



## **DADANG CHRISTANTO (B. 1957)**

Dadang Christanto was born in Tegal, a small village in Central Java, Indonesia, into an Indonesian family of Chinese descent. He studied painting in Yogyakarta, and was an active member of the arts community. With a diverse body of work that encompasses painting, drawing, sculpture, installation and performance, Christanto has won critical acclaim for his ability to portray and sensitively evoke reflections on universal human suffering and communal grief. He was amongst the first Indonesian artists to enter the international art world in the early 1990s, notably featuring in the first and third Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Brisbane in 1993 and 1999, as well as the Bienal de Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 1998. He was curated into many other major art events worldwide including Gwangju Biennale, South Korea (2000), and was featured in the Venice Biennale in 2003 and at his home country the Yogyakarta Biennial, Indonesia (2003) and Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, (2010). His works are held by the National Gallery of Australia, as well as major collections in Singapore, Japan, Indonesia, and in Europe is at Magdeburg Museum Germany. The National Portrait Gallery of Australia recently honoured him with an exhibition for his role in the development of art in Australia.

Throughout his career, Dadang Christanto has produced a body of works that honours the countless victims of political violence and crimes against humanity. The sincerity and rawness of emotion portrayed in his works stem from his personal narrative, which he has subtly woven into every aspect of his art. References to the year 1965 appear again and again. As an eight year-old boy, Christanto was heavily affected by his father's disappearance, thus his art has become inseparable from this tragedy.

His latest solo exhibition, '*M I S S I N G*' was held at Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, in 2018. The monumental installation comprises 110 acrylic and charcoal imagined portraits of the 1965 victims. Dadang Christanto's oeuvre engages with collective history and personal trauma. His painting and sculpture are imbued with an aura of silence, precisely referencing the political silence that enveloped the injustices that has shaped his childhood. His unbounded practice transcends its specific historical and political roots and leads to a wider meditation on the nature of violence and unjust death and suffering.



## **DADANG CHRISTANTO (B. 1957)**

### **EDUCATION**

- 1975–77** Studied painting, Pawiyatan Sanggarbambu, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 1975–79** Studied painting, Sekolah Menengah Seni Rupa (SMSR), Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 1980–86** Studied painting, Indonesia Institute of Arts (ISI), Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 1999–03** Lecturer, School of Art and Design, Northern Territory University, Darwin
- 2004** Lecturer, College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2006** Lives and works in Brisbane

### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2018** M I S S I N G, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur
- 2018** Archive, Gallery Smith, Melbourne
- 2018** Lost, Nancy Gallery, Canberra, Australia
- 2017** Painted Black on their Face, Jan Monton Arts, Brisbane, Australia
- 2016** 1965-1966 Genocide, Gallery Smith, Melbourne, Australia
- 2015** Nineteen Sixty Five, QUT Art Museum, Brisbane, Australia
- Slaughter Tunnel, Australia Experiment Art Foundation, Adelaide, Australia
- La Jave Bleue, Jan Manton Arts, Brisbane, Australia
- 2014** Once Upon a Time, Gallery Smith, Melbourne
- 2013** Lost and Found, Jan Manton gallery, Brisbane, Australia
- 2011** Works on paper, Jan Manton Art, Brisbane
- 2010** The Rivers, Jan Manton Art, Brisbane
- 2009** American Dream, Greenaway Gallery, Adelaide
- Survivor, 4A Gallery, Sydney
- 2008** Reading the Heads, Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra
- Batik has been burned, Jan Manton Art, Brisbane
- 2007** Work of Body, Jan Manton Art, Brisbane
- 2006** Pilgrim Project, Gaya Fusion Gallery, Ubud, Bali, Indonesia
- 2005** Testimonies of the Trees, CP Art Space, Jakarta, Indonesia
- Heads and Trees, Sherman Gallery, Sydney
- 2004** Head from the North, Marsh Pond, Sculpture Garden, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 2003** Count Project, Northern Territory University Gallery, Darwin, NT
- They Give Evidence, Asian Gallery, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2002** Unspeakable Horror, Bentara Budaya Jakarta, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2001** The Dark Century, Raft Art Space, Darwin, NT
- 2000** Beginning of the Dark Age, Centre de Reflexion sur l'Image et ses, Sierre,,Switzerland
- Reconciliation, 24 Hour Art Gallery, Darwin and Watch This Space, Alice Springs, NT
- 1998** Cannibalism or Memoir, Guarrant Gallery, Canberra School of Art, ACT;
- Switchback Gallery, Faculty of Art and Design, Gippsland, VIC
- 1997** About the Heads and Hearts, LIP Gallery, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 1996** 1001 Earth Humans, Marina Beach-Ancol, Jakarta, Indonesia



