

NOT A DEAD END

Biennale Jogja XII Equator #2

Indonesia Encounters The Arab Region

16 November, 2013 till 6 January, 2014

Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Curators:

Agung Hujatnikajennong (IDN) and Sarah Rifky (EGY)

Organizer:

Yogyakarta Biennale Foundation

Venue:

Jogja National Museum

Langgeng Art Foundation

SaRang Building

HONFablabs

Taman Budaya Yogyakarta

Participating artists:

Ahmed Mater (SAU), Agung Kurniawan (IDN), Agus Suwage (IDN), Ayman Yousri (PSE), Basim Magdy (EGY), Dina Danish (EGY), Duto Hardono (IDN), Eko Nugroho (IDN), FX Harsono (IDN), Handiwirman Saputra (IDN), Hassan Khan (EGY), HONF Foundation - HONFablabs (IDN), Jasmina Metwaly (EGY), Leonardiansyah Allenda (IDN), Magdi Mostafa (EGY), Mobius (ARE), Mohamed Abdelkarim (EGY), Nasir Nasrallah (ARE), Otty Widasari (IDN), Pius Sigit, Kuncoro (IDN), Prilla Tania (IDN), Radhika Khimji (OMN), Restu Ratnaningtyas (IDN), Reza Afisina a.k.a. Asung (IDN), Salwa Aleryani (YEM), Samuel Indratma (IDN), Syagini Ratna Wulan (IDN), Take to The Sea (EGY/ ITA), Tintin Wulia (IDN), Tiong Ang (NLD), Tisna Sanjaya (IDN), UBIK (IND), Ugo Untoro (IDN), Venzha Christiawan (IDN), Wael Shawky (EGY)

Commenced for the first time as an exhibition that represent the dynamic of art practice in Yogyakarta in 1988, Biennale Jogja has now become one of the most robust and consistent visual arts events in Indonesia. Known as a flagship exhibition that showcase contemporary art practice and discourse, the biennale has contributed significantly to the dynamic of local and regional art scene in Indonesia and Southeast Asia particularly.

In sharp competition with other major biennales around the world, Biennale Jogja's reputation entered a new phase in the world of international contemporary art in 2011. Restructuration of the organization and management was followed by the establishment of a foundation that will ensure the continuity of the biennale based on principles of professionalism, transparency and accountability. On 23 August 2010, the foundation, or Yayasan Biennale Yogyakarta was launched as the official institutions that houses the biannual exhibition.

As a result of conceptual reformulation, the Biennale Jogja works in partnership with one country/region in the equatorial region. In 10 years time until 2022, the biennale series sets the equatorial locations as its main premise and working area, i.e. the particular geographical areas of earth ranged between the latitudes 23.27° NL and 23.27° SL. In every event, BJ will choose to work with one or more countries/regions as its partner, by inviting

the artists and art communities from the chosen partnering countries within the equatorial areas to collaborate, create, exhibit, encounter and dialog with Indonesian artists, collectives, organizations and cultural communities, in Yogyakarta. In 2011 the equator biennale started with an encounter with India in 2011.

The Biennale Jogja XII will be focusing on the encounter between Indonesia and five countries in Arab region, namely Egypt, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. Curated by **Agung Hujatnikajennong (Indonesia)** and **Sarah Rifky (Egypt)**, the biennale starts from a perspective that sees the contemporary art practice as a representation of modes of 'productions–distributions–consumptions' that have shaped the cultural globalization, as stated:

“Capital flow and exchange has transformed our understanding of nature, of ideas, and how we encounter the reality of moving, of being mobile, informs our perception of things. The exhibition will be conducted along the lines of collaborations encounters and exchanges – with artworks, artists and ideas. In the manner of a conversation, the exhibition is not incited by a theme, but is informed by the works that shape it. Traversing notions of homeland, diaspora, other places, migration, travel, circulation, of finance, of art works, of experience, from the lines that connect places through the economy and experience of migrant labor, to products, replicated, transformed, morphed, reproduced to the rehearsal of rituals; not only culture, the artwork in its own right becomes a site of syncretism – in the linguistic sense, speaking to Yogyakarta as city, described as “syncretic” in its cultural political formation.”
(Agung Hujatnikajennong and Sarah Rifky, February 2013)

To be held from 16 November 2013 – 6 January 2014, the curatorial premise takes an inspiration from the migration of people and goods, as well as long, historical encounters and exchanges between Indonesia and the Arab region. It will show works by artists not only from Indonesian and Arab regions (by passport/nationalities), as one of the consequences of taking 'mobility' as one of the keywords in the exhibition.

Biennale Jogja XII is organized by Yayasan Biennale Yogyakarta and supported by the Government of Yogyakarta Special Region, the Ministry of Education and Cultural of RI, Yogyakarta Cultural Center, Friends of Biennale Jogja, Friends of BJ's volunteers, Djarum Foundation, Jogja National Museum, Goethe Institute, Universe in Universes, etc. Biennale Jogja XII is officialy partnering with *Beirut* in Cairo, Sharjah Art Foundation, Maraya Art Center, Athr Gallery in Jeddah, Langgeng Art Foundation, Sarang Building, OFCA International, etc.

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