

## EXCEPTIONAL PERSON - WAYAN REDIKA



Wayan Redika- Image by Agus Wiryadhi Saidi

Martin Luther King's famous anti racism speech in 1963 at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington D.C included the simple yet stirring words "I have dream." His words were a call to his oppressed fellow African Americans to engage their imagination and to dream, to dream of a brighter collective future.

Illustrious human figures such as Martin Luther King, the Dalai Lama, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Albert Einstein and others are the focus of Balinese contemporary artist Wayan Redika, in his solo exhibition, "Exceptional Person" that opened at the Bentara Budaya Cultural Center, Bali on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

In this exhibition the well-known local artist has made a departure from his usual expressive style. Redika's previous works are a fusion of abstraction and realism that reveal mindscapes full of varying images. They include icons from the Balinese Hindu epics, ancient ruins, supernatural beings and layers of mysterious swirling energy all juxtaposed within his surrealistic compositions.



Art Performance Black Box at Bentara Budaya Bali, 28-2-13. Photo by Agus Wiryadhi Saidi

On this occasion the artist presents 20 portraits, drawings and paintings rendered in oil, watercolor, charcoal, acrylic and mixed media. The quality of work reveals that Redika has great confidence as well as prowess over his techniques. The exhibition also includes one installation and some poems by the artists printed in copper.



Art Performance Black Box at Bentara Budaya Bali 28-2-2013 Photo By Agus Wiryadhi Saidi

"Through this series of portraits I wish to convey the message of nobility," says Redika. "I have much admiration for these prominent figures who are inseparable from the phenomenon of modern civilization that is happening today."

Not only does Redika make reference to global icons from the fields of science, art and music (Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Bob Marley, Picasso and Bruce Lee) that have inspired the masses, he also includes personal Indonesian heroes such as Ida Bagus Mantra, I.B Made Poleng and RA Kartini. Redika's realistic depiction of his father in "Ayah di Rumah Cerah" 2006, acknowledges the positive impact he has made upon in his life.



Bob Marley 2012, Wayan Redika, charcoal, Oil on Canvas, 80x80cm, Image by Redika

Included are historical figures such as Leonardo Da Vinci, Archimedes, Michael Angelo and Sir Issac Newton who have made significant contributions to the development of human civilization.

Of special interest is his mixed media work, "Affandi" 2012, in which Redika pays homage to the master Indonesian artist. In this work of muted off white and beige tones the artist's subject appears from out of a milieu of non descript textures and abstract forms, yet images of Affandi's famous pipe become recognizable.

Affandi's face is cleverly constructed, contrasting shadows reveal the angle of reflected light and accentuate the humorous character of the face that appears to have emerged up and out from the lower right hand corner of the composition, grinning with one tooth visible from within the dark void of his mouth.



Jimi Hendrix 2012, Wayan Redika, charcoal + acrylic on canvas, 80x80cm, Image by Redika

In some works the subjects are juxtaposed along side characters from the Indonesian Wayang Kulit, such as "Prof. Dr. Ida Bagus Mantra" 2012. While in other portrait's Redika includes written script to emphasize the subject's moral fiber. In the charcoal sketch on paper, "Dalai Lama" 2011, he scribes – "unordinary person". "Mahatma Gandhi" 2011, includes the thought provoking text – "being honest".

Humanity is in an era where the mainstream media appears to be obsessed with the circumstances that highlight the darker traits of the human character. Rarely does it celebrate figures who make noteworthy contributions to society. Redika wishes to draw our attention to those people who are positive role models and are shining examples of honorable humanistic endeavor.

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Mother Teresa



'Leonardo Da Vinci, 2012, Wayan Redika, oil + charcoal on canvas, 110x110cm, Image by Redika



Mr Bean.



Picasso.

The exhibition, which was opened by the mayor of Denpasar, Ida Bagus Rai Dharmawijaya, featured a poetry reading by Redika, as well as performing arts collaboration titled 'Black Box'. The performance was choreographed by renowned Balinese cultural identity Cokorda Sawitri and included dancer Okubo Jasmine and members of the martial arts community of Perisi Diri, UNHI.

In the dramatic presentation performers moved in and out of Redika's installation while in the background a kaleidoscope of images of his portraits were projected onto a big screen along with scenes from the landmark 1992 non narrative film "Baraka".

The audience's attention was divided between the performers, the "hyper real" sped up scenes from "Baraka" revealing the saga of the modern humanity and then images of Redika's "exceptional persons" creating a reflection of symbols of high of moral standards to arouse the observer's conscience.

Wayan Redika, born in Karangasem, East Bali in 1961, is a self taught artist who displayed natural ability as a child and during his early years he enjoyed drawing and making wayang kulit puppets. His immense passion to learn more about the visual arts and his Balinese culture has become the foundation of his creative success.

Redika's creativity has not been limited exclusively to art making with his expression finding voice through texts and poetry and his writings are regularly published in the local and national Indonesian media.

In 1982 Redika relocated his family to the capital city of Bali, Denpasar that allowed greater exposure to a vast community of artists. He interacted with the young artists who has studied at the art institutes of Indonesia and with the established artists proficient in both the modern and the Balinese traditional styles of painting.

This fueled Redika's desire to learn from his fellow artists within a more intensified creative community than compared to his original formative settings. The artist has participated in many group exhibitions since 1990 and "Exceptional Person" is his second solo exposition.

Through this engaging series of works Redika reminds us all that his images of human excellence are in essence mirrors of ourselves, and that the many human archetypes that are stored within the subconscious are accessible via our own intuition and imagination.

The exhibition will conclude with a drawing workshop and a discussion of Redika's art, titled "Art and Words" with speakers Prof. Nyoman Darma Putra and exhibition curator Wayna Seriyoga Parta at Bentara Budaya on 10<sup>th</sup> March.

Wayan Redika – "Exceptional Person"  
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Ida Bagus Mantra 2012, Wayan Redika, oil on canvas, 110x110cm, Image by Redika.