**1995** Terracotta or The Case Land, Bentara Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
**1991** Contemporary Indonesian Artist, University of South Australia, Adelaide, SA and Victoria College of the Arts, Melbourne, VIC

### **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

**2019** Art Jakarta 2019, Jakarta Convention Center (JCC) Senayan, Jakarta, Indonesia  
**2017** Political Act, Art Center Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia.  
**2015** Unordinary Strangers, Toni Raka Gallery, Ubud –Bali Indonesia  
**2013** Budaya Maritim, Art Jog, Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
Budaya Maritim, Indonesia Pavillion, Singapore Arts Stage, Singapore  
**2011** Kanazu Forest, Open Air Arts Exhibition, Yokohama, Japan  
**2010** Setouchi International Art Festival, Kagawa Japan  
**2009** Temperature 2, Museum of Brisbane, Brisbane, QLD  
Paperatzie 09, Albany Public Library, Albany, QLD  
Niigata Water and Land Art Festival, Niigata, Japan  
**2008** Manifesto, National Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia  
Red, Zaim, Yokohama, Japan  
Dari Penjara ke Pigura, Salihara Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia  
Recovering Lives, Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, ACT  
Handle with Care, Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, Art Gallery of South Australia, SA  
**2007** Neo-Nation, Yogyakarta Biennial, Indonesia  
News From Island, Campbelltown Art Centre, Sydney  
Imagining Affandi, Gedung Arsip Nasional, Jakarta, Indonesia  
Threshold and Tolerance, School of Art Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra  
Three Ways : Contemporary Sculpture from the Collection, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, QLD  
**2006** Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial III, Niigata, Japan  
Artery-Inaugural Exhibition, Singapore Management University, Singapore  
**2005** Echoes of Home, Museum Brisbane, Brisbane  
**2005-06** Open Letter, touring exhibition, Sydney, Bangkok, Manila and Kuala Lumpur  
**2005** Future Tense: Security and Human Right, Dell Gallery, Griffith Univerity, Brisbane  
**2004** Contact pre Text Me, Sherman Galleries, Sydney, NSW  
Contemporary Territory, Museum and Art Gallery Northern Territory, NT  
**2003** They Give Evidence, opening exhibition for contemporary Asian space, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
Country-bution, Yogyakarta Biennial, Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
Interpellation, CP Open Biennial, Jakarta, Indonesia  
Witnessing to Silence: Art and Human Rights, School of Art Gallery,  
Australian National University, part of a multi-institutional project organised by the Humanities Research Centre  
Mourning Lost Paradise, Indonesian Pavilion, Venice Biennale, Italy  
Austral-Asia Zero Three, Sherman Galleries, Sydney, NSW  
2000 Kwangju Biennale 2000, Kwangju, South Korea  
From Asian Forests, Yokohama open-air art exhibition, Japan



**1999** From Asian Forests, Kanazu Forest of Creation, Fukui, Japan  
The Third Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art 1999, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, QLD

**1998** XXIV Bienal de São Paulo, Brazil  
Begegnung 3:3 in Yogya, Taman Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
Plastic (or Other Waste), Center of Resources, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand  
Bangkok Art Project, Bangkok, Thailand

**1997** Art in Southeast Asia 1997: Glimpses into the Future, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo and Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan  
Befragung Der Raume, Magdeburg Museum, Magdeburg, Germany  
Yokohama International Open Air Art Exhibition'97, Yokohama, Japan

**1996** Tradition/Tension: Contemporary Arts in Asia, Asia Society Gallery, New York, travelling to Vancouver (Canada), Perth (Australia)  
Linkage and Leakage, The Tanks, Cairns, QLD

**1996** Mata Perupa, Pagelaran Kraton Yogyakarta, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

**1995** Realism as an Attitude 4th Asian Art Show, Fukuoka Art Museum, traveling to Hakone, Akita, Tokyo, Japan  
Asian Peace Art, War and Art 1995, Osaka International Peace Centre, Osaka, Japan  
Osaka Triennial 1995: Sculpture, Dome exhibition Hall, Osaka, Japan

**1994** Quinta Bienal de la Habana, Nasional Museum, Havana, Cuba  
Nur Gora Rupa, Taman Budaya Surakarta, Solo, Indonesia

**1993** The First Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, QLD  
The 9th Jakarta Art Biennial, Taman Ismail Marzuki, Jakarta, Indonesia

**1992** Binal, Senisono Art Gallery, Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
New Art from Southeast Asia II, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Apace  
Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Kirin Plaza, Osaka, Japan  
Mobile, Museum City Project, Fukuoka, Japan

