



**exi(s)t #4**

## **THE FOOD FILES**

*for immediate release*

Jakarta, 10 November 2015

Dia.lo.gue Artspace proudly presents *Exi(s)t #4*, an art programme first initiated in 2011, aimed at creating an opportunity for young Jakarta-based artists to participate in a series of workshop as well as an exhibition with a specific curatorial focus. This year, *Exi(s)t* also invites Evelyn Huang, lecturer and curator from Jakarta, to be involved as a curator, together with Mitha Budhyarto who has curated *Exi(s)t* since 2011. In this current edition, the participating artists are Ayu Larasati, Ayu Dila Martina, Cempaka Surakusumah, Faisal Rahman Ursalim, Fransisca Retno, Grace Joetama, Januar Rianto, Ruth Marbun and Wangsit Firmantika. The exhibition opens on Friday, November 13, 2015, 7.00 pm, which will be preceded by an artist talk at 4.30 pm.

The overarching theme of food in *Exi(s)t #4* invites the artists and visitors to reflect upon this primary need, which, within the urban lifestyle of Jakarta, also acts as a form of entertainment. Discussions about food cannot be separated from the larger spectrum of production, distribution and consumption processes with all their manifold problems. Political, social, and cultural backgrounds also shape our perceptions on food, which make themselves evident, for instance, in our preferences over certain foodstuffs. This exhibition presents artistic perspectives that unpack the issues surrounding food and the act of eating.

A “manifesto” about food was initially given by the curators for the artists to explore and research into further according to their own interests and perspectives. The programme then continued with an intensive workshop series with three different speakers: Andrea Peresthu, an architect and culinary lover; Dave Lumenta, anthropologist; and Elia Nurvista, an artist recently working with politics of food. The three speakers engaged the artists in deep discussions and challenged them to have both a playful and critical mindset.

After four months of curatorial process, the artists share their artistic perspective as follows: Ayu Larasati shows a disrupted cycle in farming and definitions of “good food” in relation to that; Ayu Dila Martina brings up the instant noodle as part of a nationalist rhetoric; Cempaka Surakusumah takes up her personal experience of therapeutic properties of cooking as a topic; Faisal Rahman Ursalim criticizes the disconnect between state policies about health and sanitization and the reality in context of street food; Fransisca Retno presents a performance on the overflow of information about traditional and modern

medicine; Grace Joetama talks about the psychological significance of the dining table and the emotional associations it evokes; Januar Rianto invites audience to use various bodily senses to access his work; Ruth Marbun tells a story of disenchantment felt towards the food one consumes in our daily lives; Wangsit Firmantika celebrates the eroticization of food as part of a ritual that celebrates puberty.

This exhibition runs from 13 October to December 13, 2015. A series of public workshop will be held throughout the exhibition period. For further details, please contact:

e. [info@dialogue-artspace.com](mailto:info@dialogue-artspace.com)

t. 021-719 9671

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