

Bio

Mella Jaarsma has become known for her complex costume installations and her focus on forms of cultural and racial diversity embedded within clothing, the body and food. She was born in the Netherlands in 1960 and studied visual art at Minerva Academy in Groningen (1978-1984), after which she left the Netherlands to study at the Art Institute of Jakarta (1984) and at the Indonesian Institute of the Arts in Yogyakarta (1985-1986). She has lived and worked in Indonesia ever since. In 1988, she co-founded Cemeti Art House (with Nindityo Adipurnomo), the first space for contemporary art in Indonesia, which to this day remains an important platform for young artists and art workers in the country and region.

Mella Jaarsma's works have been presented widely in exhibitions and art events in Indonesia and abroad, including: the 20th Sydney Biennale (2016); 'The Roving Eye', Arter, Istanbul(2014); 'Siasat – Jakarta Biennale', Museum of Ceramics and Fine Arts, Jakarta (2013); 'Suspended Histories', Museum Van Loon, Amsterdam (2013); 'Singapore Biennale', Singapore Art Museum (2011); 'GSK Contemporary – Aware: Art Fashion Identity', the Royal Academy of Arts, London(2010); 'RE-Addressing Identities', Katonah Museum, New York (2009); 'Accidentally Fashion', Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei (2007); Yokohama Triennial (2005), and many others. Her work is part of the collection of the Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia and the Singapore Art Museum, amongst others.

Born October 9th, 1960, Emmeloord, The Netherlands
Lives and works in Yogyakarta, Indonesia since 1984

Education

1978-1984 Fine Art Academy 'Minerva', Groningen, The Netherlands
1984 Art Institute Jakarta (IKJ), Jakarta, Indonesia
1985-1986 Indonesian Institute of the Arts (ISI), Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Solo Exhibitions (a selection since 2000)

2018 'Re-Play #8', OFCA, Sarong Building, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
2017 'Bolak Balik' Jendela Art Space, Esplanade, Singapore
2016 'Carrier' Baik Art, Los Angeles, USA
'Carrier', LA Art Show, Los Angeles, USA
2015 'Lari', Embun Gallery, Medan, Indonesia (together with Nindityo Adipurnomo)
2014 'Potong Waktu', Nadi Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
2013 'Male Energy / Tenaga LakiLaki', Jatiwangi Art Factory, Jatiwangi, Indonesia
2012 'Truth, Lies and Senses', Lawangwangi Creative Space, Bandung, Indonesia
'Toekar Tambah', with Nindityo Adipurnomo at Semarang Gallery, Semarang, Indonesia
2009 'The Fitting Room', Selasar Sunaryo Art Space, Bandung
'The Fitting Room', National Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
'Zipper Zone', s.14, Bandung, Indonesia
2006 'De meeloper / the follower', Artoteek Den Haag, The Netherlands



- 2005 'Shelter me', Gaya Fusion Art Space, Ubud, Bali, Indonesia
'Asal', Etemad Gallery, Tehran, Iran
- 2004 'The Shelter', Valentine Willie Fine Arts, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2002 'Moral Pointers' Lontar Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2001 'I Eat You Eat Me III', The Art Center, Center of Academic Resources, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2000 'I Eat You Eat Me II', Cemeti Art House, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
'I Eat You Eat Me I', Lembaga Indonesia-Perancis, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Group Exhibitions (a selection since 1999)

- 2019 'The Coming World: Ecology as the New Politics 2030–2100', Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia
'Contemporary Worlds: Indonesia', National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia
'Dunia Dalam Berita', Macan Museum, Jakarta, Indonesia
'Art Basel Hong Kong', with Yavuz Gallery, Convention Center, Hong Kong, China
'Concept, Context, Contestation', Goethe Institute, Yangon, Myanmar
'Felix LA' with Baik Art, Hollywood Hotel, Los Angeles, USA
- 2018 'Edge of Wonderland', Thailand Biennale, Krabi, Thailand
'Disposable Bodies', Yavuz Gallery, Singapore
'|Beyond The Myth - Art Bali', AB.BC Building, Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia
'Java – Art Energy', Center for Islamic Cultures, Paris, France
'20th SSAS/AS/IDEAS', Bale project, Selasar Sunarya Art Space, Bandung, Indonesia
'Sandangan' Lorong Gallery, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
'900mdpl' Lir - site-specific project, Kaliurang, Indonesia.
'SPEKTRUM Hendra Gunawan', Ciputra Artpreneur, Jakarta, Indonesia
'Enlightment', ArtJog18, Jogja National Museum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
'Art Busan', with Baik Art, Busan, South Korea
'The Sun Teaches Us that History Is Not Everthing', Osage Art Foundation, Hong Kong
'Henosis', Baik Art, Seoul, South Korea
'Vanitas', food designweek, Palazzo Michiel, Venice, Italia
- 2017 'Beautiful Distress', Het Vijfde Seizoen, Nieuw Dakota, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
'Power and Other Things', Europalia, Bozar, Brussels
'Sunshower', National Art Center Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
'Baik Art Residencies', Van Every/Smith Galleries, Davidson College, Davidson, USA
- 2016 'Art with Purpose', exhibition for United Nations, National Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
'SEA+ Triennale', National Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
'Merayakan Murni', Sudakara Art Space, Sanur, Bali, Indonesia
'Universal Influences', ArtJog08, Jogja National Museum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
'On the Table', Lir Project Space, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Concept, Context, Contestation, Mes56, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
'Paper Traces', Sangkring Art Space, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
'Manifesto V', National Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
'Workwear', Casa d'Itali, Montreal, Canada
'Workwear', The Sheila C. Johnson Design Center, New York, - Columbia College, Chicago, USA
'20th Biennale of Sydney: The future is already here – it's just not evenly distributed', Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
'Costume National', AXENÉO7, Quebec, Canada
'Dialogue Playground', Dia.io.gue, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2015 'Indonesian Contemporary Art & Design (ICAD)', Grand Kemang, Jakarta

