

# Six Degrees of Separation

Entang Wiharso, Jumaldi Alfi, Sally Smart, Fendry Ekel,  
Takashi Kuribayashi

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Galeri Canna is proud to present the exhibition **Six Degrees of Separation** featuring the work of Entang Wiharso (IND), Fendry Ekel (NLD), Jumaldi Alfi (IND), Sally Smart (AUS) and Takashi Kurabayashi (JPN).

We are often attracted to or interested in perfect strangers. Is it purely physical? Is it merely curiosity? Or is there more? Perhaps we find the unknown alluring or, conversely, perhaps we are actually seeking a degree of connectedness. Six Degrees of Separation - the theory that any two individuals are connected by at most five others, and the questions it raises about identity, networks and influence - underlies this exhibition.

The notion of six degrees has become influential throughout popular culture. The play of the same title by John Guare, which was later made into a Hollywood movie, ruminates on the blessing and burden of connection. Guare's character says, "I read somewhere that everybody on this planet is separated by only six other people. Six degrees of separation between us and everyone else on this planet. The President of the United States, a gondolier in Venice, just fill in the names. I find it A) extremely comforting that we're so close, and B) like Chinese water torture that we're so close because you have to find the right six people to make the right connection... I am bound to everyone on this planet by a trail of six people." While there is no overt collaboration amongst the artists in this show, their distinct works of art are considered in relationship to the 'social capital' of human networks and the idea that a limited number of intermediaries separate us from any other person in our compressed global community. We often define ourselves in relations to others and seek to establish the links that bind us together. Identity is deeply influenced by the interconnectedness of human networks. When we use labels to define ourselves or others (nationality, profession, gender, ethnicity) are we masking the impermanence of who and what we really are?

The five artists exhibiting in **Six Degrees of Separation** each present work that offers hypothesis on the nature of identity, memory, and human connection. Their association to each other forms a loose network of relationships, stemming from a connection to Yogyakarta, Indonesia, where most have met and many have studios. The proximity of their work and their divergent connections to each other raise simple but provocative questions: How does the creative experiences and identity overlap? By linking the work of artists from different parts of the world through six degrees of separation, Galeri Canna hopes to create new opportunities for understanding each artist's work in a broader social context.