

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Lokanat - Ground Zero****Curated by Barnaby Martin****9 – 24 Nov 2013**

Gajah Gallery is proud to bring the landmark exhibition, *Lokanat – Ground Zero* (which opened at Lokanat Galleries, Yangon, Myanmar on 22nd Oct 2013) to Singapore. The exhibition was the first significant art show in Myanmar to feature major foreign artists, including the important Indonesian and international contemporary artists; Nyoman Masriadi, Handiwirman Saputra, Putu Sutawijaya, Mangu Putra, Yunizar, Ai Wei Wei, Ashley Bickerton & Ahmad Zakii Anwar. All the artists involved are highly respected in their own rights, but the undisputed star of the show was Lokanat Galleries itself, with its strict code of conduct (Please refer to the attachment).

Jasdeep Sandhu, the owner and founder of Gajah Gallery, together with Barnaby Martin, the curator of the show, spent a year trying to find the perfect exhibition space in Yangon, and in Lokanat Galleries they believe they have found it. Established in 1971, Lokanat is located on 62 Pansodan Street in Yangon. It is a not-for-profit organization, uncorrupted by money and power, and its goal is to help artists who are pure of heart. There are very few such art outposts left anywhere in the world: *"The gallery is a complete trip"* commented a delighted Sandhu.

Lokanat founders, U Ba Than and U Ye Htun, are adamant that all artists who exhibit in the space have to embody the organization's philosophy. Borrowing its name from the venerated Buddhist deity and protector of the universe, Lokanat aims to operate according to the principles of its patron saint. The ethos of the Lokanat code of conduct, as well as the physical space of the gallery itself, stand in stark contrast to glamorous European exhibition locales such as the Palace of Versailles with its majestic grand halls and ornate 17th century architecture. Rusty, old power boxes stick out from the walls; electric wires coil like creepers up from the stair-well; the crumbling floor is patterned in art deco-style tiles after the fashion of the terrazzo tile flooring that was popular in Europe in the 1930s. Preserved in aspic through the long decades of military rule, Lokanat is a living relic of an older, purer conception of what an art space should be.

Presenting these leading world artists at Lokanat allowed them to show their work in a context far removed from today's world of auction houses and high-end galleries. This exhibition gave rise to a new and unique dialogue that the contemporary art world has not encountered before and the art was devoured by a hungry Myanmarese art public who have been starved of art for so long.

Through this show, Gajah Gallery humbly imprinted these artists into Lokanat's history, leaving behind foot prints in Myanmar's proud heritage and contributing to the intellectual discourse of contemporary art.

For Artist interviews and further information, please contact: Christiaan +65 6737 4202, christiaan@gajahgallery.com

Lokanat Galleries Doctrine

1. Members of The Lokanat Galleries
 - a. must not say or do anything to cast slurs on the Myanmar Art Council.
 - b. must not fight for power
 - c. must not be over eager for fame
 - d. must not be overly greedy for profits
 - e. must not be dishonest in the creating the art works
2. Members of The Lokanat Galleries must strive at all times to search, study, discuss, analyse, research, create art and live a life of true artists.
3. Members of The Lokanat Galleries must try to be on amiable terms with each other, helping each other as necessary and be sincere in their efforts to support each other. They must be good and true friends with each other.
4. Members of The Lokanat Galleries must not speak ill of each other. If one is at fault, the other must make sure first if it were so and only then give advice to correct the wrong in an honest, friendly and gentle manner.
5. Members of The Lokanat Galleries
 - a. must share good ideas with each other
 - b. must teach all that one knows to anyone who becomes one's student
 - c. must write about art in articles or as books if one likes to write
6. Members of The Lokanat Galleries
 - a. must be diligent in making sure that rules of The Lokanat Galleries be obeyed, in social dealings, in administrative matters, and in the financial sector.
 - b. must, regarding the budget of The Lokanat Galleries, the income must be used as follows: one fourth for expenses, half as capital to buy the art works and the remaining fourth as an emergency reserve fund.
7. The Lokanat Galleries must hold monthly meetings to discuss matters relating to the administration and discipline of The Lokanat Galleries. Matters must be discussed amiably. At every meeting this agreement must be read out aloud.
8. For emergencies, the most senior board member of the The Lokanat Galleries can call an emergency meeting with the agreement of at least three other members.
9. At every meeting regular or emergency, any decisions must be made according to majority vote. The most senior board member will be the judge and if the votes are equal it is up to him to cast the deciding vote.
10. If the senior board member is absent, the next in line of rank shall act in his place.

