

Kuta Art Chromatic

While the villages of Ubud, Sanur and Batuan have led the development of contemporary art in Bali, the tourist mecca of Kuta has its own unique artistic story.

Besides the stunning sunsets and miles of surf fringed sandy beaches, the famous areas' main emphasis is commerce, and is overran with shops, hotels, restaurants, and bars. The visitor is generally unaware that there is a dynamic creative community who are dedicated to their artistic passions.

Kuta, Legian and Seminyak are saturated with shops selling all manner of commercial art that is often over looked by the tourist masses, or regarded with little value. Yet there has been an active local contemporary art community in the area dating back to the 1990's.

There are few reference points available to help communicate to the public about the wealth of art, not only the Balinese modern traditional art, which forged much success for the Ubud and Sanur. In an effort to address the challenges created by the lack of supporting art infrastructure in Bali, and in particular this region the exhibition - Kuta Art Chromatic opened on the 30th December 2013.

The event, which will be held twice a year, aims to be an ongoing platform for the local and expat art community to not only establish a greater presence in the market place, and grab the attention of the tourist hordes, yet also make a valuable contribution to the greater community through more art activities open to the public.

While there area has seen the presence of a few consistent fine art galleries over the past decade none have made any significant contributions to the community beyond exhibitions, and as a whole they may be seen as only contributing to the exclusivity of contemporary fine art that is an increasing trend.

This lack of initiative to introduce a broader contemporary art perspective, outside of the usual commercial restraints has added to the void of art infrastructure in the area.

Kuta Art Chromatic brings together the works of more than 130 local artists in the mediums of painting, sculpture, installation, video art, photography, sketching, graphic design, murals and new media set in an enormous venue Alas Arum, next door to the Bintang Supermarket on Jalan Raya Seminyak.

The opening evening was strongly patronized by the local art community along with guests and was highlighted by art and live music performances.

During the course of the event activities included alongside the exhibition are performances, sketch and model drawing sessions, street photography presented by Bali's leading collective of contemporary photographers, Lingkara and mural and graffiti by the Djamur community.

Of special interest was the workshop on contemporary art writing, being held at Bentara Budaya Cultural Center, Kewetel on 11th January. Facilitated by local curator and writer Arif Bagus Prasetyo, the importance of this workshop cannot be understated as there is currently a great lack in the number of young local curators and art writers in Bali.

Special commendation must go to the vision and efforts of the organizing body of the Kuta Art Chromatic for their endeavor to "fill in the gaps" in the art infrastructure in Bali.

Kuta Art Chromatic Contemporary Art Exhibition continues until 26 January 2014

Alas Arum – next door to the Seminyak Bintang Supermarket

Jalan Raya Seminyak.

For further details: +623619993677



You Are What You Eat Djamur Community, mixed media, 2013



Pride Odee Widiya, 2012



Kisah Pertiwi Wayan Setem, mixed media 2013



Sang Diri Wnophringgo, 2013, oil on canvas