

Indonesian Artist Eddy Susanto on Albrecht Dürer's Old Testament



The woodcut print of **Albrecht Dürer** (1471–1528), one of the great masters of the Renaissance in Germany, has inspired Indonesian artist **Eddy Susanto** to create his “Albrecht Dürer and The Old Testament of Java” series, where he has replaced the lines of Durer’s woodcuts with handwritten text in Javanese script drawn from the ancient text Babad Tanah Jawi (History of The Land of Java).

At a time when Europe was emerging from the darker Middle Ages period, Islam was being introduced on the island of Java, transforming the lives of the locals, and it is this historical comparison that Susanto wants to underline with his work, bringing new meaning to the biblical motifs of Durer, themselves a graphic representation of Old Testament text written in Hebrew.

Susanto’s work is current on show at Gallery Michael Janssen until Mar 12.

When did you start this series?

I started working on it around mid-2011. There are now 22 works in this series and I consider it now complete as the works cover the entire contents of the Old Testament in a

Javanese version.

What inspired you to pick up on Dürer work?

I first learned about Dürer when I was researching artists of the Northern Renaissance (the renaissance that occurred in the European countries north of the Alps). My interest was partly because this art style is rarely discussed in historical studies of art and I wondered why. And from there, I was interested to learn more. I'm also very interested Dürer's works per se. He was a master and there is a special simplicity in each of his works. At the same time, I wanted to correlate his work with my own socio-culture environment and present it through today's contemporary spirit.

What did you want to say with the series?

I just want to communicate visually the results of my study, to present correlations between some cultures in the spirit of archiving.