



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 the 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 Europe. 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, *'Wuku'*, held at Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, in 2021. The exhibition featured 11 aluminium sculptures, which draws references from the artist's personal, cultural and spiritual upbringing in his homeland Java. Inscribing motifs of Javanese Pawukon calendar system onto the aluminum heads, Christanto hopes to reclaim the right of belief that was once lost, whilst preserving a cultural heritage that is on the edge of disappearing.

In 2018, he presented his first solo exhibition in Malaysia entitled *'M I S S I N G'*. The monumental installation comprises 110 acrylic and charcoal imagined portraits of the 1965 victims. 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.

His solo exhibition "Wuku", held at Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur in 2022, featured 11 aluminum sculptures that draw references from the artist's personal, cultural, and spiritual upbringing in his homeland, Java. Inscribing motifs of the Javanese Pawukon calendar system onto the aluminum heads, Christanto hopes to reclaim the right of belief that was once lost while preserving a cultural heritage that is on the edge of disappearing.



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

- 2021 Wuku, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2018 M I S S I N G, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
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

- 2024 And the invader's fear of memories, Wei-Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
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, Nacional 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 Experimental 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