

I Nyoman Sujana (Kenyem) Comes Home to Komaneka Gallery

Ubud, Bali – Start from 6 August to 6 September 2016, Komaneka Fine Art Gallery, one of Ubud's foremost dealers of contemporary Indonesian art, will hold an exhibition of the work of the artist I Nyoman Sujana, better known as Kenyem, in the first of a series of exhibitions entitled **Coming Home**.

The Coming Home series will show the work of local artists who first joined the Komaneka gallery in the 1990s when they were still young, and have since gone on to gain international recognition. In this sense, their return to Komaneka Fine Art Gallery is a kind of homecoming, a return to their roots.

I Nyoman Sujana, born in Sayan, Ubud in 1972, is one of the few artists of the Ubud area to have broken free from the constraints of the local painting tradition. Like almost all the youth from his village, Kenyem was first trained as a painter with the Young Artists naïf tradition of nearby Penestanan. There he learned the repetitive patterns imposed by that convention. Later, after attending the Indonesian Art High School (SMSR) in Ubud, and the Indonesian Art Institute (STSI) in Denpasar (1992–1998), he shifted to abstraction. Kenyem's work then developed into a discourse about the place of human beings in nature. In 1999 he exhibited at the Komaneka gallery with Mahendra Mangku and Nyoman Masradi. In 2011 he had a solo show there, called *The Bicycle Diaries*.

Kenyem has had solo exhibitions in Bali, Jakarta, Malaysia, Singapore, and Sweden, and has participated in numerous group exhibitions in Bali, Yogyakarta, and Jakarta, as well as in Malaysia, Myanmar, Korea, and the Beijing International Art Biennale, Beijing, China.

Kenyem works in a meticulously detailed manner, often with calligraphic fields. Iconic to his paintings are small androgynous figures that appear to be dancing. Trees and especially leaves are a recurrent visual motif, as are large hovering rocks. Everything is carefully shadowed to give the impression of floating.

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I Nyoman Sujana (Kenyem) “Pulang” ke Galeri Komaneka

Pada 6 Agustus - 6 September 2016, Komaneka Fine Art Gallery, salah satu galeri utama seni rupa kontemporer Indonesia di Ubud, akan mengadakan pameran karya I Nyoman Sujana, perupa yang lebih akrab dipanggil Kenyem, dalam seri pertama dari rangkaian pameran berjudul *Coming Home*.

Rangkaian pameran *Coming Home* akan menampilkan karya perupa-perupa yang sebelumnya pernah bekerjasama dengan galeri Komaneka ketika mereka masih muda, dan sejak itu mereka terus berkiprah hingga meraih pengakuan internasional. Dalam arti ini, kembalinya mereka ke Komaneka Fine Art Gallery adalah semacam pulang kampung, kembali ke akar mereka.

I Nyoman Sujana yang dilahirkan di Sayan, Ubud, pada 1972, adalah satu dari sedikit perupa dari kawasan Ubud yang telah membebaskan diri dari kungkungan tradisi seni lukis lokal. Seperti hampir semua anak muda dari desanya, Kenyem mula-mula belajar melukis dengan mengikuti tradisi seni lukis naif Young Artists di desa tetangga, Penestanan. Di sana ia belajar melukis pola repetitif yang diwajibkan oleh pakem seni lukis Young Artists. Di kemudian hari, setelah tamat dari Sekolah Menengah Seni Rupa (SMSR) di Ubud dan Sekolah Tinggi Seni Indonesia (STSI) Denpasar (1992-1998), Kenyem bergeser ke abstraksi. Karya Kenyem kemudian berkembang menjadi wacana tentang kedudukan manusia di alam. Pada 1999, Kenyem berpameran di galeri Komaneka bersama Mahendra Mangku dan Nyoman Masriadi. Pada 2011, ia menggelar pameran tunggal berjudul *The Bicycle Diaries* di galeri yang sama.

Kenyem telah berpameran tunggal di Bali, Jakarta, Malaysia, Singapura dan Swedia; juga berpartisipasi dalam berbagai pameran bersama di Bali, Yogyakarta dan Jakarta, serta di Malaysia, Myanmar, Korea, dan *Beijing International Art Biennale* di Beijing, Cina.

Kenyem berkarya secara rinci dan teliti, sering dengan bidang kaligrafis. Ikon khas dalam lukisannya adalah figur-figur androgini kecil yang tampak seperti menari. Pohon, dan terutama daun, merupakan motif visual yang sering muncul, demikian juga batu besar yang melayang. Semuanya diberi bayangan secara cermat agar timbul kesan mengambang.

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