

UNSEEN THINGS – WAYAN SUKLU SUJANA

Leading Balinese artist Wayan “Suklu” Sujana’s contemporary artistic expressions manifest on three distinct levels.

Sketches, paintings, sculptures and installations made in his studio or outside and fulfill his personal passion. Collaborative, interdisciplinary projects with other artists are essential too. However, perhaps it is Suklu’s commitment to the development and celebration of art, by engaging with the community that is of most importance as well as being a major responsibility.

Suklu’s role in the community is extensive. He participates as a juror for art prizes, a facilitator and organizer of workshops and events, and as the chairman and committee member of several art organizations. He is the founder and chairman of Batu Belah Art Space in Klungkung, as well as being a Lecturer of Fine Art at the ISI (Indonesian Art Institute) Denpasar, Bali from 2000 onwards.

The culmination of over 2 years of work by the artist went on display at the Komaneka Fine Art Gallery in Ubud from 9th December 2012.

“Unseen Things”, Suklu’s 11th solo exhibition revealed sketches, paintings, mixed media installations and collaborative inter disciplinary performances to an enthusiastic gathering of international and local art lovers.

“The objects I see around me push me to establish a new perception about what is unseen. Within these unseen spaces is a realm where my imagination is seduced and stimulated and then my creative responses begin,” says the artist when questioned about his work.

“I totally fascinated and excited about this expressive experience as well as being eternally inspired.”

The exhibition opening was punctuated with a performance by choreographer Agung Gunawan set amidst an installation in pond at the front of the Gallery. “Buahmaja” a large collaborative work by Suklu and Yokasara, an architect from Bandung, West Java, features the bulbous shells of the fruit painted in black and white resins in flowing formations upon the surface of the pond. Accompanied by an intriguing sound track and dramatic lighting the dynamic modern dance performance captivated the audience.

The next performance inside the gallery combined dancers with the meditative tones of Balinese bamboo wind instruments. Gentle, fluid body motions along with peaceful melodies and the presence of Suklu’s paintings “watching” from upon the walls created a unique expressive fusion. The harmony of the 3 creative expressions resulted in extraordinary vibrational atmospheric synergy.

The performance climaxed in an enormous chorus of clanging bamboo devices by the dancers as well as the audience as they encircled a large installation. Interactive installations that allow audience participation beyond the act of mere observation have always been a priority for Suklu.

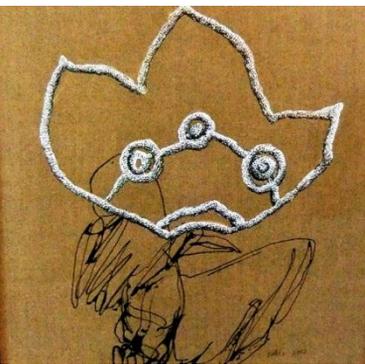
Though renowned for his site-specific installations predominantly constructed from bamboo, Suklu’s is equally adept in forging masterpieces from other mediums. Such as his critically acclaimed 2010 work in steel, “Lingga & Yoni”, exhibited in the important Indonesian group exhibition, “1001 Doors – Reinterpreting Tradition” at the Ciputra Marketing Gallery in Jakarta.



Wayan Suklu Sujana - Profile



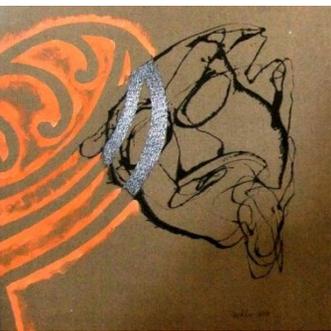
Hurup Luruh Suklu, 2012,
120x120cm, mixed media on canvas



Mahkota Suklu 2012, 50x50cm, ink &
acrylic on canvas



Musim Bergeser Suklu, acrylic
charcoal on canvas, 2012,
145x185cm



Semburan Bunyi Suklu, 2012, 50x50cm, ink&acrylic on canvas



Tiba Di Depan Patung Banci Suklu, 2012, 120x120cm, mixed media on canvas



Performance by Agung Gunawan for Unseen Things Exhibition

“Unseen Things” featured more the 70 mixed media canvases ranging in dimensions. The artist utilizes the fine cotton weave on the reverse side of the canvas that is coloured beige upon which to apply his expressions. This creates an excellent neutral and earthy background tone.

In Suklu’s 140 x 140cm compositions of nude models rendered in charcoal he applies figurative studies one upon the other creating images whereby the body morphs into a milieu of lines, curves, spaces and non-descript forms. The observer is challenged to explore beyond the figure and into the abstraction.

“Hurup Luruh” (Dropping Letters) 2012, is the only canvas that includes text and is perhaps the most thought-provoking composition he chooses to display. “lie that enables us to appreciate = partake in the communion” is scrawled in brilliant orange and in black paint upon the multi-layered figures.

The contrasting colors enable the orange letters to “leap out” at the viewer, yet the words are not easily deciphered. The text may indeed be provocative, however it is for the observer to “do their own reading” and make their own conclusions.

A series of smaller works 40 x 40cm feature spontaneous expressive explosions in black Chinese ink accompanied with semi-abstract suggestive objects in acrylic paint. Some forms appear figurative, human and animal, others may defy description, yet all evoke a contemplative journey into the unknown.

Paramount to Suklu’s creative journey is the need to strive for innovation and new artistic territory within his concepts, media exploration and inter-disciplinary collaborative projects.

“I endeavor to receive the possibilities that can be obtained from interactions with architects, photographers, performers, dancers, musicians and writers,” says Suklu.

“I purposely widen my social interactions to include people from various backgrounds, as well as professionals outside of the art world. Intense conversations with creative people help me in materializing hidden ideas.”

The Balinese Hindu philosophy of the Sekala/ Niskala (visible/invisible) takes into account the world that can be witnessed, and that which remains unseen and out of view. It states that the invisible realms are omnipotent and brings form to all physical manifestations. Indeed it is the artist’s heritage that speaks “volumes” in this exhibition as well.

Wayan ‘Suklu’ Sujana was born and raised amongst farmers in Lembang, Klungkung in 1967. He attended the Senior High School of Art in Batubulan and then STSI Art University in Denpasar. From 2008 – 2010 he completed his Post-graduate studies in the Art Department of the ITB (Bandung Institute of Technology).

He is an award-winning artist who began exhibiting in 1991, showing his work throughout Indonesia and in numerous Asian and European countries.

Suklu as carved out his own distinct artistic voice through dedication to his disciplined creative practices and is justifiably regarded as one of Indonesia’s finest contemporary artists. The unseen elements are alive and well in this exhibition which is one of the highlights of this year.

“Unseen Things” a highly engaging presentation that allows viewers an array of rich meditative and abstract experiences and will continue at the Komaneka Gallery until 9th January 2013.

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