About Lokanat Galleries



Truth, Beauty, Love The Lokanat Gallery of Art

The Lokanat Gallery of Art officially opened on 15 October 1971 with a Memorandum of Agreement signed between the Board of Directors and nine member artists. The motto of the gallery was: "Truth, Beauty, Love". The premises are located at 62, Pansodan Street, on the first floor of the corner block with Merchant Street.

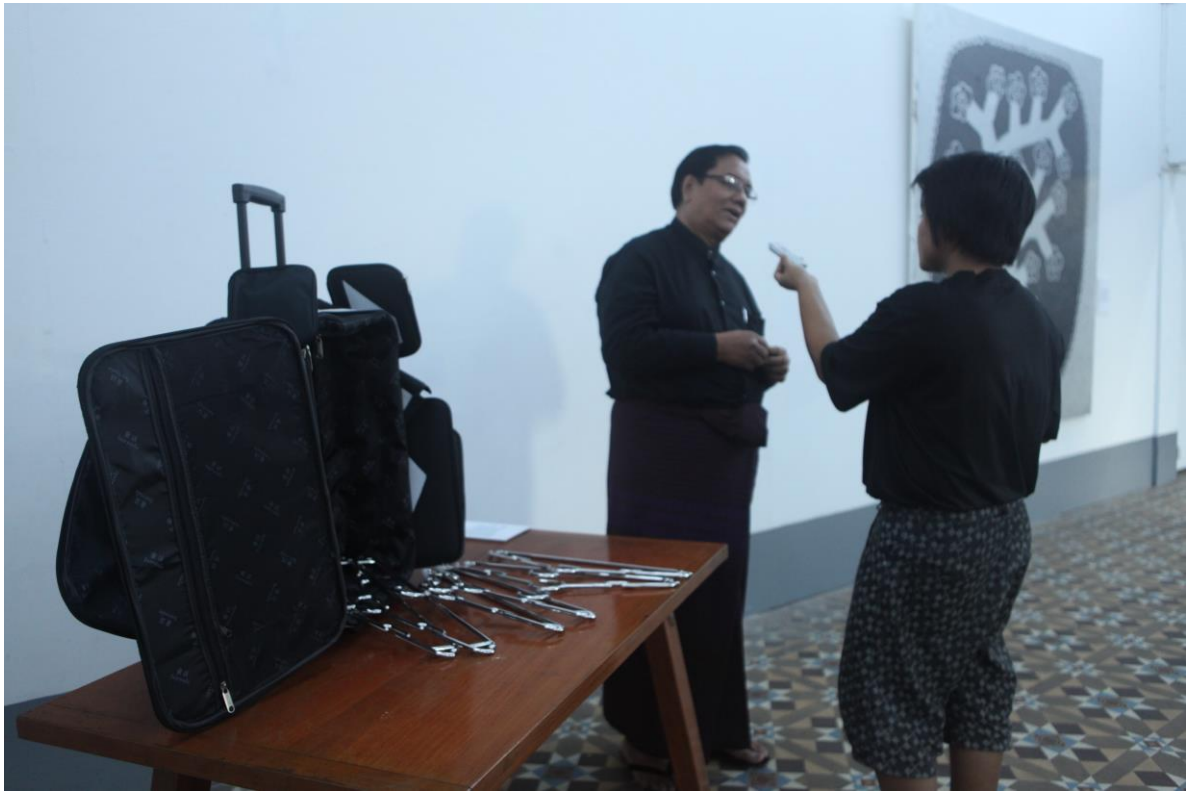
The Lokanat Gallery of Art is a non-profit, non-government organization. From the beginning, Lokanat Gallery has been committed to promoting both contemporary and academic art and therefore the two halls of the gallery are used to separately display works of these different styles.

The works of the first members who were prestigious masters such as U Hla Shein, U Kin Maung (Bank), U Ohn Lwin, U San Win and U San Shane etc. were on show with those of young but already prominent artists such as Shwe Oung Thame, Paw Oo Thett, Sun Myintt and Tin Win etc. hanging in the next room. Since then, several new members have been accepted.

For 40 years the Lokanat has been successful in its aim to promote the artists of Myanmar, young and old. We are proud that it is the longest running gallery in Myanmar, known not only in the country but also among international art lovers. From time to time, commemorating shows of the works of various late famous masters have been and will be held. Other exhibitions such as for embassies and the UN, photo exhibitions or competitions, as well as book fairs have been held and these traditions will continue. Also, paintings can now be bought by installment, as this rule which was in place during the early years of the gallery, has been revived.

