

Awaiting Light - Rio Saren

“Awaiting Light” is Balinese artist Rio Saren’s latest solo exhibition, open 6 May Santrian Gallery, Sanur. Saren presents 28 mixed media works, paintings and installations inspired by sources of light and the moon.

The human experience, along with the cycles of life are themes important to Saren. He depicts wheels, circular compositions and round canvases, even bicycle wheels become frames his paintings. Akin with his Balinese Hindu philosophies, Saren reveals that all life is in constant motion – in a process of birth, death and then renewal.

Ever willing to experiment, over recent years Saren has been integrating cultural icons into his mixed media works. Dried coconut shells that once functioned as traditional utensils become subject to his creative ideas, to which he adds other pieces of timber to create wonderful figurative creatures.

Saren's home studio in North Denpasar, that he shares with his Japanese wife and their two aspiring artist children reflects the scope of his diversity. Here he investigates the potential of traditional Balinese icons and natural materials as the source of fresh expression. At the Santrian Gallery entrance Saren’s installation of hanging forms shaped from coconuts decorated with his characteristic figures and forms compliment the breadth of his creative oeuvre in “Awaiting Light”.

Saren pays great attention to the aesthetic qualities and the surface of his canvases. He applies layers of sand mixed with glue to create fine, evenly textured surfaces to which he paint, and then finishes with a gloss coating. Utilizing the visual potency of metallic bronze and gold paint in several works, along with the embossing technique to build rounded 3 D surfaces increases the dynamic aesthetic qualities of his works.

Upon “Awaiting Light” he forms measured textured patterns upon the sand surface adding dimensionality to the work while increasing the painting’s abstract elements. “Supermoon”, an enormous 200 x 200 cm circular canvas contrasts red against green adding to the visual tension.

Other circular canvases include “Dead Moon” reflecting on the one night of the month when the moons form in the sky is the least visible, “Lunar Eclipse” communicates the unusual nature of the rare phenomenon when the suns light is temporarily obscured by the moon, while “Reaching For the Moon” depicts a figure with long out stretched arms casts up into the night sky. “The Gruesome Moon”, on the other hand depicts facial expressions of displeasure.

“Malirikan” (Giving Birth) is a strange, almost unsettling image of a women giving birth, an enormous upside down face is depicted between her legs. “Gong” is a colourful mixed media, bowl shaped 3 Dimensional work thats structure is the amalgamation of various objects.

His compositions appear as a milieu of colourful flowing organic forms, often abstract and figurative with mysterious faces and expressions, outlined with black lines, and always metaphorically charged. Under the gallery’s lighting Saren’s paintings come alive, glowing with lustre, life and light.

“Menintip” is a collection of 3 small objects fastened to the gallery wall in which Saren adopts the elements of mystery and surprise. Two small wooden doors open to reveal an inner compartment, an electrical cable with a switch ignites a small light positioned inside and intriguing little worlds then come to life.

Rio Saren was born in Denpasar in 1985 and studied fine art at ISI Depensar (Indonesian Art Institute). He is a popular face within the Balinese art community and has consistently exhibited in group exhibitions in Bali and Jawa in recent years. Through remaining true to his own intuitive messages Saren has succeeded in creating his on signature style that is easily recognizable.

“Awaiting Light” is delightful exhibition that wonderfully comes to life in the Santrian Gallery. Rich in beautiful colours and flowing forms, his compositions are both graceful, yet at times unsettling. There is, however a potent essence within his works that make them highly attractive.

Awaiting Light
Continues through until 24 June 2016
Santrian Gallery
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Awaiting Light



Melahirkan



Beruk





Supermoon



Menintip



Gong

