

PRESS RELEASE

Press Conference Invitation:
6 November 2020 (1 PM – 2 PM)
(Please confirm through the Public
Relation WhatsApp)

“Kala Kali Incognito”
A solo exhibition by **Heri Dono**

Exhibition Duration and Venue:
6 November 2020 – 3 January 2021
Tuesday – Sunday
(12 PM – 7 PM)

Tirtodipuran Link
Jl. Tirtodipuran No. 50
Yogyakarta, Indonesia



Exhibition Summary:

- **Srisasanti Syndicate art gallery** is pleased to announce a solo exhibition by **Heri Dono**, with the title **“KALA KALI INCOGNITO”**;
- This is **Heri Dono's** fourth solo exhibition with the art gallery **Srisasanti Syndicate**;
- The exhibition's title address the issue of the pandemic; where **KALA KALI INCOGNITO** signifies **mankind's blind fight against the coronavirus**, which is nothing but a **hopeless battle against the Wheel of Time**, told in a narrative that uses **Kala as the God of Time** and **Kali as the Goddess of Death**.
- In this exhibition, **7 new paintings** will be exhibited, one of which is a **large painting with a size of 180 x 420 cm**;
- The exhibition will also showcase **2 new installation works**, which are an **electronic tricycle** and a **TV with a mechanical robot**;
- This exhibition is carried out with **COVID-19 prevention protocols** for the safety of visitors and all parties involved (details of the protocol can be seen on the end page);
- This exhibition is **open to the public (free)** and lasts for **2 months (6 November to 3 January 2021)** at **Tirtodipuran Link** (Jl. Tirtodipuran No. 50, Yogyakarta, Indonesia).

Exhibition Description:

Srisasanti Syndicate art gallery is pleased to announce the solo exhibition of Heri Dono with the title "Kala Kali Incognito". The art exhibition can be seen at the Tirtodipuran Link Gallery 2 from November 6 to January 3, 2021. This exhibition will feature 7 paintings and 2 installation artworks which will be exhibited for the first time ever.

In Kala Kali Incognito, Heri Dono intends to tell the story of humanity's war against the coronavirus, which is nothing more but a hopeless blind battle against the Wheel of Time. Heri Dono chose a male god, Kala, who in Javanese mythology wanted to swallow up the moon and plunge the earth into darkness. With his desire to swallow the moon, Kala wants to swallow time, because the moon also has a meaning as a lunar cycle of 28 days. "We make plans with various kinds of schedules, and as if the time must comply with us. The coronavirus has come to remind us that we are not the masters of time". In fact, all the characters in the KALA KALI INCOGNITO painting are puppets or wayang. According to Heri Dono, everything in life is a paradox. In their blindness, the characters seem to be fake warriors and superheroes not seeing that they are hopping under the compassionate gaze of our planet, oceans, forests, skies, which they plunder. Only the earth knows that in the end, he will win this war, without any battles.

Based in Yogyakarta, Heri Dono is a leading contemporary Indonesian artist who has a long history of career and achievements and is well known to the international contemporary art community. In his artistic practice, he is often inspired by figures in wayang kulit stories while addressing various socio-political issues in his paintings and installations. Heri Dono has often represented Indonesia in world art festivals such as the Biennale / Triennale in various countries since 1984. Heri Dono's achievements include participating in the 56th Venice Biennale in 2015, his work in the collection of the Deutsche Guggenheim in Frankfurt, the Fukuoka Art Museum in Japan, The Singapore Art Museum, the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra, and the Tropenmuseum in Amsterdam.

Srisasanti Syndicate art gallery also organizes the publication of an art book titled "Kali Kali Incognito" with Heri Dono, with the support of BJB Bank.

Along with this exhibition, the Srisasanti Syndicate art gallery will also present the solo exhibition "2020 PAN-ASIAN PERSPECTIVE" by renowned artist Zhang Kexin from China. The theme of this exhibition also touches on the issue of the pandemic and discusses the conditions of socio-culture and flora and fauna that are happening in Indonesia.

Artist's Bio:

HERI DONO

Born in Jakarta, 12 June 1960

Heri Dono is a leading Yogyakarta-based contemporary artist, and the first Indonesian to break into the global art scene during the early 1990s. He is a member of the generation of Indonesian artists that began their careers in the 1980s. Since his early career, he has traveled around the world to exhibit and respond to workshop invitations from various countries.

Heri Dono is well known in the international contemporary art community for his installations, many of which were inspired by his experiments with wayang, the complex wayang kulit theater in Java. Wayang performances consist of a number of artistic and non-artistic elements: visual arts, singing, music, storytelling, social criticism, humor, and to promote a mythological philosophy of life. These components are incorporated into the artwork's narrative to provide a general interpretation of the added multimedia elements. Coupled with the puppet show setting, this provides a space for social interaction between the audience. These creative works express Dono's interest in revitalizing art that is deeply rooted in Indonesian tradition.