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- 'No title yet', Sangkring Art Space, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
 'ART/JOG15 – Infinity in Flux', Taman Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
 'Politics of Food', Delfina Foundation, Londen, England
 'Fashion as Social Energy', Palazzo Morando – Museum of Imagine, Fashion and Costume, Milan, Italia
 'Video works by Southeast Asian artists', Art Paris, Grand Palais and club Silencio, Paris, France
- 2014
 'Orde Baru', OkVideo, Media Art Festival, National Gallery, Jakarta
 'The Roving Eye', ARTER, Istanbul, Turkey
 'Abiti Da Lavoro', Milan Triennale, Galleria Aulenti, Milan, Italia
 'Melihat Indonesia', Ciputra Artpreneur, Jakarta, Indonesia
 'ART/JOG14 - Legacy of Power', Taman Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
 'Medium at Large', Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
 'Fiesta Kota Tua Jakarta', Jakarta Endowment For Art and Heritage (JEFORAH), Jakarta Contemporary Arts, Post Office Fatahillah, Indonesia
- 2013
 'Dirty Feet', Cemeti Art House, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
 'Siasat', Jakarta Biennale, Museum Keramik dan Seni Rupa, Jakarta, Indonesia
 'Suspended Histories', van Loon Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 'Outspoken' Biasa Art Space, Seminyak, Bali, Indonesia
 'Feast: Radical Hospitality in Contemporary Art', the Blaffer Museum of Art, University of Houston, Houston, US
- 2012
 'ART/JOG13; Maritime Culture', Taman Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
 'Sip! Indonesian Art Today' ARNDT Berlin, Berlin, Germany and Singapore
 'Safe Place in the Future', Jim Thompson House, Bangkok, Thailand
 'Duchamp in South East Asia', Equator Art Projects, Singapore
 'Indonesia Contemporary Fiber Art-Mapping', ArtOne Museum, Jakarta, Indonesia
 'Design/Art : Renegotiating Boundaries', Lawangwangi Creative Space, Bandung, Indonesia
 'XXL', Sangkring Art Space with Valentine Willie Fine Arts, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
 'HomoLudens', Emmitan Gallery, Surabaya, Indonesia
 'ART/JOG12', Taman Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
 'Negeri Ngayogyakarta Hadiningrat', Jogja National Museum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
 'Feast: Radical Hospitality in Contemporary Art', Smart Museum, Chicago, US
 'Dress/ID -the language of the self', Centre d'art Passerelle, Brest, France
 'Subject Shall Remain Anonymous' Helutrans Artspace, Singapore
 'Art Dubai', Dubai, the Emirates
- 2011
 'Artfair Paris', Grand Palais, Taiss Gallery, Paris, France
 'Beyond The East - A gaze on Indonesian Contemporary Art', MACRO Testaccio Museum, Rome, Italia
 'Skin Matters', Soemardja Gallery, ITB, Bandung, Indonesia
 'Motion/Sensation', Grand Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia
 'Expansi – Contemporary Sculpture', National Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
 'Indonesian Eye', Saatchi Gallery, London, England and Ciputra Art Preneur Jakarta
 'Configurations – Indonesian Mythologies', Espace Culturel Louis Vuitton, Paris, France
 'KAAP', Fort Ruigenhoek, Utrecht, the Netherlands
 'Absence', Manila Contemporary, Manila, the Philippines
 'Negotiating Home, History and Nation', Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
 'Fiber Face', Taman Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
 'ArtStage', with Valentine Willie Fine Arts, Singapore
 '1001 Doors', Ciputra Marketing Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia

