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# unearth

a solo exhibition  
by **Jessica Soekidi**

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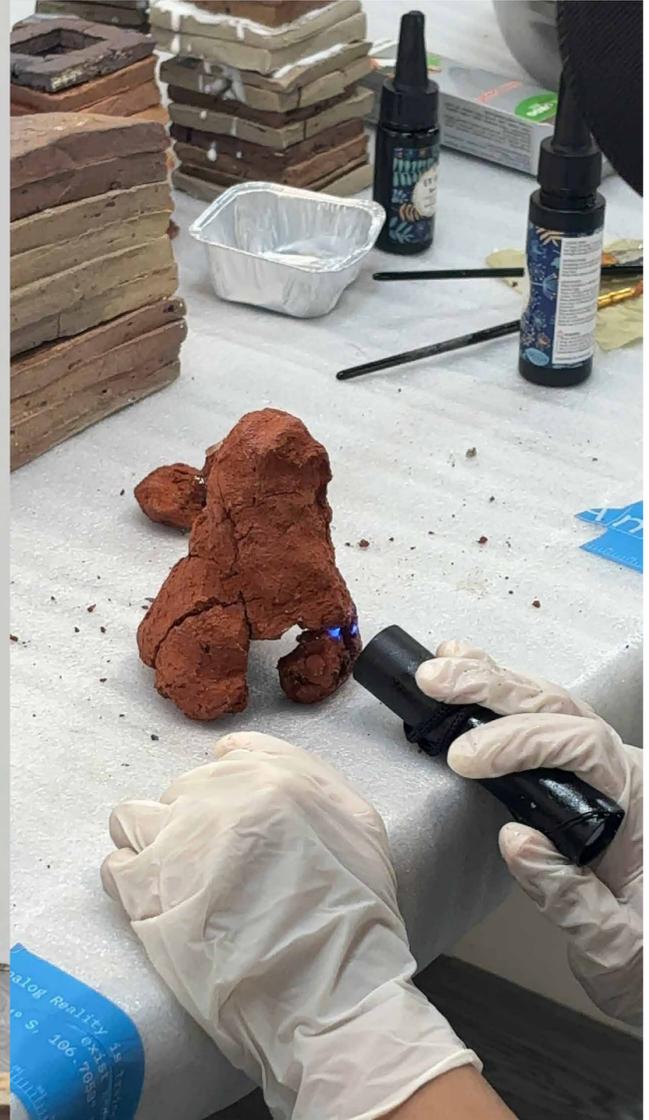
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Dalam memaknai keterkaitan antara hubungan manusia, alam, dan Sang Pencipta, kelana pikiran manusia acap kali menerawang tidak hanya pada keniscayaan hakikat penciptaan, tetapi juga pada bagaimana sesuatu dapat tumbuh dan berkembang dalam ikatan ruang dan waktu. Ruang dan waktu selalu melahirkan ragam persimpangan dan persilangan yang membuat kehidupan manusia menjadi begitu kompleks, meskipun jelas begitu singkat. Menggali kembali makna penciptaan, kelahiran, hingga tumbuh kembang manusia yang hidup berdampingan dengan alam telah menjadi pijakan berkarya Jessica Soekidi selama beberapa tahun belakangan. Prinsip-prinsip keberlanjutan yang ditekuninya dalam latar keilmuan arsitektur jelas berdampak pada cara pandangnya memahami awal mula dan tujuan siklus kehidupan harmonis antara manusia dan alam.

Presentasi tunggal Jessica Soekidi dalam rumah gagasan *Unearth* menampilkan sekelumit pemikiran, renungan, serta spekulasi atas kesementaraan material organik dan kehidupan manusia. Dalam *Unearth*, Jessica berupaya mengungkap ragam perkembangan berkaryanya melalui daur hidup tanah yang secara fisik mewakili alam dan secara simbolik berkaitan dengan penciptaan manusia. Bagi Jessica, menggali gagasan terkait tanah berarti menggali kembali perjalanan berkaryanya melalui perspektif yang manusiawi.

In contemplating the interconnectedness between human beings, nature, and the Creator, the human mind often wanders not only toward the inevitability of the essence of creation, but also toward how things can grow and evolve within the bonds of space and time. Space and time continually give rise to various intersections and crossings that render human life deeply complex, despite its clear brevity. Revisiting the meaning of creation, birth, and growth of a human in coexistence with nature has been a foundational theme in Jessica Soekidi's artistic practice over the past several years. The principles of sustainability that she has pursued through her academic background in architecture clearly influence her perspective in understanding the origins and purpose of the life cycle in achieving harmony between humans and nature.

Jessica Soekidi's solo presentation within the core idea of *Unearth* offers a glimpse into her reflections, contemplations, and speculations on the impermanence of organic material and human life. In *Unearth*, Jessica attempts to reveal the various developments in her artistic practice through the life cycle of soil—an element that physically represents nature and symbolically relates to the creation of humankind. For Jessica, exploring ideas related to soil is akin to revisiting her creative journey from a deeply human perspective.