In many of his installations and performances, Heri Dono effectively makes use of 'performativity and interactivity potencies', so that the works are involved in complimentary dialogs with their audience.

In his paintings, Heri Dono makes the most use of wild deformations and freestyle fantasies out of which emerge characters from the wayang stories. To this, he adds his profound knowledge and interest in children' cartoons, animation films, and comics. Dono's canvases are always filled with astonishing characters that intertwine both fantastic and absurd stories. Into these, Dono will sometimes insert his own critical remarks on socio-political issues in Indonesia and abroad.

Heri Dono is the only contemporary Indonesian artist who has been invited to the Venice Biennial curated exhibition (2003). His awards include the Dutch Prince Claus Award for Culture and Development (1998), the UNESCO Prize (2000), and the Anugerah Adhikarya Rupa (Visual Arts Award) from the Indonesian government (2014). He has participated in more than 300 exhibitions and 35 international biennales include Kochi-Muziris Biennale (2018), Bangkok Art Biennale (2018), the 50th Venice Biennale in the Arsenale's Zone of Urgency (2003), Guangzhou Triennial (2011); Gwangju Biennale (2006 and 1995); Sharjah Biennial (2005); Taipei Biennial (2004); Venice Biennale (2003); Asia Pacific Triennial (2002 and 1993); Yokohama Triennial (2001); Havana Biennial (2000); Shanghai Biennale (2000); Sydney Biennale (1996); São Paulo Biennial (2004 and 1996).

Gallery Profile:

Srisasanti Syndicate is a Yogyakarta based art gallery that was established by ST. Eddy Prakoso with one main aim; to “Initiate Global Appreciation” by consistently presenting artworks of exciting visual artists through annual in-house programs in their home base (Tirtodipuran Link) and participation in various international art fairs. It also initiates routine collaborative show programs with partner galleries from Singapore, the Philippines, Malaysia, Australia and the United States of America.

The gallery focuses its attention in the presentation of established artists and housing of various non-exhibition programs, which ranges from book publishing to artist residency project. The group represents and routinely collaborates with numerous household names of the contemporary art scene, such as Alfredo Esquillo Jr. (b. 1972), Heri Dono (b. 1960), Ronald Manullang (b. 1954) and Taher Jaoui (b. 1978).

Moreover, Srisasanti Syndicate also partners with talented emerging artists through a mutually beneficial art management program. The gallery works side by side with artists on a long-term perspective; enhancing the artists’ portfolio by providing continuous opportunities to have their works and ideas presented in both exhibition and non-exhibition format.

The presentations of Srisasanti Syndicate’s roster of prodigies are being undertaken by its junior gallery, Kohesi Initiatives. Several exciting names have participated in the past, and some are even still participating in the art management program. To name few, there are Atreyu Moniaga (b. 1988), Bob Sick Yudhita Agung (b. 1971), Galih Reza Suseno (b. 1990), Gatot Indrajati (b. 1980), Roby Dwi Antono (b. 1990), Suroso Isur (b. 1983) and Valdo Manullang (b. 1990).


Inquiries:

Public Relation

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Attachment: Some of the exhibit artworks:



Corona as a Puppet · 2020 · acrylic on canvas · 200 x 200 cm



Three Wise Monkeys Find the Vaccine · 2020 · acrylic on canvas · 200 x 200 cm



The Stage of Trade World War · 2020 · acrylic on canvas · 200 x 300 cm



Battle of the Invisible Enemies · 2020 · acrylic on canvas · 180 x 420 cm

COVID-19 Protocols:

- Temperature check upon arrival
Visitors with body temperature over 37.7 °C will not be allowed to enter the gallery space and told to immediately contact health authorities.
- Handwash/sanitizer stations available around the gallery space
Visitors will be directed to wash their hands upon arrival.
- Limiting the number of visitors
Visitors will be asked to give contact details before or upon arrival.
- Wear a face mask at all times
Visitors will have to wear face protection at all times when in gallery space.
- Keep a safe distance from other people
Visitors will have to maintain a 2-meter safe distance between other visitors and gallery sitters.
- Provide Employees with standard operation protocol for COVID-19
Educate employees about how they can reduce the spread of COVID-19 by social distancing and avoiding using other employees' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment, when possible.
- Nearby emergency hospital: Rumah Sakit Pratama (2.2 KM), Rumah Sakit Wirosaban (2.4 KM)
Having emergency contact with nearby health authorities if unwanted circumstances ever arrive.