Wei-Ling Gallery

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.

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 2021, 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.

Wei-Ling Gallery

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, Australia
2004 Lecturer, College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
2006 Lives and works in Brisbane, Australia

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, Gallerysmith, Melbourne, Australia
2018 Lost, Nancy Gallery, Canberra, Australia
2017 Painted Black on their Face, Jan Monton Arts, Brisbane, Australia
2016 1965-1966 Genocide, Gallerysmith, 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, Gallerysmith, Melbourne, Australia
2013 Lost and Found, Jan Manton gallery, Brisbane, Australia
2012 Hidden, Gallerysmith, Melbourne, Australia
2011 Works on paper, Jan Manton Art, Brisbane
2010 Behind the Veil, Gallerysmith, Melbourne, Australia
2010 The Rivers, Jan Manton Art, Brisbane, Australia
2009 American Dream, Greenaway Gallery, Adelaide, Australia
Survivor, 4A Gallery, Sydney, Australia
2008 Reading the Heads, Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra, Australia
Batik has been burned, Jan Manton Art, Brisbane, Australia
2007 Work of Body, Jan Manton Art, Brisbane, Australia
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, Australia
2004 Head from the North, Marsh Pond, Sculpture Garden, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia
2003 Count Project, Northern Territory University Gallery, Darwin, NT, Australia
They Give Evidence, Asian Gallery, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
2002 Unspeakable Horror, Bentara Budaya Jakarta, Jakarta, Indonesia
2001 The Dark Century, Raft Art Space, Darwin, NT, Australia
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, Australia

1998 Cannibalism or Memoir, Guarrant Gallery, Canberra School of Art, ACT; Switchback Gallery, Faculty of Art and Design, Gippsland, VIC, Australia
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, Australia

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, Australia
Paperatzie 09, Albany Public Library, Albany, QLD, Australia
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, Australia
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, Australia
Imagining Affandi, Gedung Arsip Nasional, Jakarta, Indonesia
Threshold and Tolerance, School of Art Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia
Three Ways : Contemporary Sculpture from the Collection, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, QLD, Australia
2006 Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial III, Niigata, Japan
Artery-Inaugural Exhibition, Singapore Management University, Singapore
2005 Echoes of Home, Museum Brisbane, Brisbane, Australia
2005-06 Open Letter, touring exhibition, Sydney, Bangkok, Manila and Kuala Lumpur
2005 Future Tense: Security and Human Right, Dell Gallery, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia
2004 Contact pre Text Me, Sherman Galleries, Sydney, NSW, Australia
Contemporary Territory, Museum and Art Gallery Northern Territory, NT, Australia
2003 They Give Evidence, opening exhibition for contemporary Asian space, Art Gallery of

New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
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 organized by the Humanities Research Centre
Mourning Lost Paradise, Indonesian Pavilion, Venice Biennale, Italy
Austral-Asia Zero Three, Sherman Galleries, Sydney, NSW, Australia

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, Australia

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, Australia

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, Australia
The 9th Jakarta Art Biennial, Taman Ismail Marzuki, Jakarta, Indonesia

1992 Binal, Senisono Art Gallery, Yogakarta, 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, Australia

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, Australia
In the Balance: Art for a Changing World, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney

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

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, Australia

2005 Searching Displaced Bones, Old Canberra House, Australian University, Canberra
Litsus, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia

2004 Family Portrait, Old Canberra House, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT, Australia
For Those Who Have Been Killed, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, ACT, Australia

2003 Litsus, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, ACT, Australia

2000 Reconciliation, 24 Hour Art Gallery, Darwin and Watch This Space, Alice Springs, NT, Australia

1999 Api di Bulan Mei, The Third Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art 1999, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, QLD, Australia

1998 Violence, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, WA, Australia
For Those Who Have Been Killed, Switchback Gallery, Gippsland, VIC, Australia

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, Australia
Violence, Z Gallery, New York, USA

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, Australia
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, Australia

2003 Artist in residence, School of Art, Australian National University, Australia

1999 Artist in residence, Ecole Cantonale d' Art du Valais (ECAV), Switzerland

1998 Artist in residence, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT, Australia
Artist in residence, Monash University, Gippsland Campus, VIC, Australia

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, Australia
Kanazu Forest of Creation, Fukui, Japan
National Gallery of Australia, Australia
The Australia National University, Australia
Museum and Art Gallery Northern Territory (MAGNT) , Australia
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