- 2010 'GSK Contemporary – Aware: Art Fashion Identity', the Royal Academy of Arts, London, England
 'Digit(all)' Umahseni, Jakarta, Indonesia
 'ShadowDance', Kunsthal Kade, Amersfoort, The Netherlands
 'Material Girls', 24hr Art, Darwin, Australia
 'No Direction Home', Edwin Gallery at National Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
 'Making History', Jendela Gallery, Esplanade, Singapore
 'Faith and Reason', Manila Contemporary, Manila, Philippines
 'Mist', Lawangwangi Art Space, Bandung, Indonesia
- 2009 'JOGJA JAMMING', Yogyakarta Biennale X, Yogyakarta National Museum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
 'Beyond the Dutch', Central Museum, Utrecht, The Netherlands
 'Fusion Folks', Bo-Pi Liao, Taipei, Taiwan
 'New Nature', the National Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
 'The Incheon Women Artists' Biennale', Art Platform, Incheon, Korea
 'Re- Addressing Identities', Katonah Museum, New York, USA
 'Living Legends' the National Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
 'Designing Peace: a show of imagination', Museum of Contemporary Art and Design, Manila
 'Enam Pekan Perempuan' Salihara Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
 'ASEAN Contemporary Art Exchange', Thamada Gallery, Yangon, Myanmar
- 2008 'A Decade of Dedication: Ten Years Revisited', Selasar Sunaryo Art Space, Bandung, Indonesia
 '8888', la Cartuja, Sevilla, Spain
 '8888', Cultural Council, Sitges, Spain
 '10th Sonsbeek: Grandeur', park Sonsbeek, Arnhem, The Netherlands
 'Urban Concerns' Bildmuseet, Umeå, Swedia
- 2007 'Kuota', National Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
 'Yogyakarta Biennale, 'Neo-nation', Taman Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
 '22nd International Art Exhibition', Selasar Sunaryo Art Space', Bandung, Indonesia
 'The Curtain Opens', National Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
 '100 tahun Affandi', Taman Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
 'Very Fun Park II', Fubon Art Foundation, Taipei, Taiwan
 'Fashion Accidentally', Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Taipei, Taiwan
 'Shelter', Museum de Fundatie, Zwolle – Heino, The Netherlands
 'Wherever we go', San Francisco Institute of the Arts, San Francisco, USA
- 2006 'Saigon Open City', War Museum, Ho Chi Ming City, Vietnam
 'Wherever we go', Spazio Oberdan, Milan, Italia
 'Nederland 1', Museum Gouda, Gouda, the Netherlands
 'Flucht Vertreibung Intergration', Haus de Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn -
 Deutschen Historischen Museum, Berlin – Zeitgeschichtlichen Forum, Leipzig, Germany
- 2005 'Taboo and Transgression in Contemporary Indonesian Art', Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA
 'GRID # 2', Eof Art Space, Paris, France
 'Urban Culture', CP Biennale II, Museum Bank Indonesia, Jakarta
 'Yokohama 2005: International Triennale of Contemporary Art', Yamashita Pier, Yokohama, Japan
 'Natural Selection', Linden – St Kilda Centre for Contemporary Arts, Melbourne, Australia
 'Go Inside', Tirana Biennale, Galeria Kombetare e Arteve, Tirana, Albania



- 2004 'Identities versus Globalisation', Chang Mai Art Museum, Chang Mai, Thailand - Museum of Contemporary Art, Bangkok - Dahlem Museum, Berlin, Germany
'Artscope', Selasar Sunaryo Art Space, Bandung, Indonesia
'Asian Traffic', Asia-Australia Contemporary Arts Centre, Sydney, Australia
'Reformasi', Sculpture Square, Singapore
'Living with HIV-Aids – artists responding on HIV Aids', Queens Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand
'Art Summit', National Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2003 'GRID' Erasmushuis, Jakarta
'Witnessing to Silence' Canberra Contemporary Art Space, as part of the ANU Humanities Research Centre project; Art and Human Rights, Canberra, Australia
'Interpellation', CP Open Biennale, National Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
'Country-bution' Yogyakarta Biennale VII, Taman Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2002 'EV+A 2002', Limerick, Ireland
'Site + Sight: translating cultures', LaSalle College of the Arts, Sculpture Square, Singapore
'Gwangju Biennale', Gwangju, Korea
'Visual Poetry', Hokkaido Museum of Literature, Sapporo, Japan
'OPEN 2002, 5th International Exhibition of Sculptures and Installations', Venice Lido, Italy
'GRID', Cemeti Art House, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
'Art in Public', Ruang Rupa, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2001 'Palu – Indonesia Forum', Palu, Sulawesi, Indonesia
'Not I am I', Nadi Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
'Floating Chimeras', Edsvik Art, Sollentuna, Sweden
'ARS 01', KIASMA Museum, Helsinki, Finland
- 2000 'Reformasi Indonesia', Museum Nusantara, Delft, The Netherlands
- 1999 'Womanifesto '99', Saranrom Park, Bangkok, Thailand
'Soul Ties', Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
'Third Asia-Pacific Triennial', Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia
'Festival Pekan Seni Ipoh IV '99', Art Foundation Perak, Perak, Malaysia
'Makasar Art Forum', Ujung Pandang, Indonesia