The Lokanat continues to hold solo and group exhibitions on all genres of art and it was here that the first official permission was given to hold performance and installation arts.

For the year 2011, Lokanat aims to sponsor exhibitions for both members and non-members, in either solo or group shows, with a special commitment to showcase the works of emerging young artists. We also plan to work with artists from other countries to hold workshops, seminars and cultural exchange programs.



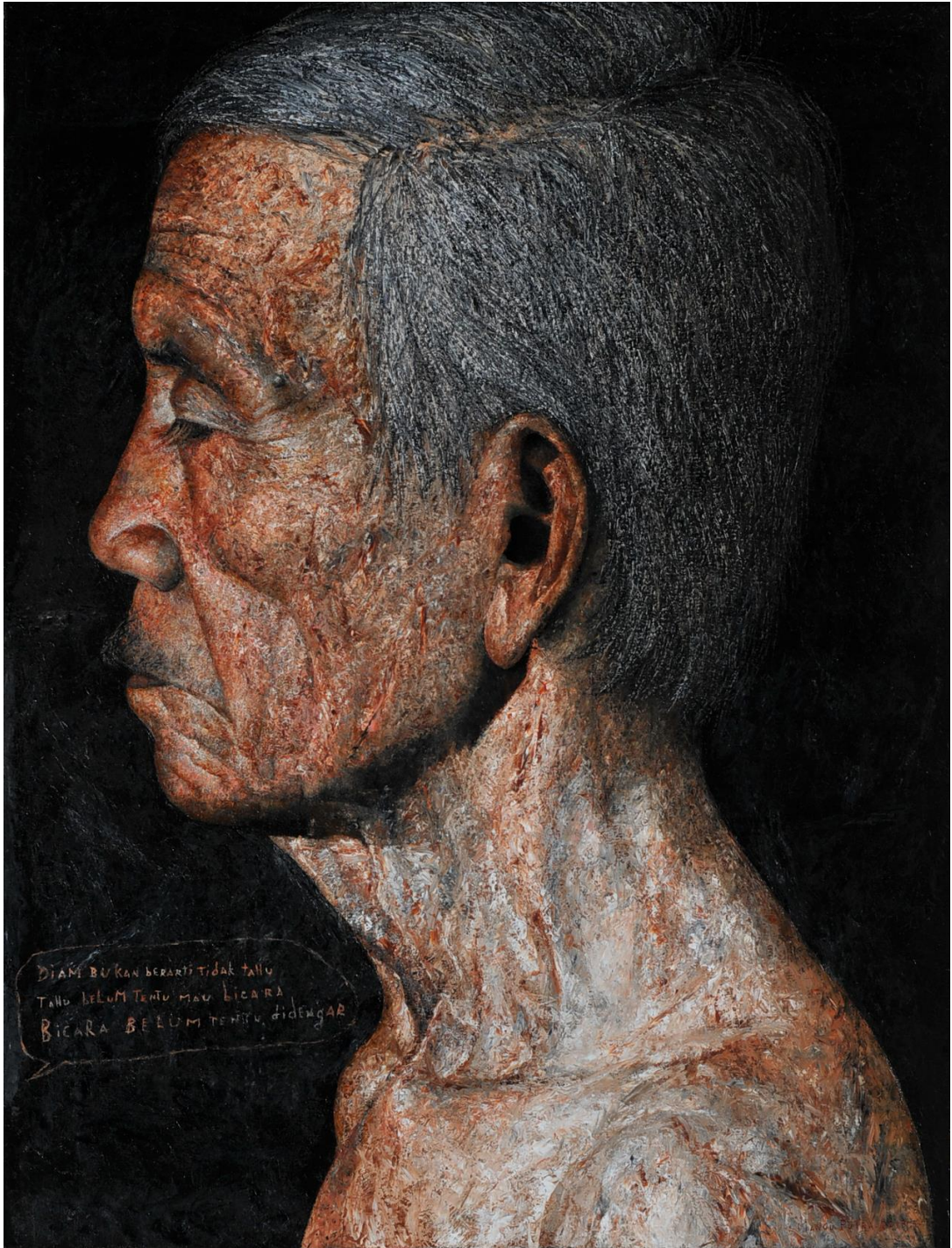
Exhibition Opening in Yangon (22nd Oct 2013)



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Mangu Putra, Diam, 2013, 210 x 160 cm, Oil on canvas



Ahmad Zakii Anwar, Bull, 2013, 137 x 274 cm, Acrylic on canvas