## **PERFORMANCES**

**2018** "Lamen", National Portrait Gallery, Canberra

**2017** "Tooth Brush," Art Center Melbourne, Melbourne Australia

**2015** "Tooth Brush," "1965 and Litsus," 4 a Gallery, Sydney Australia  
Tooth Brush," Queensland University Arts Museum, Brisbane Australia  
"Litsus," "Tooth Brush," "1965," Australian Experiemntal Arts Foundation, Adelaide, Australia

**2013** For those Who Have Been Killed. GoMA, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia.

**2013** "Survivor" Gosford Regional Gallery, Lismore, Australia.

**2012** "Survivor" Gosford Regional Galler, Lismore, Australia

**2010** Batik of Java, Caloundra Regional Art Gallery, Caloundra  
In the Balance: Art for a Changing World, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney

**2009** Litsus, 4A Gallery, Sydney  
Survivor, 4A Gallery, Sydney

**2008** Survivor, Taman Proklamasi, Jakarta, Indonesia



- 2007** 'For those: Who are poor, Who are suffer(ing), Who are oppressed, Who are voiceless, Who are powerless, Who are burdened, Who are victims of violence, Who are victims of a dupe, Who are victims of injustice' (1993) Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
- 2005** Searching Displaced Bones, Old Canberra House, Australian University, Canberra  
Litsus, Griffith University, Brisbane
- 2004** Family Portrait, Old Canberra House, Australian National Univeristy, Canberra, ACT  
For Those Who Have Been Killed, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, ACT
- 2003** Litsus, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, ACT
- 2000** Reconciliation, 24 Hour Art Gallery, Darwin and Watch This Space, Alice Springs, NT
- 1999** Api di Bulan Mei, The Third Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art 1999,  
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
- 1998** Violence, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, WA  
For Those Who Have Been Killed, Switchback Gallery, Gippsland, VIC
- 1997** Violence, Western Front, Vancouver, Canada; Magdeburg Museum, Magdeburg, Germany  
For Those Who Have Been Killed, Dock 11, Berlin, Germany
- 1996** Earth Man in Jakarta, Marina Beach-Ancol, Jakarta, Indonesia  
Violence, Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns, QLD  
Violence, Z Gallery, New York
- 1995** Man in Surabaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 1994** Earth Man in Solo, Solo City, Indonesia
- 1993** For Those Who Have Been Killed, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, QLD  
Museum Affandi, Yogyakarta and UNS, Solo, Indonesia
- 1992** I'm Human Being, Daimaru Shopping Center, Fukuoka, Japan  
Earth Man in Tenjin, Tenjin Area, Fukuoka, Japan

### **RESIDENCIES**

- 2004** Artist in resident, School of Art, Australian National University
- 2003** Artist in residence, School of Art, Australian National University
- 1999** Artist in residence, Ecole Cantonale d' Art du Valais (ECAV), Switzerland
- 1998** Artist in residence, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT  
Artist in residence, Monash University, Gippsland Campus, VIC
- 1997** Artist in residence, Western Front, Vancouver, Canada  
Artist in residence, Magdeburg and Berlin, Germany
- 1991** Artist in residence, University of South Australia, Adelaide, SA

### **AWARDS / GRANTS**

- 2004** Australian Art Council
- 1997** The Pollock-Krasner Foundation, New York
- 1996** The Japan Foundation

### **COLLECTIONS**

- Fukuoka Museum of Modern Art, Fukuoka, Japan



Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan  
Magdeburg Museum, Magdeburg, Germany  
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane  
Kanazu Forest of Creation, Fukui, Japan  
National Gallery of Australia  
The Australia National University  
Museum and Art Gallery Northern Territory (MAGNT)  
Private collections National and International

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Exhibition Catalogues

Wolfe, Ross., 'Visual Arts in Adelaide', *Eyeline Magazine*, Number 66 2008, p. 41  
Kirker, Anne., 'Dadang Christanto', *ARTWORLD* Issue 4, Aug / Sep 2008, pp. 180 – 183  
Fenner, Felicity, 'HANDLE WITH CARE' Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, 2008  
'50 Most Collectable Artists', *Australian Art Collector*, Issue 43, Jan – Mar 2008, p. 122

### **REVIEWS**

Kubler, Alison., 'Temperature 2: New Queensland Art' (Review) *ARTWORLD* Issue #8, APR-MAY 2009, pp. 162-163  
Butler, Sally. 'Dadang Christanto', *Art and Australia*, Volume 45. Spring 2007, p. 132  
Martin-Chew, Louise. 'Works of nature's betrayal honour life's preciousness', *The Australian*, May 2007