Basis presentasi karya dalam *Uneath* mengarah pada simbol-simbol lapisan kehidupan perkembangan pemikiran manusia. Lapisan bawah dalam simbol segiempat merujuk pada kehidupan yang mengakar dan berjangkar pada adat, kepercayaan, dan tradisi. Bentuk melingkar di lapisan tengah kehidupan mencakup gagasan terkait siklus serta dinamika perubahan. Lalu, lapisan atas kemudian dipenuhi dengan bentuk-bentuk segitiga sebagai simbol hubungan manusia dengan sesama manusia, alam, serta Entitas Tertinggi yang Mencipta. Ketiga bentuk utama dalam formasi karya *Uneath* disajikan Jessica Soekidi dalam kesadaran menggali gagasan terkait manusia. Apa dan siapa sebenarnya manusia? Bagaimana seharusnya menjadi manusia?

Sekumpulan olahan trimatra berbentuk manusia berukuran kecil juga hadir dalam pose-pose yang melambangkan sebuah satir keseharian dan kesederhanaan (konon di tengah rumitnya kehidupan manusia masa kini). Sang seniman seolah ingin menunjukkan bagaimana manusia bertumpu di atas tanah yang menjadi material utama penciptaannya. Sebagaimana karya Jessica Soekidi yang selalu berpijak pada karya-karya terdahulunya.

Kehadiran sosok-sosok manusia secara utuh dan penggunaan material tanah sebagai simbol material penciptaan manusia dalam ajaran agama-agama abrahamic merupakan titik tolak Jessica Soekidi dalam membedah aspek keragaman manusia. Sosok manusia di puncak-puncak tumpukan tanah seolah merepresentasikan situasi yang menggeneralisasi kompleksitas manusia. Olahan material tanah dari beberapa lokasi berbeda menjadi representasi atas ragam perbedaan karakter serta latar belakang manusia.

The foundation of the work presented in *Uneath* is rooted in symbols representing the layered nature of human thought and development. The bottom layer, depicted as a square, refers to a life grounded and anchored in customs, beliefs, and traditions. The circular forms in the middle layer signify cycles and the dynamics of change. Finally, the top layer is filled with triangular shapes, symbolizing the relationships between humans, nature, and the Supreme Entity of Creations. These three primary forms in the composition of *Uneath* are presented by Jessica Soekidi as a conscious effort to explore ideas about humanity. What is a human being, truly? And how should one exist as a human?

A collection of small, human-shaped three-dimensional figures also appears in poses that symbolize a satire of daily life and simplicity—ironically, amid the complexity of human existence today. The artist seems to emphasize how humans are grounded upon the earth, the very material from which they were originally formed. This reflects Jessica Soekidi's consistent artistic approach, which always builds upon the foundations of her previous works.

The presence of complete human figures and the use of soil as a symbolic material of human creation—according to the teachings of the Abrahamic religions—serve as Jessica Soekidi's starting point in exploring the diversity of humankind. The human figures atop mounds of earth appear to represent a generalized view of human complexity. The use of soil sourced from various locations becomes a metaphor for the diversity of human character and background.

Tanah tidak lagi sekadar simbol penciptaan manusia, tetapi juga simbol keragaman. Begitu pula material organik yang tumbuh melalui tanah. Kehadirannya nampak mewakili gagasan atas keterbatasan ruang fisik dan kesementaraan waktu, sekaligus berbicara tentang singkatnya kehidupan manusia.

*Unearth* merupakan olah artistik terkini Jessica Soekidi dalam mengungkap material tanah sebagai poros utama karyanya. Kompleksitas tanah tidak hanya diolah secara fisik melalui teknik pembakaran keramik yang dikombinasikan dengan unsur organik dan perkembangan terbaru teknologi cetak trimatra, tetapi juga ditelusuri secara simbolik melalui referensi-referensi gagasan penciptaan manusia dan alam semesta.

**Bob Edrian**

Soil is no longer merely a symbol of human creation but also of diversity. Likewise, the organic materials that grow from the soil signify the limitations of physical space and the impermanence of time, while also reflecting on the brevity of human life.

*Unearth* is Jessica Soekidi's latest artistic endeavour, positioning soil as the core material of her creative practice. Soil is not only processed physically—through ceramic firing techniques combined with organic elements and the latest developments in 3D printing technology—but also examined symbolically, drawing from various conceptual references to the creation of humans and the universe.





















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Jessica Soekidi  
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Bob Edrian  
June 30, 2025





## JESSICA SOEKIDI

Jessica Soekidi (b. 1987) is an Indonesian artist with an architect background who works in a wide range of media, including installation, painting, mixed media object, photography and film. With her background as an architect, her artworks are characterized by her fascination of space and its correlation with human. Her interest in spatial experience is her unique approach, a sensitivity that has been honed for a long time, making this an advantage for her in creating art installation works.

Jessica shows her consistency in creating works and pouring out her creative ideas through various exhibitions since 2017 until today. Since 2022, she talks about self-growth by taking the analogy of the growth cycle of plant seeds and the process of their formation in the soil. Jessica projects the future through the organic manifestation of the present. In *Unearth* is her latest artistic endeavour, positioning soil, an element that physically represents nature and symbolically relates to the creation of humankind, as the core material of her creative practice.

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