

YUSRA MARTUNUS

(b. 1973, Padang Panjang, West Sumatra, Indonesia)

Yusra Martunus' art practice is defined by a minimalist approach to form, material, and meaning. His works exude a soft, fluid sensibility, often composed of cloud-like colour formations. Since the early 2000s, Martunus has been deeply engaged in manipulating the physical properties of his materials—transforming rigid substances such as wire and aluminium into forms that appear malleable, pliant, or even liquid. In some cases, he flattens three-dimensional objects to such an extent that they resemble paintings, challenging the boundaries between sculpture and painting. Through these material interventions, Martunus creates unexpected metaphors that subvert conventional interpretations of medium and form. His seemingly simple works thus demand closer inspection, revealing complexities that bend to the inherent properties of the materials themselves. As a result, the viewer must recalibrate their understanding, adapting to the unfamiliar visual language he constructs.

Martunus extends this sense of ambiguity through his cryptic titling system, which often consists of numerical or alphabetical codes rather than descriptive phrases. These elusive titles introduce an additional cognitive layer, compelling viewers to decipher their significance—only to realise that their meanings shift across different works. As with much of Martunus' practice, meaning is never imposed but rather left open for interpretation, inviting viewers to engage in a process of contemplation and meaning-making.

A co-founder of Jendela Art Group, Martunus is widely regarded as a pivotal figure in contemporary Southeast Asian art. His inventive use of materials and conceptual approach have cemented his reputation within the region's art scene. He studied at the *Institut Seni Indonesia* (The Indonesia Institute of the Arts) in Yogyakarta, earning his Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2000. Over the years, his work has received critical recognition, including the Best of McDonald's Art Award (1994), Best of Indonesia ASEAN Art Award (2003), and finalist placement in the Asian Art Award (2004). His pieces have also been successfully auctioned, such as *07104R (399 parts)*, which was sold at Sotheby's Hong Kong in 2011 for \$19,302 as part of their *Modern and Contemporary Southeast Asian Paintings* sale.

Martunus currently lives and works in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

EDUCATION

2000 Fine Arts, ISI Yogyakarta, Indonesia

SOLO EXHIBITION

2015 *Uncertain*, Art Basel Hong Kong, Semarang Gallery, Hong Kong
2009 *SENSUOUS*, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Singapore
2008 *necis*, Nadi Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Art Jakarta Gardens 2024, Hutan Kota by Plataran, Jakarta, Indonesia
Art Dubai 2024, Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 2023 ART Moments 2023, Sheraton Grand Jakarta, Gandaria City Hotel, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2021 *TWENTYFIVE*, Gajah Gallery Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Kelompok Seni Rupa Jendela, Digital Exhibition, Gajah Gallery Singapore
- 2019 Art Fair Philippines 2019, Ayala Centre, Makati, Philippines
Monumenta: in Lightness, Gajah Gallery, Singapore
- 2016 *20th Anniversary Exhibition*, Gajah Gallery, Singapore
- 2015 *MATJA*, Jogja Nasional Museum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Bakaba #4: Rendang dan Rendang, Jogja Gallery, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Sanggar Sakato, Galeri Gajah, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2014 *Intersection, Latin American & South East Asian Contemporary Art*, Havana, Cuba
Trienal Seni Patung Indonesia #2, The National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia
Memajang Boleh Saja Asal Ada Artinya, Sarang Building & BKdP, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Bakaba #3, Jogja Gallery, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Fiesta Kota Tua Jakarta, Galeria Fatahillah, Jakarta, Indonesia
Art Basel Hong Kong 2014, Nadi Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2013 Art Stage Singapore 2013, Nadi Gallery, Singapore
A Selection of OHD's Collection, OHD Museum, Indonesia
- 2012 Art Stage Singapore, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore
A Tribute to a Mentor, Magelang, Indonesia
Hong Kong International Art Fair (ART HK 12), Nadi Gallery, Hong Kong
The Window of Jendela, OHD Museum, Indonesia
- 2011 *Everything You Can Imagine Is Real #1*, Galerie Christian Hosp, Berlin, Germany
Back to The Future, Sangkring Art Space, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Ekspansi, SIGI Arts Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
Scoopart, Canna Galeri, Jakarta, Indonesia
Art Hong Kong, Nadi Gallery, Hong Kong
Art Stage Singapore, Nadi Gallery, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore
- 2009 *Jendela - A Play of The Ordinary*, NUS Museum, Singapore
- 2007 *Fetish*, Objects Art Project #1, Biasa Art Space, Bali, Indonesia
Cilukba! (Peekaboo!), Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Common Grounds, The National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia
Indonesian Contemporary Art Now, Nadi Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2006 *Preview Invitation*, Jogja Gallery, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Passing on Distance, Base Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 2005 *Space and Scape*, Summit Event Bali Biennale, Bali, Indonesia
Beaute Et Expressing Terrorise, Galerie Loft, Paris, France
Urban Culture CP 2nd Biennale, Museum Bank Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia
Open View, Biasa Gallery, Bali, Indonesia
Biasa (The Ordinary), KRSJ (Kelompok Seni Rupa Jendela), Nadi

- Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
Passing on Distance, NAF Gallery, Nagoya, Japan
Seni Rupa Alat Bantu, Bentara Budaya Yogyakarta, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2004
Makan Seni Rupa, Rumah Michelle Chin, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Eksodus Barang, Nadi Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
Spacious Territory, AUDI Centre, Jakarta, Indonesia
Silent Action: Creativity for Tolerance and Peace, 4th Art Summit, The National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia
Membaca Kembali Konvensi, Edwin's Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
ASEAN Art Award 2004, The National Gallery of Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand
Barcode!, 16th Yogyakarta Art Festival, Taman Budaya Yogyakarta, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Mempertimbangkan Tradisi, Sanggar Sakato, The National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia
The Soul of Arts, Senayan Plaza, Jakarta, Indonesia
Object(ify), Nadi Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
Wings of Words, Wings of Colors, Langgeng Gallery, Magelang, Indonesia
Membaca Dunia Widayat, H.Widayat Musuem, Mungkid, Magelang, Indonesia
- 2003
Indonesia ASEAN Art Award 2003, Grya Dome, Medan; The ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia
Interpellation, CP Open Bienalle, The National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia
Implotion, ExpatriArt Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
25x25x50, Lontar Gallery, Jakarta; Benda Art House, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2002
Ecstaticus Mundi, Selasar Sunaryo Art Space, Bandung and Air Art House, Jakarta, Indonesia
Pose, KSRJ (Kelompok Seni Rupa Jendela), Selasar Seni Sunaryo, Bandung and Air Art House, Jakarta, Indonesia
Age-hitbition, Edwin's Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
Lampu, Benda Art Space, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Object, Fabriek Gallery, Bandung, Indonesia
- 2001
Not So Political, H. Widayat Museum, Mungkid, Magelang, Indonesia
Bidar Art, Taman Budaya, Palembang, Indonesia
- 2000
Yusra Martunus, Hedi Harianto and Ahmad Syahbandi, Cemeti Art House, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Membuka Kemungkinan, KSRJ (Kelompok Seni Rupa Jendela), Purna Budaya, Yogyakarta and Taman Ismail Marzuki, Jakarta, Indonesia
Indonesian Art of Sculpture 2000, Taman Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 1999
Yusra Martunus and Rudi Mantofani, Lontar Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
From a Window, KSRJ, Bali Padma Hotel, Bali, Indonesia
Sakato Group, Bentang Vredeborg Museum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Volume and Form, Singapore
Media Dalam Media, The National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia
6th Yogyakarta Biennale, Purna Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

- 1998 Taman Budaya, Lampung, Indonesia
Sanggar Suwung, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
TVRI Anniversary, TVRI Station, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
The 2nd Sculpture Art Triennial, Taman Ismail Marzuki, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 1997 Sculptural Art of Gumpal Group, FSR ISI Yogyakarta, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
ISI Anniversary, Taman Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Sakato, Purna Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Jendela, 1st Exhibition of KSRJ, Purna Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Citra Raya Environment Sculpture Art, Citra Raya Housing Estate, Tangerang, Indonesia
- 1996 ISI Anniversary, FSR ISI Yogyakarta, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
The 8th Yogyakarta Art Festival, Bentang Vredeburg Museum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Dialog Dua Kota I, Cipta Gallery, Taman Ismail Marzuki, Jakarta, Indonesia
Dialog Dua Kota II, Purna Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 1995 *Dimensi*, Sculpture Art, Taman Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Citra Raya Environment Sculpture Art, Citra Raya Housing Estate, Tangerang, Indonesia
National Outdoor Sculpture, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Sakato, 1st Exhibition of Sanggar Sakato, Purna Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

AWARDS

- 2005 Winner, *Kudus Kota Kretek* Monument Competition
2004 Finalist, ASEAN Art Award
2003 The Best of Indonesia Award ASEAN Art Award
1994 The Best of McDonald's Art Award