invites viewers to sit on a motorized platform inside the structure, rotating the viewer so they are able to experience a moving distortion of their own reflection along with a unique acoustic sensation. 'Observatories of the Self' was initially exhibited at one of the most prestigious exhibitions in Asia, Gwangju Biennale 2012, was curated by Alia Swastika, who continues to support Nuytemans in further developing her work now seen at BIASA ArtSpace. Nuytemans has taken the project a step further into the realm of fashion, having created bespoke mirrored footwear accessories in collaboration with BIASA, located in the same building as BIASA ArtSpace in Jakarta. A new part of the 'Observatories of the Self' installations, these accessories crafted from silver plated brass and circular mirrors, allow the wearer to indulge in a glimpse of their past, their present and their future with each step they take.

Susanna Perini, founder of BIASA and BIASA ArtSpace was initially a little hesitant to combine her life's work; fashion and contemporary art. The outcome, however, surpasses all expectations 'Sara's conceptual intervention on shoes

expresses an amusing performative sensibility, aesthetically valid yet distant from being a fashion statement (extend quote involving Jakarta, new, fresh, never seen before).’ Perini says.

Through BIASA ArtSpace’s expansion in Jakarta, Perini wishes to continue what she started in Bali in 2005; an alternative space that acts as a platform for both art practice and the development of a better social and cultural understanding in Indonesia, but also an environment that inspires a dynamic cooperation between art, fashion, culture, social sciences, politics with the desire to fuse global and local refined awareness. Nuytemans’ exhibition can be viewed in the gallery from April 14th to May 15th, 2013.

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