

# MANGU PUTRA

(b. 1963, Sangeh, Bali, Indonesia)

Since the beginning of his artistic career, Mangu Putra has made a significant impact on the Indonesian art scene, exhibiting extensively across the country. A graphic designer before transitioning into a full-time painter in 1998, Putra's works reveal a keen sensitivity to visual forms, marked by precision and an acute awareness of composition.

Rather than adhering to a singular style, Putra fluidly navigates between abstraction, figuration, and hyperrealism, producing a body of work that is both diverse and cohesive. His practice spans a broad spectrum—from nearly photographic depictions of dynamic scenes to hyperrealistic renderings of trees that verge on abstraction. While some of his works appear true-to-life, they often possess an artificial, idealised quality, reflecting a world not as it naturally exists, but as it is shaped and influenced by human perception and societal constructs.

Putra's subjects frequently centre on nature—wilderness, fish, mountains, and forests—imbued with a sense of reverence and mysticism. In interviews, he has described nature as the unifying thread in his practice, with his goal being to capture and translate its essence into a distinct visual language. His paintings do not merely depict nature; rather, they seek to reveal its underlying spirit, presenting an enchanted reality that transcends conventional representations.

Born in Sangeh, Central Bali, in 1963, Putra studied at the prestigious *Institut Seni Indonesia* (The Indonesia Institute of the Arts) in Yogyakarta, majoring in Design and Visual Communications. After working as a graphic designer for over a decade, he shifted his focus to fine art in 1997. His work has been showcased in solo and group exhibitions in Indonesia and internationally, including in Singapore, China, South Korea, and Australia.

Putra currently lives and works in Bali, Indonesia.

## EDUCATION

1990 SMSR (Fine Arts High School) in Batu Bulan, Bali, Indonesia  
Visual Communication Design, ISI Yogyakarta, Indonesia

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2017 *Mangu Putra - Between History and Quotidian*, Gajah Gallery, Singapore  
2011 *Teater Rakyat II (People's Theatre II)*, Korea International Art Fair, Seoul, Korea  
2010 *Teater Rakyat (People's Theatre)*, National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia  
2008 *Silent Words*, Gajah Gallery, Singapore  
2006 *Belief*, Rupa Galerie, Indonesia  
2005 *Spiritual Landscape*, Gajah Gallery, Singapore  
2003 *Di Tepi Cahaya Bali*, Bentara Budaya Jakarta, Indonesia  
2002 *Gerutu Air, Tanah dan Batu*, Galeri Santi, Jakarta, Indonesia  
2000 *Nature, Culture, Tension*, Jezz Gallery, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

1999 Solo Exhibition: Gallery Chedi, Ubud, Bali, Indonesia

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2024 *Customised Postures, (De)colonising Gestures*, Gajah Gallery Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Customised Postures, (De)colonising Gestures*, Gajah Gallery, Singapore
- 2022 *New Beginnings*, Gajah Gallery Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Reframing Roots*, Gajah Gallery, Singapore
- 2021 *TWENTYFIVE*, Gajah Gallery, Singapore
- 2020 Art Basel Hong Kong 2020, Gajah Gallery, Hong Kong  
*The Humanity of Small Things*, Gajah Gallery, Singapore  
*(Re)Imagining The Image*, Gajah Gallery Singapore
- 2019 *Genset*, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2018 *Power, Play, Perception*, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2016 *Asian Democracy, Human Rights, Peace Exhibition – The Truth To Turn it Over*, Gwangju Art Museum, Gwangju, South Korea  
Art Expo Malaysia Plus, Art Xchange Gallery, MATRADE Exhibition & Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
*WhArt Now? Traveling Exhibitions*, Art Xchange Gallery, Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
*We Are Asia*, Art Stage Singapore, Gajah Gallery, Singapore  
Art Basel Hong Kong, Gajah Gallery, Hong Kong  
2016 Taiwan x Indonesia Cultural and Artistic Biennale, Tainan, Taiwan
- 2015 ART021 Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair 2015, Gallery Hakgojae, Shanghai, China  
*A Prince for All Seasons Diponegoro in the Memory of the Nation*, National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Southeast Asian Abstraction: A New Dialogue*, Sotheby's Gallery, Singapore and Hong Kong  
*Violent Bali*, Tonyraka Gallery, Ubud, Bali  
*Aku Diponegoro*, Galeri Nasional Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Social Realism In Asia Chapter 1. Isles of Sincerity*, Hakgojae Gallery, Shanghai, China  
*Kala/Masa*, Galeri Canna, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2014 *Indonesia-Korea Contemporary Art Exhibition: Low Stream*, Jeju Museum of Contemporary Art, Jeju, Korea  
*Indonesia-China Art Association 1st International Art Exhibition*, National Museum of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Trajectories*, Habana Gallery, La Habana, Cuba
- 2013 *Ground Zero*, Lokanat Gallery, Yangon, Myanmar  
*Revealed Soul and National Spirit*, National Gallery of Indonesia, Indonesia  
*Determination of Two Islands*, National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Irony in Paradise*, Agung Rai Museum of Art, Bali, Indonesia  
*Picturing Pictures*, Ho Chi Minh City Fine Art Museum, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam  
*Chosun Girl: Military Sexual Slavery by Japan*, Seoul Museum of Art, Korea  
*The Age of Photography*, Tonyraka Art Gallery, Bali, Indonesia
- 2012 *Art Today Jewel Today*, Tonyraka Art Gallery, Bali, Indonesia  
Art Stage Singapore, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore
- 2011 *Indonesian Eye: Fantasies and Realities*, The Saatchi Gallery, London, United Kingdom

