

Varietas at Sika Gallery

Singaraja lies on the far north coast of Bali, over 2 hours drive from the Kuta Seminyak region. It is home to UNDIKSHA University, currently producing some of the finest young artistic talent in Bali. On display from 20 June – 4 July at the Sika Contemporary Fine Art Gallery in Ubud, the exhibition 'Varietas' showcases the work of 40 students from the Visual Arts Department of UNDIKSHA.

As the title 'Varietas' (Variety) suggests, the exhibition boasts creations in an array of media including tapestry, mix media sculpture, wood carving, installations, wood cut prints, photography, video art, painting, glass painting, illustrations in pen and ceramics. Exploration of themes (social, political, tradition versus modern, environmental and identity) adds to the strength of the show as well.

Arry Komang Gede Bhaskara's installation 'Erupsi' crafted from copper to create a volcanic landscape along with small volcanic stones completing the scene and then hundreds strung with nylon from the ceiling emphasizing the thrust of the eruption, is simple, while being aesthetically strong, beyond its raw character, this is where its appeal lies.

A tapestry, "Nafas Kedua" by IGA Nona Karniati is a delightful work emphasizing the character and texture of its thick string media. Made Santika Putra experiments with rubber from an inner tube of a car tire and his sculpture of a rooster in dynamic motion, "Cemanine Pekembar" is strong while displaying excellent use of media. Sabarudin Indra Wijaya decorates his unusual lop sided ceramic with fragmented eggs shells, and Gede Panca Gautama's large illustration on canvas in ink pen and acrylic "Berburu Kijang" combines elements of Balinese Kamasan and modern traditional paintings with expressionism and incredible attention to technique and detail that is the highlight of the show.

Some photographic works, which are brilliant in technique, artistic flare and composition, lack however, a message to fully complete the work. Yet images by Dewa Gede Aristawan Gotama dazzle the eye while arousing the senses. His highly attractive colorful seascapes allow us to see under the surface, reflected light upon the surface, as well as being drawn to the glowing horizon with magical dawn colors. Gusti Ayu Komala Dewi's digital image printed on canvas, "Unwonderland", is simply a beautiful and glamorous composition.

Other works' messages are easily readable and in the case of Nyoman Sudiarka's puzzle coloring MDF wood cut printed on canvas "Ingin Jaya Kembali", with its smart use of coloration and symbols sends a clear message that our life is indeed in our hands. While "Invisible Hands" woodcut print on paper by Made Diana Putra, revealing the manipulation within the Indonesian political "theater" is softened by humor, while stressing a real and poignant fact of life.

Of course the art lecturers at UNDIKSHA play an essential role in grooming the young talent and must be commended. Within the journey of the development of contemporary art in Bali much lies in the vision of the lecturers and directors of art education faculties, the evolution of the curriculums and the spirit of the responsibility.

Gede Panca Gautama
Berburu Kijang
Mixed media on canvas 2014.





Dewa Gede Aristawan Gotama
Color of Dawn
Digital print on canvas



Nyoman Sudiarka
Ingin Jaya Kembali
Puzzle Coloring wood cut on canvas.
2014