

## **“Heart Opened” at Cata Odata**

The Bali and East Java region of Indonesia has a wealth of gifted, yet unrecognized contemporary artists who are worthy of attention. In celebration of the opening of Cata Odata, a new art space & artists in residency venue in Penestanan, Ubud, the group exhibition “Heart Opened” presents the work of four such talented artists on display from the 21 June – 21 July 2014.

Inspired by feelings and ideas these artists manipulate color and form into creations that are insights into how they view the world. Their expressions take the shape of compositions that do not suggest realistic portrayals of life, yet more precisely, reveal the artist’s potent inner worlds.

Q-usta’s abstract paintings are a refreshing respite in a genre that is often practiced without the gusto that truly brings paintings to life. The observer may “step inside” and become engaged within the dynamic power of color and motion. The milieu of non-descript forms and color beckon us on to explore, and most importantly connect with, and observe our internal responses. Born 1977 in Surabaya, Q-usta’s paintings may suggest recognizable forms that entertain our imagination, providing the subconscious mind room to play with the imagery. This is one of the important functions of abstract art.

Imam Sucahyo (b. 1978, Surabaya) is a self-taught artist who delivers his paint to the canvas with a spontaneous energy that results in naïve, raw compositions that contain a unique quality. This childlike style is suggestive of primitive and tribal art, yet in Indonesia is not appreciated, and considered an unskilled expression outside of academic and cultural practices. Some of his works rely on the power of contrasting colors and the balance of composition to achieve visual impact, while others, the lack of attention to “order” reveal their strength of character.

Ni Luh Widya Pangestu (b. 1991 Kapal, Bali), of mixed Balinese Javanese heritage transforms observations and the complexities of living in the modern/traditional world of Bali into the source of inspiration. A graduate of Fine Arts from UNDHKSA University in Singaraja, Widya presents sketches and woodcut prints. Her sketches tell of a little known Balinese cultural account presented in her quirky, yet strong individual style. The woodcut prints have an organic quality and reveal an important story about her interaction with marginalized people in Bali.

A common theme within Rio Saren’s work (b. 1981 Denpasar) is the motion of flowing energy which is the undercurrent representing life itself. He emphasizes this within his circular, wheel compositions, that are fusions of color, lines, form and male/female imagery. The wheels too are a feature of his 3 dimensional works. Saren is sensitive to the peculiarities of life, both in the home and the community and is often driven to investigate his culture and bring to light issues that reflect contradictions. How things once considered sacred are seemingly now open and subject to an individuals free will, yet at the cost of the underlying traditional significance.



Q-USTA Di Antara Celah (A Gap Between) 2009 acrylic on canvas 200x140cm



Ni Luh Pangestu - Suatu Ketika di Malam Raksha Bandan - 2013 pen on paper

Rio Saren – Pikiranku - 2014 Acrylic on Canvas

