

MADE BAYAK



Made Bayak performs with Geeksmile

What does it mean to have a social conscience? For Balinese contemporary artist Made 'Bayak' Muliana it means to channel his creative energies into activities that engage directly with the community.

“Art is a perfect starting place to communicate with the local people about issues that are impacting on our lives. And there is a lot of them, such as education, the environment and politics,” says Bayak.

Form 2010 Bayak has been a member of the Sanggar Anak Tanguh (Building Strong Children) organization in Banjar Wangbung, Sukawati, where he lives with his family.

The group was established by local parents in a response to the short comings of the public education system in Bali and focuses on human development of the children via their program of weekly workshops. Each Sunday morning Bayak facilitates art classes dedicated to nurturing and enhancing the children’s innate creative abilities.

“There are many ways that we as individuals or families may participate and invest constructive energies into the community. Social change must happen fast,” insists Bayak. “It is important that we endeavor to make a difference for the benefit of ourselves, as well as future generations.”

“The issue of pollution has inspired me to develop my art using plastic waste as an environmental statement. What is important is I do something in my own small way. I trust this will be an inspiration to others to do similar things, but in a bigger way, doing it collectively and forging new community relations,” he adds.



Made 'Bayak' conducts discussion with children from Sanur International school at griya Santrian Gallery - image made 'bayak'

He began to experiment with creating paintings made from the ubiquitous plastic trash strewn throughout Bali. He developed a technique whereby he layers plastic bags and wrappers to create a surface upon which he sprays stenciled images, and then he encases the works behind a film of glass.

The subjects in Bayak’s simplified stenciled images are cultural icons, Balinese girls in traditional costumes, dancers from the Balinese Hindu ceremonies and decorative cultural motifs. The backgrounds of his works manifest into unusual abstract milieus that include bright colors, packaging textures and logos and advertising. The stenciled black images on the foreground create powerful aesthetic contrasts.

‘Plasticology’, Bayak’s recently solo exhibition, ending last January, showcased more than a dozen of these distinctive and vibrant new works.

“Every day in Bali you can witness people burning trash or throwing it into the waterways. Maybe right now the affects to some may not be visible, however in the future a lot of things will happen from those things that we think are small,” says Bayak.



Made Bayak, Baris tuggal the Balinese warrior dance, 2012, 65x75cm, spray paint on plastic trash. Image Made Bayak

In these works the artist draws to our attention the two conflicting worlds that are challenging Bali. One of time honored cultural traditions as opposed to that of modernity. Bayak highlights western capitalism and its consumer principles of which the by-products of plastic packaging have rapidly developed into an environmental tragedy that now scars the island’s pristine environment, one of Bali’s marketing draw cards which attracts thousands of domestic and international tourists.



Made Bayak, Dewa Putu Bedil, after Rudolf Bonnet, 2012, 65x75cm, spray paint and pen on plastic trash. Image Made Bayak



Made Bayak, Ni Luh Camplung, 2012, 65x75cm, spray paint on plastic trash Image Made Bayak. 2012



Made Bayak, The Exotic Legong Dance, 2012, 65x75cm, spray paint on plastic trash. Image Made Bayak

“I think the environmental issue, not only in Bali, yet globally depends a lot upon people’s awareness. If we think that the environmental issue is small, then of course it will remain small and insignificant. However, if we think it is a big issue then it may manifest into an issue that becomes an important social topic,” Bayak states.

“Art is one of the best mediums to use to criticize or make reflections upon society. For me is not only an avenue for creative expression, it is also a medium to communicate about many different things.”

Bayak, born 1980 in Tampaksiring, Gianyar showed promising artistic and musical talent from an early age and went on to study at the Indonesian Art Institute (ISI) Denpasar, 1999-2006. It was here that he met his future wife, Komang Kartika Dewi who also is a graduate from ISI and teaches art at Sukawati Junior High School. They have one son, Damar Langit Timur, another gifted artist who began creating figurative representations on his own as early as two years of age.

A combination of Bayak’s family’s creative energies were showcased in an exhibition last year, titled “Arm our Family”. In this exhibition he and his wife emphasized the importance of parents and adults being positive role models to children and to impart them with tools of knowledge and holistic education to inspire their budding creativity and imagination.

On another occasion two years ago, during a solo exhibition at Griya Santrian Gallery, Bayak invited school children and teachers to the exhibition whereby he led group discussions about the environmental issues represented in his work.

Bayak has developed a large social network introducing him to many opportunities to participate in community out reach events. These events combine various modes of creative expressions and are aimed at capturing the attention of youths, not only of Indonesian origin, yet also those from Bali’s international community, to the social and environmental issues that are relevant today.

The artist exhibits his works regularly in Bali and recently exhibited in Germany and Poland. To his credit he has been nominated as a finalist in Singapore’s prestigious 2013 Sovereign Art Prize.

“Via my art and music I can connect with people from different backgrounds and express to them what I believe is essential,” Bayak says.

Bayak is also a guitarist in the local heavy metal rock band Geeksmile, whose mission, via the lyrical content of their music and social activism to is to communicate with, and to be a voice for the younger generations.

“Lets us all be a part of this phenomenon of social change that is occurring - as we are. If you are a writer do with it with the power of your words, if you are a musician do it with your songs and your music. As an artists you can do it by the messages within your work.”

“For me as a visual artist and a musician I will be socially active in these positive ways.”

For more information please go to: www.madebayak.wordpress.com