

Yogyakarta Open Studio YOS 2014

Ethnic and religious traditional art has helped shape the cultural identity of Indonesia, however contemporary art, as a whole remains misunderstood, while its practitioners are often considered outcasts of mainstream society.

Greater understanding and acceptance of this flourishing art form in Indonesia will only occur through infrastructure programs that educate society while initiating deeper, more meaningful engagement between artists and the community.

While the public's initial point of interaction with art is via galleries, museums, exhibitions, alternative art spaces and online portals; experience that then helps define understanding, while molding opinions. Rarely, however, have artists opened their studios directly to the public to allow greater access to their place of work, and encouraging enquiry.

Antena Projects' is a project-based organization focusing on contemporary Indonesian visual arts, and this year marks the second YOS Yogyakarta Open Studios 2014 program that began on 29 December continuing through until 22 December.

"Through YOS participating artists can directly share knowledge, not only about their creative processes, yet also about strategies that reveal essential aspects of the Yogyakarta art scene," says Nissak Latifah of Antena Projects. "YOS explores the 'map of the associations' and brings focus to the networks of relationships that drive the local contemporary art community."

YOS features nine studios and the work of 42 artists, 18 of whom are foreigners and 24 Indonesian artists, including names such as Entang Wiharso, Yunizar, Jumaldi Alfi, Heri Dono and Krisna Murti who are leading lights in the Indonesian contemporary art world. Under investigation in the 2014 YOS program is the development, practice and realities of international relations for Yogyakarta-based artists.

"YOS joins the growing trend of open artist studio tours in major countries around the world," says Latifah. "The YOS booklet found at all participating YOS studios helps guests to navigate their way around region to discover and enjoy the studios." Participating venues include, Studio Yunizar, PartNER, OFCA International, Kersan Art Studio, Syllabus Studio, Studio Kalahan, Studio Takashi Kuribayashi, Arskala Principle Studio and Black Goat Studio.

Indonesian history reveals that artist networks and studios have been a defining factor in the development of trends and art movements, especially during the anti Dutch colonial period in the 1940's where the marriage between art and propaganda was successfully initiated.

Two of the challenges currently facing the Indonesian contemporary art is that the market is overvalued, while being fiercely nationalistic. The inclusion of the Yogyakarta based, English multi disciplined artist T_KA – T_KI in the 2014 program is a positive step in dismantling the boundaries imposed by such a nationalistic paradigm, while encouraging the benefits of cross cultural fertilization into contemporary art.

"It is rare for international artists to have opportunities to present works in a non-commercial setting in Indonesia," says T_KA – T_KI. "National boundaries are forced upon art, and the current obsession with the national contemporary art scenes provides a platform for marketing, but little else."

"YOS not only themes its tour on international relations, but brings together artists from around the world to exhibit, share and help make some necessary changes to the art scene," he adds.

T_KA – T_KI exhibits at PartNER Studio 'Ooh, I Nearly Remembered Something', a poly conceptual work with a touch of British humor that is accompanied by a partially non-too subtle video that represents the other half of the work's theory.

Importantly, YOS helps to demystify the artist's creative processes, along with revealing how studios function as a nurturing environment for creativity. Not only in the physical work, yet in the development and organization of concepts and activities, by the artists individually or amongst colleagues, friends and collectives. Studios also function as offices for the day-to-day administration, communication and planning of multifaceted and challenging careers.

"Since the start of YOS in 2013, and now a year later, only a few doors in the artist's studio art association map are increasingly open," says participating artist and studio owner Lenny Ratnasari Weichert of Kersan Art Studio. "However this year's program has grown to include more artist exhibiting within more available studio spaces adding diversity and strength while raising the standard. Artist's studios generate powerful creative that is the spirit and foundations of the art world."

YOS is a like a treasure map that allows participants to make new friends with the fellow travellers while they search and navigate from east to west and back again on an art adventure that reveals venues that are unique and inspiring, while encouraging a sense of community.

For more information about YOS Yogyakarta Open Studio 2014 go to:
www.yogyakartaopenstudio.com



TKA - TKI, Ooh,-I-Nearly-Remembered-Something', 2014, mixed media Image courtesy T_KA - T_KI.

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