

NADI GALLERY

@ Art Basel Hong Kong 2014

Entering the second decade of our 21st century, the epicenter of contemporary art is shifting to Asia. In the previous century it was in the United States, and in the 19th century it was in Europe. This view has its close connection to the fact that the most dynamic and active economic development today is happening in Asia, with a number of countries that hold steady and strong economic growth in the last decade, such as China, India, Indonesia and the Philippines.

In recent months the art works from the region increasingly occupy a prominent place. Just to mention a few, there is Guggenheim Museum, N.Y. exhibition featuring art from the region, titled *No Country: Contemporary Art for South and Southeast Asia*. Even the prestigious *ArtReview* magazine has recently launched its Asia editions particularly for covering the art activities of the region and also, of course, reaching its new prospective readers in Asia. While other publications such as *ArtAsiaPacific*, *The Art Newspaper* and *Art + Auction* has already been covering Indonesia as one of the main hotspots of contemporary art market in Asia. At the same time, Indonesia is also getting special attention in various international art forums: Art Stage Singapore 2013 provides a special platform for the presentation of the works of Indonesian artists. While recently in Art Basel Hong Kong, Indonesian artist's works stand out through the presentation of a number of galleries from Indonesia and outside Indonesia. Also, a special presentation of Indonesian Pavilion is currently happening in Venice Biennale.

These developments were encouraging, especially for Nadi Gallery who have been actively participating in various international art fairs in the region (Singapore, Hong Kong, China) since 2004. Our participation in these fairs is the manifestation of our commitment to introduce the best works of Indonesian art to the art lovers and collectors outside of Indonesia. That is why, for the same reason, we will, once again, participate in the Art Stage Singapore 2014

In this event, Nadi Gallery is featuring works by Agus Suwage, Eddie Hara, Handiwirman Saputra, Jumaldi Alfi, and Yuli Prayitno. These are the five Indonesian artists of international reputation, with a number of important exhibitions at home and abroad. All five also is an important figure in the development of Indonesian art because of their unique artistic approach and achievement.

Agus Suwage is known for his extensive use of self-portrait in paintings, sculptures and installations. He has been a clever observer of events. Adopting iconic motifs and images from popular culture, the artist “injects” his own body into these images to express personal musings about his environment or as critiques of particular events. In recent years, Agus Suwage’s work has moved away from self-portraiture and extended into wider terrain, exploring the relationship between photography, portraiture, and death. Eddie Hara who absorbs all kinds of rough, wild, and raw visual practices. He absorbs all art patterns and visualization styles of the realm of the subcultures, which are often considered trashy, and subsequently transformed them into works with highly distinctive idiosyncratic visual features. Handiwirman Saputra, with his idiosyncratic visual concept and unique treatment of trivial materials and forms, has blurred the distinction between realistic and abstract imagery in his paintings and various types of three-dimensional works. Jumaldi Alfi, on the other hand, has continually challenged our perception and understanding of painting, a rectangular plane placed flat against the wall. His paintings delineate functions of space, mark down intricate sequences of creative events, and tests the viewer's fields of vision. His works require exploration. Alfi's painting are furthermore clearly rooted in drawing, marked by frequent use of charcoal, board marker, and pencil, which are being used to draw out intricate narrations, reciting creative events that stood at the basis of their making. While Yuli Prayitno looks striking for his consistence in making three-dimensional works from wood. His strong point comes from the fact that he boldly takes the challenge to freely process and combine materials for making various simple forms by which to generate interesting narrative compositions. He works with plastic, wood, rubber, glass, ceramic, metal, found objects and others to discover various technical and visual manipulations that are executed with rigorous craftsmanship.

We believe that the works of these Indonesian artists will be able to show a little bit of the interesting part of Indonesian contemporary art, which in its entirety is far more diverse and complex.

We certainly hope that our presentation can be appreciated and beneficial to all visitors of Art Basel Hong Kong 2014.

Nadi Gallery, 2014.