

ART INFINITUM at THE TONY RAKA ART GALLERY

'Art Ininitum' is a collaboration of photographic works by six artists on display at the Tony Raka Art Gallery from the 13th January until 3rd February 2012. With the exception of one Indonesian, Made Wianta, this exhibition involves Western artists, Jan Tyniec, Linda Connor, Lonnie Graham, Joel Singer and Vladik Monroe.

Curator Arief Bagus Praysetyo states in his exhibition essay, "Since the 1960's, thanks to the efforts of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York, especially its Director of Photography, John Szarkowski, photography has obtained the status of high art or fine art. Photography has become recognized as singular, authentic works of art on a par with painting, sculpture and other art forms." 'Art Ininitum' delves into an art form that is continually evolving via the perspective of these six talented artists.

American photographer Linda Connor's eternal subjects are sacred Eastern religious artifacts digitally recorded in black and white, printed on silk and are elegantly hung on the walls from black wooden rails. 'Shrine in Banyan Tree', (120 x 95 cm) is her study of a Balinese shrine in the trunk of a Banyan wrapped in a checkered ceremonial cloth. The peripheral boundaries of the image are intentionally blurred and dark and the viewers' eye is drawn to the contrasting textures of the ancient, gnarled roots and trunk against the order of the black and white patterned cloth. Circulating breezes within the gallery capture the fine silk gently adding waves of motion through the work, adding a surreal dimension to the study of the most sacred of Bali's trees.

Leading Balinese contemporary artist Made Wianta presents 4 works, a short film, a photograph, a photo collage and a digital photo collage. In his photo collage entitled 'People on the Streets Throughout Europe', Wianta places 21 photographs shot in sepia framed behind a cardboard carton upon which he has added broad brushstrokes of white wash and various stenciled symbols to create the word - Love. He cuts holes in contrasting shapes to create frames for the photos of people in scenes begging on the streets of Europe. Wianta sensitively honors the human spirit of courage and survival in this thought provoking work.

Jan Tyniec studies of Balinese cremations and Bonsai trees exploits the contrasts and gradations of dark and light to create images of great artistic beauty. "In my works I have been avoiding storytelling and references of scale and time to unravel meaning. My work process is very emotional and challenging as I aim to establish a most intimate understanding of the subject," says Tyniec.

Since 1910s post modernist artists such as Marcel Duchamp employed the strategy of art appropriation to question the validity of art authorship and originality. Vladik Monroe's colorful images reflect the Pop Art made famous by Andy Warhol. 'Warhol by Monroe' (80 x 80 cm) printed on aluminum, features the artists own image digitally morphed with the burrowed Warhol image of Marilyn Monroe. Monroe's self-referential work deforms Warhol's iconic image while concealing the artist's identity and distorting assumptions about masculinity and femininity.

Joel Singer presents a collection of photomontages and a short film entitled – Ujan Mas (Golden Rain). A graduate student from the San Francisco Art Institute, since the mid 1970's, he has been using an animation technique of creating films one frame at a time. Singer cleverly pieces together portraits of Balinese people choreographed with the percussive rhythms from a gamelan ensemble. In the film, being just over 5 minutes in length, each person appears for 1/15th of a second, there are over 700 individual portraits most of them being repeat anywhere from 5-10 times. When there are pauses in the music the image freezes on an individual for the length of the pause, anywhere from a half to one and a half seconds duration.



JOEL SINGER 'BEYOND' PHOTAGE,
100x70cm, PRINTED ON CANVAS



LINDA CONNOR 'ENTWINED BUDDHA'
95X120 CM, DIGITAL PRINT ON SILK
copy



Neneng Ferrier: 'To Be a Youngster'
mixed media



MADE WIANITA 'PEOPLE ON THE
STREETS THROUGHTOUT EUROPE',
182x65 CM, COLLAGE & PHOTO copy

Singer recorded the piece of music in 1979 when he first visited Bali. The with the flashing imagery of each face upon the screen for such a short period the viewers focal point becomes a blur of mouths with big white teeth. Singer lovingly pays tribute to the Balinese people with his mesmerizing visual treat that is a highlight of the exhibition.

In his digital photomontages 100 x 70 cm printed on canvas, Singer places Buddhist monks in their iconic saffron robes juxtaposed against images of modernity, scenes of natural beauty and of transcendence. The composition, 'Beyond' features monks journeying into the vortex of a cosmic eye.

Lonnie Graham's portraits are taken using Polaroid Type 55 positive/negative film, the images (90 x 75 cm) are then scanned at high resolution and printed on 100% cotton Hahnemuhle museum paper. They are attempts to steal the fleeting moods and expressions of the individual subjects. The size and the extraordinary quality of the portraits engross the observer's attention and curiosity and allow them to complete the individual stories of each subject making them meaningful. These studies encapsulate a profound sense of intelligence and dignity within each subject revealing only a fraction of the identity of these otherwise anonymous characters.

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