

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Ivan Sagita, *once upon a time there was a procession*, 2011-13, oil on canvas, 155 x 200 cm

Ivan Sagita: they lay their heads on a soft place

Curated by Tony Godfrey

Friday, 22 August – Thursday, 18 September 2014

Exhibition Opening | Friday 22 August, 6.30 - 9pm

Equator Art Projects is pleased to present **Ivan Sagita's** first solo exhibition at the gallery. Featuring a new body of work encompassing painting, photography and sculpture, the show is a timely evaluation of the artist's versatile and diverse practice.

Ivan Sagita is one of the most prominent artists associated with Jogja surrealism, a style that emerged in the 1980s. This mode of expression is often viewed as a reaction against the shift towards decorativism or painstaking realism under the Suharto era. The works are often satirical and wrought with symbolism, exploring themes of humanity and societal issues.

This series is a continuation from previous works and is inspired by the artist's research on the bizarre phenomenon of *pulung gantung*. The myth originates in Gunung Kidul, an area south of Jogjakarta known for notoriously high instances of suicide. *Pulung gantung* refers to a mysterious orb-like red light that when seen descending upon a home, forewarns of an impending suicide, usually committed by hanging. These works reflect the artist's pre-occupation with themes surrounding the fragility of life, mortality and spiritualism. Sagita's visual language creates a distorted reality, drawing the viewer into a timeless space where the line between conscious and unconscious is blurred. The figures with their elongated forms occupy the foreground and are

EQUATOR

ARTPROJECTS

depicted with hyperrealistic detail, juxtaposed against a backdrop of a Javanese landscape. Often the landscape is seen as empty, with an eerie dreamlike quality heightening the sense of transience.

The exhibition is accompanied by an illustrated catalogue with an essay by Tony Godfrey.

Ivan Sagita (b. 1957, Lawang, East Java - Indonesia) received his BFA from the Indonesian Institute of the Arts (ISI), Jogjakarta in 1985. In 2003, he was awarded a Fellowship Artists in Residence from the Vermont Studio Centre, USA. He is also the recipient of numerous awards including *Indonesian Painting Biennale* (1987 & 1989), Silver Medal at the *Osaka Triennale* (1996) and Mainichi Broadcasting System Prize at the *Osaka Sculpture Triennale* (1998). Sagita has exhibited extensively in Japan, Australia, Indonesia, Singapore and USA. Selected exhibitions include *The First Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art* (Brisbane – Australia, 1993); *Under Cover* (The Pretoria Art Museum and Ipopeng Project, Pretoria – South Africa & Sandton Civic Gallery, Johannesburg – South Africa, 1998); *Soul Ties* (Singapore Art Museum, 1999); *Freezing The Time* (Gallery of Northern Territory University, Darwin – Australia, 2001); *CP Open Biennale: Interpellation* (National Gallery, Jakarta – Indonesia, 2003); *Beyond: The Limits and Its Challenges, Biennale Jakarta XII* (Jakarta – Indonesia, 2006). The artist lives and works in Jogjakarta, Indonesia.

Warning: Please note that this exhibition contains images that may be disturbing.

GALLERY EVENTS

Exhibition Opening: Friday, 22 August 2014 | 6.30 – 9 pm

Public Lecture

Tony Godfrey will present a general lecture on the representation of dying in art, looking at the work of Ivan Sagita and other artists. The lecture will be held at Equator Art Projects on Saturday, 6 September from 3 - 4 pm.

About Equator Art Projects

Equator Art Projects developed out of Langgeng Art Gallery, Magelang and Jakarta, which for nine years held exhibitions of the best Indonesian artists. Tony Godfrey, ex-Head of Research from Sotheby's Institute and author of several books on contemporary art, has combined with Deddy Irianto, founder of Langgeng Art Gallery and the non-profit Langgeng Art Foundation Yogyakarta, to make a gallery based in Singapore that will: (a) act as an international showcase for Indonesian artists, (b) be a forum for discussion, experimentation and research, (c) show art from other countries especially The Philippines, Singapore and England. We are also proposing a dynamic programme of talks and publications. Our recent exhibitions include *Indonesian Painting IV* (featuring eight artists from the Philippines and Indonesia: Alfredo Esquillo Jr., Indieguerillas, Mark Justiniani, Joy Mallari, Arturo Sanchez Jr., Srihadi Soedarsono, Uji 'Hahan' Handoko Eko Saputro and Entang Wiharso), *Do You Believe in Angels?* (presenting works by over fifty artists including Ay Tjoe Christine, Heman Chong, Geraldine Javier, Gary-Ross Pastrana, Bambang "Toko" Witjaksono, MM Yu and Zhao Renhui), *Painting in Singapore* (works by nine artists including Milenko Prvacki, Ian Woo, Jeremy Sharma and Jane Lee) and solo projects by Oky Rey Montha, Yuli Prayitno, Sunaryo, J. Ariadhitya Pramuhendra, Wiyoga Muhardanto, Maria Jeona Zoleta and Jason Lim.

For further information & press enquiries please contact:

Charmaine Lim | +65 6694 3727 | charmaine@eqproj.com