

# RUDI MANTOFANI

(b. 1973, West Sumatra, Indonesia)

A founding member of the Jendela Art Group, Rudi Mantofani is a leading figure in Indonesian contemporary art, known for his ability to infuse the unexpected into his work. Through both painting and sculpture, he challenges perception by transforming ordinary objects and landscapes into enigmatic visual riddles. By employing daring visual strategies—such as flattening pictorial space through heavy repetition or creating illusions of three-dimensionality—he subverts reality, prompting viewers to question and interpret his compositions.

For Mantofani, all things possess a communicative power and an intrinsic life of their own, independent of human understanding. Since the Industrial Revolution, objects have been reduced to mere functionality, their meanings confined to utility. Mantofani disrupts this notion by creating objects that either lack function or serve seemingly trivial purposes. The element of surprise in his work arises from the viewer's expectation of functionality, making him a master of visual literacy as he continually explores new ways to construct objects that operate on their own terms.

Though the unexpected may at first feel unsettling, Mantofani's work ultimately expresses a deep desire for progress and transformation. His landscape paintings, for instance, depict utopian worlds—perfect, if not for a disappearing branch or a surreal, disjointed cut across the canvas. Through these subtle disruptions, he reminds us that humanity holds the power to enact change, and the responsibility to improve our surroundings lies with each of us.

In 1993, alongside four fellow West Sumatran artists, Mantofani co-founded the Jendela Art Group. Having studied together in Yogyakarta, the collective continues to produce works that eschew overt political commentary. In contrast to the ideologically charged and confrontational art that dominated the 1990s, Mantofani and the Jendela artists lean towards the ambivalent and the allegorical, offering reflections that invite introspection rather than polemics.

Mantofani currently lives and works in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

## EDUCATION

1993            ISI Yogyakarta, Indonesia

## SOLO EXHIBITION

2006            *The Culture of Things*, CP Art Space, Jakarta, Indonesia  
2005            *Art Saturdays*, Sin Sin Fine Art, Hong Kong  
2003            Chouinard Gallery, Hong Kong  
2002            *Cakrawala Ganda (Double Horizons)*, Nadi Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 ART SG 2025, Marina Bay Sands Expo, Singapore
- 2024 *Customised Postures, (De)Colonising Gestures*, Gajah Gallery, Singapore
- 2023 *Beyond Borders*, Gajah Gallery Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2022 *New Beginnings*, Gajah Gallery Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Reframing Roots*, Gajah Gallery, Singapore
- 2021 *TWENTYFIVE Yogyakarta*, Gajah Gallery Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
*TWENTYFIVE*, Gajah Gallery, Singapore
- 2020 *Genset*, Gajah Gallery, Singapore
- 2019 Art Basel Hong Kong 2019, Hong Kong
- 2018 Art Basel Hong Kong 2018, Hong Kong
- 2015 Art Basel Hong Kong 2015
- 2013 *Sip! Indonesian Art Today*, ARNDT Berlin, Germany
- 2012 *Surreal versus Surrealism in Contemporary Art*, Institut Valencia d'Art Modern (IVAM), Valencia, Spain  
Art Stage 2012, Singapore  
India Art Fair, New Delhi, India
- 2011 *Indonesian Eye: Fantasies and Realities*, The Saatchi Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
*Indonesian Eye: Fantasies and Realities*, Ciptura Artpreneur Center, Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Collectors' Stage: Asian Contemporary Art From Private Collections*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore  
Art Stage 2011, Singapore
- 2010 6<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Gallery of Modern Art|Queensland Art Gallery  
*Contemporary Art of Indonesia*, MOCA Shanghai (Museum of Contemporary Art Shanghai), Shanghai, China
- 2009 *Jendela- A Play of the Ordinary*, NUS Museum, Singapore
- 2008 *Indonesian Invasion*, Sin Sin Gallery, Hong Kong  
*Tribes*, Sin Sin Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2007 *Cilukba!*, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
*Art Summer*, Sin Sin Fine Art, Hong Kong  
*40 Plus, 40 Minus*, Sin Sin Fine Art, Hong Kong
- 2006 *Exhibition*, Vanessa Art Link Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2005 *Re-reading Landscape*, Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Open View*, Bali, Indonesia  
*Here & Now*, Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Biasa / The Ordinary: Exhibition of the Jendela Group*, Nadi Gallery, Jakarta
- 2004 *Membaca Dunia Widayat*, Museum H. Widayat, Magelang, Indonesia  
*Object(ify)*, Nadi Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Spacious Territory*, Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Equatorial Heat*, Sichuan Museum, Jakarta  
*Have We Met?*, Foundation Forum Tokyo, Japan
- 2003 CP Open Biennale, National Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia  
*EPIC*, Gajah Gallery, Singapore  
*Borobudur International Festival*, H. Widayat Museum, Magelang, Indonesia  
*Infatuated*, Sun Jin Gallery, Singapore

- 2002 *Sorak Sorai Identitas*, Magelang, Indonesia  
*30 : 30*, Edwin's Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia  
Group Exhibition, Chouinard Gallery, Hong Kong  
*ECSTATICUS MUNDI*, Selasar Sunaryo Art Space, Bandung and Air Art House, Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Re-Creations*, H. Widayat Museum, Magelang, Indonesia  
*Pose*, Affandi Museum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2000 *Membuka Kemungkinan*, Purna Budaya, Yogyakarta and Taman Ismail Marzuki, Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Perspective of Five Faces*, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 1999 *From A Window*, Bali, Indonesia  
*Rudi & Yusra*, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 1997 *Jendela*, Purna Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia