

Two Sides - Bloo Lagoon Village Gallery

The Karangasem regency of East Bali is renowned for its stunning mountain and coastal vistas, along with cultural attractions, while being a respite from the tourist masses that swarm the Kuta, Seminyak and Bukit hotspots.

Already established as the first eco-conscious resort in the region, the Bloo Lagoon Village in Padangbai is also in the process of becoming known as a venue for contemporary fine art with its Bloo Lagoon Village Gallery, which began presenting exhibitions in 2012. The vision of the resort owner, English architect Tony G. William is not only to provide a much-needed exhibition venue to support Bali's growing contemporary art scene, with regular exhibitions and activities, yet also a location for international artists in residency programs.

Open May 10 the Bloo Lagoon Village Gallery presents "Two Sides", an exhibition of paintings by two young Balinese artists Komang Trisno Adi Wirawan and Ketut Kendi Paradika.

Both artists were born in 1985 and achieved their Bachelor of Arts degree at UNDHISKA University Singaraja and exhibit abstract works that include symbols and icons from their Balinese Hindu heritage.

Wirawan (b. Pesaban, Karangasem) works with thinned acrylic paint to allow for greater expressive ease with his spontaneous style. His choice of color is bright and dramatic - red, black, green and blues - being well aware of the visual impact they will create against the white of the canvas. Wirawan introduces small cultural symbols into the compositions adding depth and contrast into his paintings.

The central icons in Paradika's paintings are traditional dancers and the Barong, the Balinese mythological creature that represents universal benevolence. To emphasize the vigorous movement they often display during ceremonies and performances, Paradika (b. Lovina, Buleleng) combines them with black and white paint that has been thrust upon the canvas in swirling motions adding a sense of dynamic energy.

The exhibition is curated by Made Susanta Dwitanaya (b. 1987 Tampaksiring, Central Bali) also a graduate from the Arts Department of UNDHISKA University. The fact that Dwitanaya, who is playing an important role in the development of Balinese contemporary art, is currently the only active young local curator in Bali highlights a problematic situation for the future of Balinese contemporary art. The lack of art infrastructure, particularly in the education system, and support from successful senior artists for the younger generation of artists inhibits opportunities for learning and growth.

While the works in "Two Sides" present well and display the technical competency of the artists, the content is not new and reflective of an art scene that is often criticized as lacking innovation. What is important, however, is that young artists have the opportunity to exhibit publicly and understand and learn the processes of interacting with curators so as to present the strongest possible body of work, technically, as well as thematically.

"Two Sides" continues through until 24th May at the Bloo Lagoon Village Gallery, Jalan Silaykuti, Padang Bai, Karangasem.



(Ketut Kendi Paradika) Barong in full moon.
100x150cm, acrylic on canvas



abhinaya 1, 60 X 150 Cm, acrylyc on canvas



Exploration the truth



abhinaya 3 70x150 cm, acrylik on canvas



(Ketut Kendi Paradika) Guardian, 100 x 100cm, Mixed media on canvas.