

BAIK + KHNEYESSER FELIX ART FAIR 2019

Baik + Khneysser is pleased to present works by Aliansyah Caniago, Heri Dono, Mella Jaarsma, and Eddie Susanto at the inaugural iteration of the Felix Art Fair in Los Angeles. This group exhibition provides contemporary insights into the burgeoning Indonesian art scene through artistic practices that grapples with foreign influence, racial mystification, and geopolitical tensions. These works will be on display for the duration of the fair, from February 14- 17, 2019.

Despite featuring works localized to Indonesia, the discourses around these pieces extend well beyond any specific geography. Confronting questions such as what it means to belong to a nation? Or how a disapproving republic can comply with its partisan leaders? The works featured here deal with the subsequent complications of multi-culturalism and globalization. This multi-disciplinary display looks to topical conversations on America's relationship to the East and emphasizes various dynamics of cultural exchange, orientalism, and nationalistic conformity.

Heri Dono's depiction of infamous political radicals and recent U.S. presidential candidates satirically deconstructs the austerity of patriotic allegiances and one's own cultural customs. By utilizing the historical Javanese practice of Wayang puppetry, a tradition of allegorical storytelling, the artist likens contemporary world conflicts to antiquated fables, mythologies, and folklore. An act of mindful recollection, that further signifies Indonesia's post-colonial past and the broader resurgence of nationalism and intercontinental trade restrictions.

Larger two-dimensional works by Eddy Susanto delve into the social stigmas of the proverbial "other" as they relate to the fears and splendors of foreign assimilation. Sourcing Euro-centric compositions filled with exaggerated and fetishized anatomies, Susanto recreates these renditions out of writings which trace the exploitations of Eastern and Western societies. The paintings mystified portrayal of nondescript South-East Asian iconographies unearths problematic narratives of orientalism and the institutional preservation of these flawed histories. The artist's reference to "Asia in the Making of Europe" highlight the co-dependence of trans-pacific partners and questions how fair-exchange can contribute to the betterment of civilizations.

Other works including, *Point of Return Project* delve into the ramifications of such international partnerships and the volatile nature of haste transitions into modernization. Aliansyah Caniago's often performative practice investigates the impacts of urbanization and the displacement of civilian bodies within shifting cultural typographies. His utilization of transient materials provides a glimpse into the diasporic experience and the hurdles of cultural-homogenization and rapid economic expansion. Contemplations of the body are equally informed by both the selected artists and the venue itself.

Considering the hotel-room as a vessel for domestic and international travel, visitors may examine how differing identities can co-exist within a singular environment, as well as the circumstances that allow one to be there. Artworks from Mella Jaarsma's "Domain Series" echo the functions of this pseudo-domestic space while collaging assorted bodily attributes. These sculptural garments allude to the implications of uniformity and the political rein over civil subjects. Jaarsma, along with the other artists in this exhibition, works to challenge the archetypal conformities of a given people and the powers which govern when, where, and how they're allowed to interact.

ALIANSYAH CANIAGO

Aliansyah Caniago lives and works in Bandung, Indonesia. He studied Painting at the Bandung Institute of Technology Faculty Art and Design. Through site-specific interventions, installations and durational performances, he is interested in working directly with communities and developing artworks that could blend-in with the society, entering conflicted areas creatively and trying to repair the damaged environment. He participated in several group exhibitions and performance art events, both local and international. Alongside his artistic practice, he is also one of the founder of an artist collective space in Bandung, Ruang Gerilya. In 2015, Aliansyah was awarded as the Winner of Bandung Contemporary Art Award 2015, Bandung, Indonesia for the ongoing project in a damaged lake in West Java, Indonesia.

HERI DONO

Heri Dono is unquestionably one among the Indonesian contemporary artists from the late 1980s generation that are best known to contemporary art international community. Heri Dono is known through his installation that results from his experiments with the most popular Javanese folk theater: wayang. In the wayang performance a number of artistic and extra-artistic elements - visual arts, singing, music, storytelling, mythology promotion of a philosophy of life, social criticisms, and humor - merge into a coherent unity to make a generic performance comprising complex elements of multimedia. Moreover all this is coupled with the setting of a wayang performance event that provides space for social interaction among the audience. Heri Dono installations give the best example of the attempts at creatively revitalizing traditional art practice profoundly rooted in Indonesia, in a lot of his installations and performances, Heri Dono effectively makes use of performativity and interactivity potencies so that the works are involved in intense dialogs with their audiences.

EDDY SUSANTO

Eddy Susanto was born in Jakarta. He graduated with a degree in Graphic Design from the Indonesian Institute of Art, Yogyakarta in 1996. Since 2007 he has had 18 solo exhibitions, and participated in numerous group exhibitions. His works have been featured in both public and private institutions such as the Singapore Art Museum, Indonesian Presidential Museum; Eddy Hartanto's Museum in Jakarta; the National Gallery of Indonesia; and Mask Museum Bali. He has also participated in various international fairs including ArtStage Singapore; Art Tokyo; ArtJog Indonesia; ArtStage Jakarta; and Lawangwangi Bandung.

MELLA JAARSMAN

Mella Jaarsma was born in the Netherlands in 1960. She studied visual art at Minerva Academy, Groningen (1978-1984) after which she left the Netherlands to study at the Art Institute of Jakarta (1984) and, later, at the Indonesian Institute of the Arts (1985-1986), Yogyakarta. Ever since that time, she has lived and worked in Indonesia. Her work has been presented widely in exhibitions in Indonesia as well as in international art events like; Yokohama Triennale (2005), 'Accidentally Fashion (2007)'. Museum of Contemporary Art – Taipei, RE- Addressing Identities (2009)- Katonah Museum -New York, 'GSK Contemporary – Aware: Art Fashion Identity (2010)', the Royal Academy of Arts, London, 'Singapore Biennale (2011)' - Singapore Art Museum, Suspended Histories (2013)-Van Loon Museum - Amsterdam, 'Siasat', Jakarta Biennale, Museum of Ceramics and Fine Arts, - 'The Roving Eye' (2014), Arter – Istanbul, The Sydney Biennale 20th', (2016), etc. Mella Jaarsma has become known for her complex costumes, which focus on cultural and racial diversity through clothing. Her works are bodily modifications of the social space in between the layers of skin, clothing, sartorial inhibition and housing/ architecture.