

## Gede Jaya Putra

Rarely is Bali exposed to a creative mind that has the vision and the technical ability to produce a contemporary art exhibition of outstanding quality that encompasses many genres, and is complete with an important message.

While the theme of the work presented by Gede Jaya Putra (b. Kerobokan 1988) is common with many local artists; the collision of modern with traditional culture, it was his skill in communicating his ideas via painting, video, sculpture and installation, and the strength and imaginative character of his work that spoke volumes, and revealed maturity beyond his years.

'Transformation', Jaya Putra's solo exhibition was held at Dane's Art Verandah in June 2013 as a part of his curriculum requirements as a student of fine art at ISI Denpasar (Indonesian Institute of Art). Compelled to comment upon and criticize society, Jaya Putra's art was making direct and poignant statements about the transformation he was witnessing within his culture. The Balinese people's values are markedly shifting away from that of the collective to the individual. And while lifestyles are increasingly driven by western consumer culture, the onslaught of tourism engulfing Bali equates to the sacrifice of the sacred in exchange for the dollar.

Jaya Putra utilizes motor vehicles in his work as a metaphor to represent the fast, modern consumptive culture, and that the issue of identity is increasingly related with materialism and the obsession with status symbols. He emphasizes that the responsibilities of using motorbikes and cars are often neglected by the Balinese youth, who are, along with the older generations, often naïve to the personal, cultural and environmental hazards. As such choices in the modern world are becoming the source of increasing anxiety to the Balinese.

'Transisi' features a life size male torso, arms spread wide with head thrust up towards the sky, sculpted from lime green colored fiberglass and mounted upon the handlebars of a motorbike. Jaya Putra cleverly draws our attention to the consciousness of many young Balinese motorbikers and their excessive display of ego.

'Ending #1&2' are paintings that depict new cars severely damaged due to road accidents.

'I Can' is a three-wheeled motorbike, the type often used by victims of motor accidents. An LCD screen is mounted upon the handle bars with a video depicting the tribulations of a young victim of a motorbike accident in hospital in heated discussion with his girlfriend.

During 2014 Jaya Putra's work has continued along a similar vein whereby the concept of speed plays an essential role in Indonesia's modern development. 'Will be Back', depicts Indonesia's first president Sukarno with his deputy Hatta, dressed in motor racing leathers. Making reference to 2014 being the crucial election year for a new Indonesian government, Jaya Putra's connects with Indonesia's collective social conscious and the people's hopes for a leader of strength who may bring Indonesia's prosperity speeding ahead for the best interests of its people. Sukarno was renown as a strong nationalist leader.

While in Java's leading creative centers of Yogyakarta, Bandung and Jakarta, Balinese contemporary art is often regarded as lacking innovation, there is peace of mind knowing that there are young artists in Bali of the caliber of Gede Jaya Putra that are indeed worthy of national and international attention.



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I Gede Jaya Putra Will be back Oil on canvas  
196x133cm 2014



Gede jaya Putra Exhibition display 2013

Transfigurasi - Gede Jaya Putra - mixed media 2013



Gede jaya Putra 'Transis' 2013