Performances

- 2018 'Vanitas', food designweek, Palazzo Michiel, Venice, Italia
- 2017 'Dogwalk', Macan Museum, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2016 'DogWalk', '20th Biennale of Sydney: The future is already here – it's just not evenly distributed', Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
- 2011 'Animals have no Religion', Manila Contemporary, Manila, The Philippines
- 2010 'Image of no Dream', 'Het vijfde seizoen', psychiatrically clinic Altrecht, Den Dolder, The Netherlands
- 2008 'The constructor', Senthong Seni, Bantul, Indonesia
- 2007 'This land is ours', Padepokan Lemah Putih, Solo, Indonesia
- 2004 'Rubber Time II' Asia-Australia Contemporary Arts Centre, Sydney, Australia
'Do I need to feed you? IV', Via-via café, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
'Nyuwun den', Kedai Kebun Forum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2003 'Rubber Time I' Theertha International Artists Workshop 2003, Lunugangga, Sri Lanka
'Rubber Time II' Yogyakarta Biennale VII, Taman Budaya Sositet, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2002 'Under Cover', Lontar Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia

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- 2001 'Under Cover' The Art Center, Center of Academic Resources, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
'I Eat You Eat Me I', EAT ME Restaurant, Bangkok, Thailand
'I Eat You Eat Me II', Jakarta; Habituspublik 2001, Blok M Plaza, Jakarta, Indonesia
'I Eat You Eat Me III', Edsvik, Sollentuna, Swedia
- 2000 'Under Cover', Lembaga Indonesia-Perancis, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 1999 'Hi Inlander', APT3, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia
- 1998 'Pribumi', Marlioboro Street, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Art Projects

- 2006 "Leben Gundlings Friedrich von Preüssen Lessings Schlaf Traum Schrei", Heiner Müller Foundation, Lichtenberg, Berlin
- 2004 'Seeing with foreign eyes...', Flying Circus, Theater works, Singapore
- 2003 Collaboration at Studio 106 with Amanda Heng, Singapore
- 'Theertha International Artists Workshop', Lunagangga, Sri Lanka
- 2002 'Art of Bamboo', Nitiprayan village near Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 1996 'Kita Makan Apa Hari Ini', Surabaya Art Festival, Surabaya, Indonesia
- 1993 'Art and Environment' cremation place Pralina at Munduk Village, Bali, Goethe Institute, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 1991 'Inspiraties I', City Theatre, Arnhem, The Netherlands
'Inspiraties I', Museum of Modern Art, Arnhem, The Netherlands

Residencies

- 2017 Europalia residency at Welt Museum Vienna, Austria
Baik Art Residencies, Van Every/Smith Galleries, Davidson College, Davidson, USA
- 2016 Baik Art Residencies, 18th Street Arts Center, Los Angeles, USA
AXENÉO7, Quebec, Canada
- 2013 Jatiwangi Art Factory, Jatiwangi, Indonesia
- 2011 'Absence', Valentine Willie Fine Art / Manila Contemporary, Manila, the Philippines
- 2010 'Image of no Dream', Het Vijfde Seizoen, Den Dolder, The Netherlands
'Small Architects', Jatiwangi Art Factory, Jatiwangi, Indonesia
- 2004 Rimbun Dahan, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2003 Studio 106, LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts, Singapore
- 2001 Art Center, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

Grants

- 1998 Travel grant to Sapporo from The Japan Foundation, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 1988- 1991 Artists' work grants from The Ministry of Culture and Education, The Netherlands

Awards (on personal art practice and Cemeti Art House)

- 2014 'Adikarya Senirupa', Visual Art Award by the Ministry of Creative Industry and Tourism, Indonesia, together with Nindityo Adipurnomo
- 2010 Yogyakarta Biennale Art Award together with Nindityo Adipurnomo
- 2008 Academic Art Award #2, Jogja Gallery / Indonesia Institute of the Arts, Yogyakarta, together with Nindityo Adipurnomo
- 2006 John D. Rockefeller 3rd Award, New York, USA together with Nindityo Adipurnom

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