

J. Ariadhitya Pramuhendra

Tears from Heaven

30 June – 11 August 2024

Tirtodipuran Link Building B, Yogyakarta

Curator : Asmudjo J. Irianto

Opening Reception

Saturday, 29 Juni 2024 | 7 PM



The Light After Dark, 2024, Charcoal on canvas, 200 x 300 cm

Srisasanti Gallery is pleased to present *Tears from Heaven*, J. Ariadhitya Pramuhendra's (b. 1984, Indonesia) first solo exhibition with the gallery. Pramuhendra maintains his position as an artist who consistently uses charcoal and canvas. It can be said that he is currently the foremost and most renowned Indonesian artist known for his charcoal-based paintings/drawings. This exhibition features 2 installations and 11 new charcoal drawings on canvas created in 2024.

Pramuhendra is interested in religious themes—especially Catholicism—where the symbolism and composition that can be found in his works often refer to the Bible or Renaissance paintings. However, he dedicates this exhibition to discuss contemporary issues around women, which are present through their figures who are the main subjects in this series of works. His current works focus on women's capacities beyond the societal roles typically imposed on them.

The title of this exhibition is taken from its central work, *Tears from Heaven*—an installation that presents an appropriation of Michelangelo's *Pieta* sculpture with artificial rain that resembles tears falling from "heaven." *Tears from Heaven* is located on the 1st floor of the gallery, with dramatic lighting, accompanied by the song *Fall* by the Icelandic band Sigur Ros. On the 2nd of the gallery, Pramuhendra presents an installation in the form of large, burnt wooden beams, stacked like the remnants of a Cross. The title of this work, *Calvary*—refers to the name of the hill where Jesus was crucified—is a reminder of the transience of worldly existence.

As seen in the installation, the interplay of "light and dark" is the main force in Pramuhendra's charcoal paintings. In this exhibition, Pramuhendra created a painting measuring 4 x 18 meters, titled *In the Quiet Night of The Grand Theater*, depicting 22 women sitting behind a long dining table, much like the composition of the painting *The Last Supper* by Leonardo da Vinci. This painting is the largest the artist has ever made and the gallery has ever exhibited.

Tears from Heaven will open to the public from 30 June to 11 August 2024 at Tirtodipuran Link Building B, Yogyakarta. Exhibition opening hours are Monday – Friday, 12 – 7 PM, and Saturday & Sunday, 12 – 8 PM. The exhibition will open on Saturday, 29 June 2024, at 7 PM. The exhibition catalog with curatorial text by Asmudjo J. Irianto is available in limited print and can also be accessed digitally.

J. Ariadhitya Pramuhendra

J. Ariadhitya Pramuhendra (b. 1984, Indonesia) is an Indonesian artist who stands out in the Asian art scene for his unique approach, utilizing charcoal and canvas to craft realistic yet dramatic compositions.

A significant element of Pramuhendra's work revolves around self-portraits, with the artist often positioning himself as the protagonist or central figure within his narrative. His large-scale charcoal drawings on canvas transcend conventional boundaries, depicting scenes from famous movies, paintings, and notably, the Bible.

The artist's process involves staging scenes, photographing them, and then meticulously transferring them onto canvas using only charcoal and his fingers. Pramuhendra's quest for identity takes center stage in his creations, prompting introspective questions about self, religion, and societal roles. Pramuhendra's upbringing in a Catholic family adds layers of complexity to his exploration, especially in a predominantly Muslim country like Indonesia. His works serve as a commentary on the unresolved national identity, influenced by political changes, media accessibility, and contemporary awareness.

Trained as a printmaker, Pramuhendra's transition to dry media, particularly charcoal pencil on paper or canvas, has resulted in intense, meticulous, and rich grayscale images. Whether working with drawings, installations, or photography, he maintains a commitment to black-and-white aesthetics. His use of chiaroscuro becomes a metaphorical exploration, where light symbolizes the divine presence.

His art reflects not only religious adherence but also cultural observations, acknowledging the syncretic nature of Indonesia's multi-ethnic and multi-faith society.

Srisasanti Gallery

Srisasanti Gallery is an art gallery founded in 1994 by E. St. Eddy Prakoso with the main goal of initiating global appreciation for Indonesian artists.

Srisasanti Gallery represents and supports its artists with a long-term perspective, dedicating its effort to developing their careers and providing a significant audience for their works, both regionally and globally. The gallery has been exhibiting established artists who have important roles in Indonesian art history, while also nurturing emerging artists to contribute to the growth of the Indonesian art scene. Apart from presenting intensive and dynamic in-house programs each year, Srisasanti Gallery also actively presents its artists at art fairs and other international programs.

Press Information

Click [here](#) for more information and selected artwork images.

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Gallery Opening Hours

Tirtodipuran Link Building B

Monday – Friday : 12:00 – 19:00 WIB

Saturday & Sunday : 12:00 – 20:00 WIB