

The Cosmic Worlds of Artist Putu Wiranatwan

The fundamental key to Balinese traditional painting is drawing. It is the power of the line in accurate proportion that constructs forms and builds compositions that we are able to understand. Drawing is the defining element of works that involve great skill and dedication on behalf of the artist.

For Balinese contemporary artist Putu Wirantawan (b.1972 Negara, Jembrana, West Bali) drawing, however serves a different function to that of his artistic forefathers. About 10 years ago Wirantawan became overwhelmed by what he perceived as a block in his artistic development. Yet, unbeknown to him at the time he was in the formative stages of creative innovation.

Having learned to draw and paint in his youth, actively exhibiting since 1993, and being a graduate in Fine Arts from the ISI Yogyakarta 2005, (Indonesian Art Institute) Wirantawan had already become competent in the mediums of oil and acrylic paint, along with water color to produce figurative and abstract paintings. However, Wirantawan had become bored with these genres and wished to break free.

His solution was to return to the basics of drawing. Wirantawan followed his intuitive urges and focused on spontaneous ideas that evolved into unexplainable sketches. He completed page after page in his sketchpad until eventually the idea blossomed, why not piece together some of these sketches into larger compositions.

Wirantawan's process is determined by the flow of imaginative energy between his conscious and subconscious minds. The freedom and flexibility within his technique allows him to arrive at authentic compositions that he believes would be impossible to initially conceive. A powerful creative element had returned to his art along with seemingly endless possibilities to explore.

Working in pencil and ballpoint pen on paper, enhanced with a touch of color Wirantawan draws on the fundamentals of surrealism and abstraction art. "Many of my ideas come from the simplest of objects or from observations of the atmospheric, such as the elements of sunlight, fire, water and smoke," says Wirantawan. "The elements contain a magic that ignites my imagination and I then transform the shapes I see into something new."

Often described as a visionary Balinese artist, Wirantawan's works invite the observer into an abstract world of geometric structures that appear like futuristic cities, galactic landscapes and vast sanctums in the outer most reaches of the cosmos. While his work is truly contemporary and free of traditional Balinese aesthetics and the orthodox approach there does, however remain a relationship to the Hindu Buddhist philosophical view of the universe.

Initially Wirantawan's works appear almost cryptic and strange, yet they mysteriously radiate a warmth with an unexplainable fascination to the eye. The core structural content of his work is based on the principals of sacred geometry, in which arrangements of lines within harmonic proportions produce systems and symbols that resonate with the subconscious mind.

"Geometry is the soul and structure of all natural shapes on earth and in the solar system," says the artist.



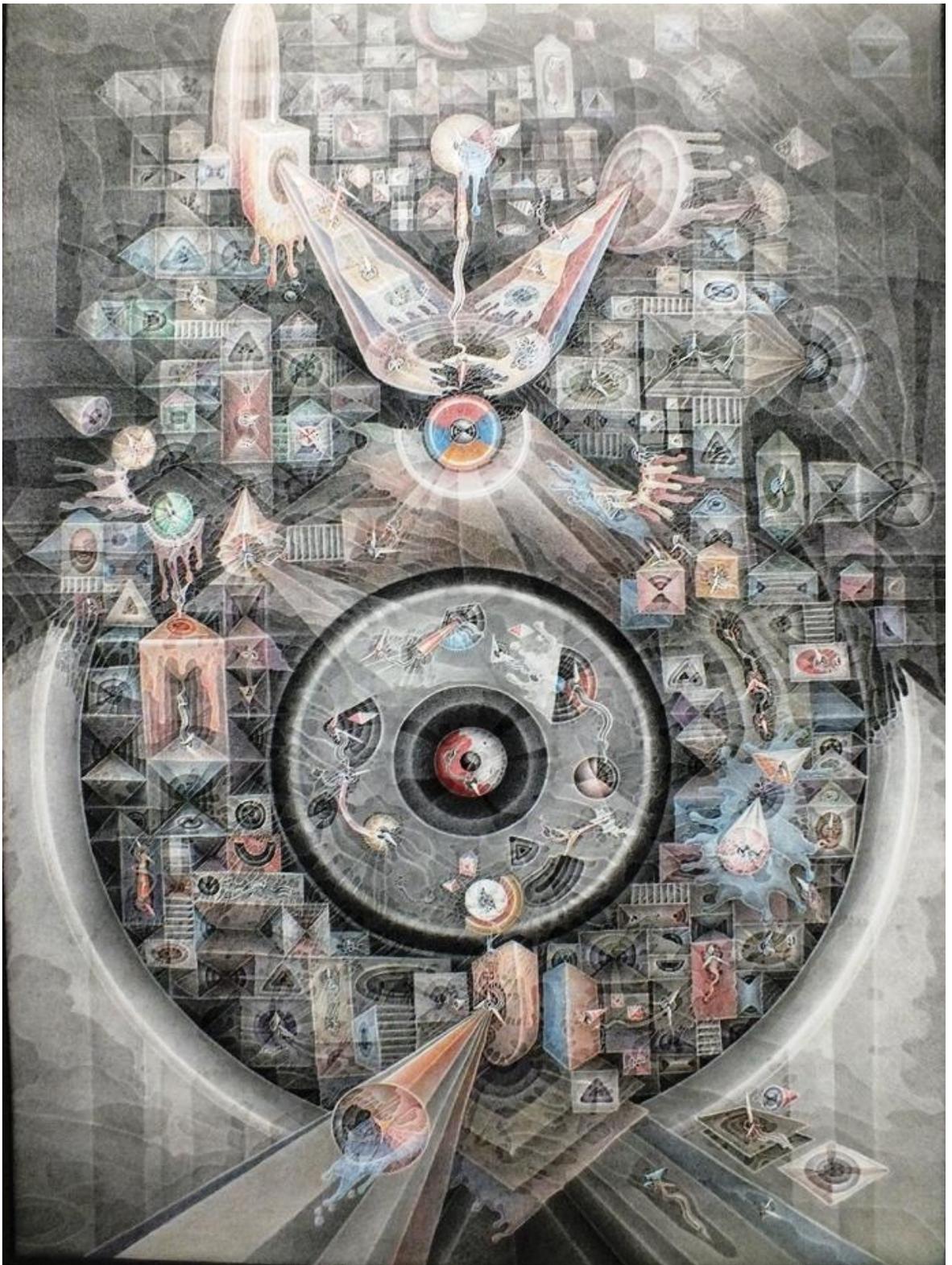
Putu Wirantawan Soulscape
I2010, pen pencil on paper,
120x200cm Photo Richard
Horstman



Putu Wirantawan Terbaran Energi
Sejati 2008-2012, pen+pencil on
paper, 9 panels 2915x1260cm -
Photo Richard Horstman



Putu Wirantawan, Gugusan Citra
Batin 1236011,2011, dimensions
variable, pencil + pen on paper -
photo Richard Horstman



Putu Wirantawan. Detail of Terbaran Energi Sejati 2 - Photo Richard Horstman