

# Filippo Sciascia

Italian contemporary artist Filippo Sciascia relationship with Asia and Indonesia began back in 1998, however, says the artist, he has only truly “come of age as an Italian-Indonesian artist” in 2013 when he successfully fused iconography from the two worlds into a single creation of art.

“I realize now my works have become more sincere,” says Filippo. “They reveal where I have come from, and where I am now. I can never feel completely comfortable, however, and my works are never perfect. An overwhelming force continually urges me on to strive for more. Instinctually I leave my works open, open to my creative development, and open to the future.”

Filippo’s association with Bali began via a collaborative design project of the Gaya Fusion Gallery in Ubud in 1998. He exhibited regularly and curated events at Gaya while becoming a key part of its artistic direction helping distinguish Gaya as one of the leading avant-garde galleries in Indonesia. From then on he worked on art projects both locally and internationally, across S. E Asia, China, in New York City and in Italy.

“I am a lover of philosophy and psychology and these sciences are the driving energy behind my art,” says the artist. “My paintings involve research into both archaeological and anthropological subjects and experimentation with media in my eternal journey to reveal authentic creations themed upon human evolution.”

Filippo admits to having a growing relationship with Asia since he was a child, now aged 42, his artistic voyage has taken shape while oscillating between three extremely diverse worlds; Sicily, Bali and N.Y.C.

Working within the mediums of painting, sculpture and installations and video art, Filippo’s passion for photography has greatly impacted upon his work. During the past decade he has explored the use of various mediums along with oil paint to create highly textured surfaces which have become a unique and characteristic feature of his paintings.

Often combining monochromatic photographic images layered upon the canvas’ surface, which he in turn applies layers of medium upon, fractured lines and textures appear akin to arid landscapes in states of decay, emphasizing a essential fundamental of his works. “My works always appear unfinished accentuating that all matter is in a continual, never ending process of change.”

Dutch curator Emmo Italiaander along with Indonesian curator Rifky Effendi have selected 14 paintings and objects by the artist produced over the 2005 - 2014 period to exhibit for Ciptadana Art Program from 20 November in the specially created “Art Space” at the Ciptadana Center in Jalan Sudirman, Jakarta.

2014 is the fourth year of the Ciptadana Art Program through which they share their appreciation of Indonesian contemporary art to help clients and the public connect with Indonesia’s cultural and artistic heritage. An art talk including a questions and answers session with a panel featuring Filippo, Deddy Irianto, Maya Sujatmiko, Rifky Effendi and moderated by Emmo Italiaander will be held 22 November from 14.30pm. Ciptadana is a leading Indonesian asset management company.

Mysterious elements within Filippo’s paintings often mesmerize the observer, while at the same time having the uncanny ability to subdue the mind into sense of longing. The tension of heavy tonal aesthetics juxtaposed against white or soft colors, for example, emphasize duality along with the aura and majestic essence of light. “We perceive all life through light,” he says. “Therefore it is a vital conceptual and visual feature of my work as light is the quintessential source of universal inter dimensional intelligence from which springs forth all life.”

Born in 1972 in Palma Di Montechiaro, Italy, in 1983 Filippo moved to New York and in 1985 to Trieste, Italy where he attended the Institute Art of Nordio, followed by studying at the Accademia di Belle Arti Firenze, Florence. Acutely aware of modern cultures' obsession with the image, Filoppos works are a pictorial meeting ground, highlighting the relationship, while blurring the line between the disciplines of photography and digital imaging technology. Consequently the results challenge the conventional practice of painting.

Religious symbols, historical cultural icons, figurative forms, vehicles of mass trans migration and other worldly imagery fuse with abstract elements in compositions void of literal meaning that are rich in allegory and metaphors, and designed to question our notions of reality.

"Its not my vision anymore, I don't have a desire to make paintings. Rather, I see my work as a collection of notes akin to diaries about my quest for the greater meaning of life." Continuing through until 4 December this body of work serves as a "preview" for Filippo's solo exhibition at Galeri Nasional Jakarta early in 2015.

Works by Italian artist Filippo Sciascia  
On display from 20 Nov – 4 Dec  
Ciptadana Art Program at the "Art Space"  
5th Floor Ciptadana Center, Plaza Asia  
Office Park, Unit 2, Jln. Jend. Sudirman Kav. 59  
Jakarta.

Filippo Sciascia, image by Richard Horstman



Lumina Mense Filippo Sciascia, Size 205 x 165 cm Mixed Media 2012. Image courtesy of the Artist



Filippo Sciascia Crown Size 145 x 130 cm Oil And Gesso On Canvas 2014. Image courtesy of the artist.

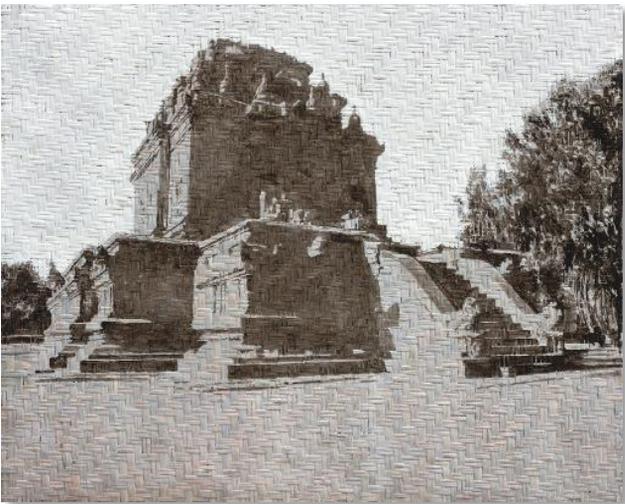




Filippo Sciascia



Trinacria Size 250 x 200 cm Oil And Gesso And Shells On Canvas 2014



Mendut Size 205 x 165 cm Oil And Bamboo Mounted On Wood 2014



Expat Boat Filippo Sciascia, Size 280 x 190 cm Oil And Gesso On Canvas 2013. image courtesy of the Artist