- Beyond Photography*, Ciputra, Jakarta, Indonesia  
Art Stage Singapore, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore  
*Bali Making Choices*, National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Closing the GAP*, Melbourne International Fine Art, Australia  
2010 *Contemporary Art of Indonesia*, Museums of Contemporary Art Shanghai, China  
*Paper Power*, Maha Art Sanur, Bali, Indonesia  
*Bali and Beyond*, Sanggar Dewata Indonesia, Bali, Indonesia  
2009 *Second Odyssey*, Sri Sasanti Gallery, Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
*The Six Masters from Bali*, Maha Art Gallery, Bali, Indonesia  
*Next Nature*, National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta  
*POLI(CROMATIC) V-Art*, Bentara Budaya Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
2008 *Merti Bumi*, Lerep Art Village, Semarang, Indonesia  
*Indonesia and the Mainstream*, Canna Gallery at CIGE, Beijing, China  
*Art in Contemporary Culture*, Hexi Exhibition Centre, Guangzhou, China  
2007 *Ar(t)chepelago Alert*, TonyRaka Art Gallery, Ubud, Bali, Indonesia  
*Global Warming*, TonyRaka Art Gallery, Ubud, Bali, Indonesia  
2006 *Angkor – The Djin Within*, Gajah Gallery, Singapore  
*The 7th Nude Crouquis Exhibition*, Seoul, Korea  
2005 *Bali-Jeju*, Jejudo Art Hall, Jeju, Korea  
*Milestone*, Vanessa Art House, Indonesia  
*Erotica*, TonyRaka Gallery, Bali, Indonesia.  
2004 *Reading Multi Culture*, Haus der Weltkulturen, Berlin, Germany  
*Milestone*, Vanessa Art House, Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Still Life*, Tony Raka Gallery, Mas-Bali, Indonesia  
*The Big Picture*, The Fullerton Hotel, Singapore  
2003 Grand Opening Exhibition, Gallery Tama, Ubud, Bali, Indonesia  
*Penjelajahan Diri 18 Pelukis*, Gallery Raka, Bali, Indonesia  
2002 *Ilustrasi Cerpen Kompas 2002*, several cities in Indonesia  
*Membaca Raden Saleh*, Gallery Semaran, Semarang, Indonesia  
2001 *Selamatkan Laut Kita*, National Museum, Jakarta, Indonesia  
2000 *Aspects of a Mountain*, Museum Sidik Jari, Denpasar, Bali.  
1999 *Sanggar Dewata*, Art Centre, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia  
Gallery Ganesha, Jimbaran, Bali, Indonesia  
ASEAN Building, Jakarta, Indonesia  
1998 Group Exhibition, Arts Centre, Denpasar, Bali  
1997 Arts Festival, Art Centre, Denpasar-Bali, Indonesia  
1996 Group Exhibition, Bali Cliff Hotel, Bali, Indonesia  
1995 *Sanggar Dewata*, Art Centre, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia  
1994 Arts for AIDS, Gallery Rudana, Ubud, Bali, Indonesia  
ASEAN Art, Singapore  
*Sanggar Dewata*, Museum Gunarsa, Klungkung, Bali, Indonesia

## AWARDS

- 2002 Indofood Art Awards 2002, Second Place, Jakarta, Indonesia  
1994 Philip Morris Award for painting, '*Imagination Under the Sea*'  
1990 Best of Work Visual Communication Design, 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ISI Yogyakarta  
1988 Best of Work Visual Communication Design, 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ISI Yogyakarta