

## HIDDEN PARADISE – An International Art Photography Exhibition.



'Amed Boys & Girls', Jill Goocher,  
Photo Print on Vinyl, 95x95cm



'Batubolong' - Ida Bagus Astara, Photo  
print on Canvas, 40x60cm Astara



Chicko Maida - 'Clear upon Green',  
Photo Print on Canvas, 60x80cm



'Dalang Deni' - Luciana Ferrero, Photo  
Print on Paper, 40x50cm



'Generations'. Emile Satyawarman.  
Photo Print on Paper, 70x100cm,  
Photo print on Paper.

Mysterious images of an exotic island far off in the East Indies began to circulate in Europe early in the 1900's, and the first ever collection of black and white photographs of this island, Bali were published in two volumes in 1920.

During an era when Europe was reeling from the horrors of WW1 and in fear of communist revolution, German photographer Gregor Krauser's images immediately caused a small sensation.

They struck a cord with the disillusioned Europeans hungry for new experiences and a tropical haven and soon after free spirited intellectuals, writers and artists visited the island and began documenting an idyllic and seductive world.

Now, nearly a century after this utopia was revealed, and as the modernization of Bali speeds relentlessly into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, contemporary photographers with modern sensibilities and technology are still able capture a *Hidden Paradise*.

Hidden Paradise is an International Art photography exhibition by 12 photographers, drawing from all corners of the globe. Six photographers from Bali, one from Java and six international photographers showcase glimpses of paradise captured through their lenses.

Photographers exhibiting in this exhibition are Ida Bagus Alit, Ida Bagus Astara, Ida Bagus Gede Indra Sukma Advaita, Ida Ayu Ega Rahayuni, Ida Ayu Chrisna Dewi and Emile Satyawarman from Indonesia. Jason Childs and Jill Gocher from Australia. Chieko Maeda from Japan, Jiri Kudrna from Switzerland, Rachel Harding from U.K and Luciana Ferrero from Italy.

"It is important for the public in Bali to have more opportunities to view and appreciate photographic exhibitions, especially outside of the constraints of a gallery environment," says Hidden Paradise exhibition organizer Mr. Ida Bagus Alit.

"It is also necessary to exhibit work by young local photographers with experienced and successful international photographers to encourage them to develop their passion and skills."

Internationally renowned Australian surfing photographer and long time resident of Bali, Jason Childs' image of Balinese surfer Mega Semadhi, "Mega praying for Surf", features the surfer perfectly framed within the emerald green hollows of a wave at the famous Padang Padang reef on the Bukit Peninsula in southern Bali. The strong offshore wind fans the wave clean and the camera's precision captures multitudes of fine aquatic mist and spray.

Award winning Balinese photographer Ida Bagus Astara's image titled, "Batubolong", shot in black and white focuses on the silhouette of a coastal island rock formation with a small hole allowing light to emerge.

The subject rock is back lit by the setting sun and shrouded in clouds and in the foreground of the shot, using a slow shutter speed, he captures the swirling, surging motion of the ocean's tidal movement that adds a beautiful and surreal element to the photograph.

Young Balinese photographer Ida Ayu Chrisna Dewi's photograph 'Fly To Freedom', juxtaposes a parasailing enthusiast gliding in a limitless blue sky set against the scenario of a building construction site. Man made, rigid concrete and steel frame works protrude up into the natural environment appearing out of harmony and almost offence.



Australian photographer Jill Goocher's image, "Amed, Boys & Girls" immediately captivates. The black and white shot of children playing at sea shore provides wonderful visual disparities; white shells against black sand, the waters currents ripple the surface creating a fragmented crystal-like effect, a squatting boys face paired against sets of legs. This work is rich in textures and contrasts.

Luciana Ferrero from Italy captures the drama of behind the scenes of a traditional Balinese Wayang Kulit performance. Her subject, 'Deni', a young dalang (puppet master) is caught in action as he orchestrates the shadow play. While both hands are manipulating puppets his facial expressions reveal his energetic and passionate delivery of the story's narrative. This is a highlight of the exhibition.

"Little Angel" by Ida Bagus Alit adds a heart warming and humorous essence to the exhibition. In his mixed media image of a young Balinese girl photographed in traditional dress, he paints a pair of angel wings onto the canvas, attached to the body of the young girl in bright and dynamic colors.

"Crossroads at Sunset" by Swiss photographer Jiri Kudrna combines hi tech photographic equipment and the dramatic beauty of nature in an extraordinary image, 200 x 60cm in size.

He has developed a camera that captures images while rotating 360 degrees. The image is then fused together using digital technology to produce one wide span view of the late afternoon light over expanses of rice fields flooded in water. The deep blue sky is reflected in the water that is divided by four green strips of grass piers running through the rice fields.

Ida Bagus Gede Indra Sukma Advaita's captivating mixed media work, "Angel & Demon" spans across the width of a 380 x 135 cm canvas. A photo image of a beautiful Balinese dancing girl is printed to the canvas upon which the young Balinese artist has painted a large demonic phallic symbol "ejaculating" towards the girl. The subject is surrounded by abstract imagery and motifs adding to motion and the energy of the narrative.

This exhibition's distinction is not only the high quality of the work, however it is set in the traditional Balinese house of a Brahmin family surrounded by beautiful gardens and with an amazing collection of traditional, as well as modern abstract and figurative sculptures made by this well known family of wood cravers.

The exhibition allows the public a unique experience to appreciate Balinese culture alongside contemporary photography and continues at Griya Satrya Art House in Denpasar, Bali until the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

Venue: Griya Satria Art House, Jln Vetran 69, Denpasar, Bali.  
Date Opening: 6.30pm 27<sup>th</sup> July – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2012.



'Gadis Bali' - Ida Bagus Alit. Mixed Media on Canvas, 60x80cm



Ida Bagus Alit, 'Gadis Bali', 2012, H80x W 30 x D 30cm. wood + metallic paint.



'Uluwatu Meeting' - Ida Ayu Chrisna Dewi, 60x80cm Photo Print on Canvas.



'Angel and Demon' Ida Bagus Gede Indra Sukma Advaita, Mixed Media on Canvas, 380x135cm.



Jiri Kudrna - 'Crossroads at Sunset'. Photo Print on Paper, 60x200cm.



'Shakti Temple' - Rachel Harding, Photo Print on Paper, 40x120cm