

Banten - Jan Peter Opheusden

It is the laws of nature that arrange color and form to create our physical world. The environmental wonders of Bali allow us to enjoy the azure blue sea, rich green forests and the burning sun drifting slowly over the horizon at sunset. These phenomena have enormous impact on the conscious and subconscious mind.

When a gifted artist manipulates color upon canvas in an expression of pure spontaneity and freedom the results may be dramatic, and magical as well. The laws of nature are again, mysteriously at work. Frequencies of color respond with the codes of our subconscious. Our emotions may be provoked, and the imagination sparks into life. Some how we are seduced by what is observed, even though the conscious mind is yet to understand. This is the potency of fine art and one of the reasons why it is regarded with high esteem.

On exhibition at Ubud's Agung Rai Museum of Art from the 25th January until 23rd of February are paintings by Dutch colorist Jan Peter Van Opheusden. "Banten" (Balinese –meaning ritual offering materials) showcases over 70 paintings ranging from small portraits to large expressionistic painting in a body of work produced over the past year.

Van Opheusden (b. 1941, Eindhoven, the Netherlands) is an international artist having exhibited and painted in many countries throughout Europe, is a regular visitor to the Island of Bali. He was trained in not as a painter, yet at the Academy for Industrial Design in Eindhoven. In "Banten", Balinese people and events are a feature of his creative drive along with works that tell of his love of life, the emotions that it encapsulates, both logical and mysterious.

Within his works we can make references to many modern art genres, and for local artists, art lovers and visitors alike he offers an opportunity to engage in paintings of the caliber that are rarely seen on display in Bali.

Van Opheusden's talent is revealed through the power of suggestion. He needs not to be concerned in the details yet, cleverly adds enough information – color and form to allow the observers subconscious and imagination to create the paintings. Often his works strike deep chords – triggering powerful emotional responses.

The artist believes his talent is his gift from the Gods and due to the unique inspiration he receives when visiting this island, "Banten" is his gift to Bali, the people and the Balinese Gods.

"Sawah" is an extraordinary composition that is equally beautiful as it is disturbing. A fragment of dark blue sky looms in the distance – unsettling. Two dark figures toil in the rice field, a plane of red acrylic contrasting with the brilliance of gold leaf. This ignites images of shimmering golden rice fields prior to harvest, yet also the memory of atrocities that have been a real part of Bali's recent history. This history is rarely mentioned and today remains intentionally buried by the powers that be.

Continuing through until 23rd February 2014.

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Agung Rai Museum of Art.

Jalan Raya, Pengosekan, Ubud.



Jan Peter van Opheusden, 'Mother', 95x105cm, oil on canvas, 2013



Jan Peter van Opheusden, 'Barong' 150x210cm, oil on canvas, 2013



Jan Peter van Opheusden, 'Tajen' 150x150cm, oil on canvas 2012