

THE FOUNTAIN OF LAMNETH PREVIEW – 20 APRIL 2012, 7PM ONWARDS



DITA GAMBIRO

Dita Gambiro's works first caught the attention of the art public through her interesting use of human hair. In 2011, she was awarded the Bandung Contemporary Art Awards.

Amongst many other exhibitions, Dita recently participated in *Dysfashional #6* - an exhibition held by the French Cultural Centre and Galeri Nasional Indonesia.

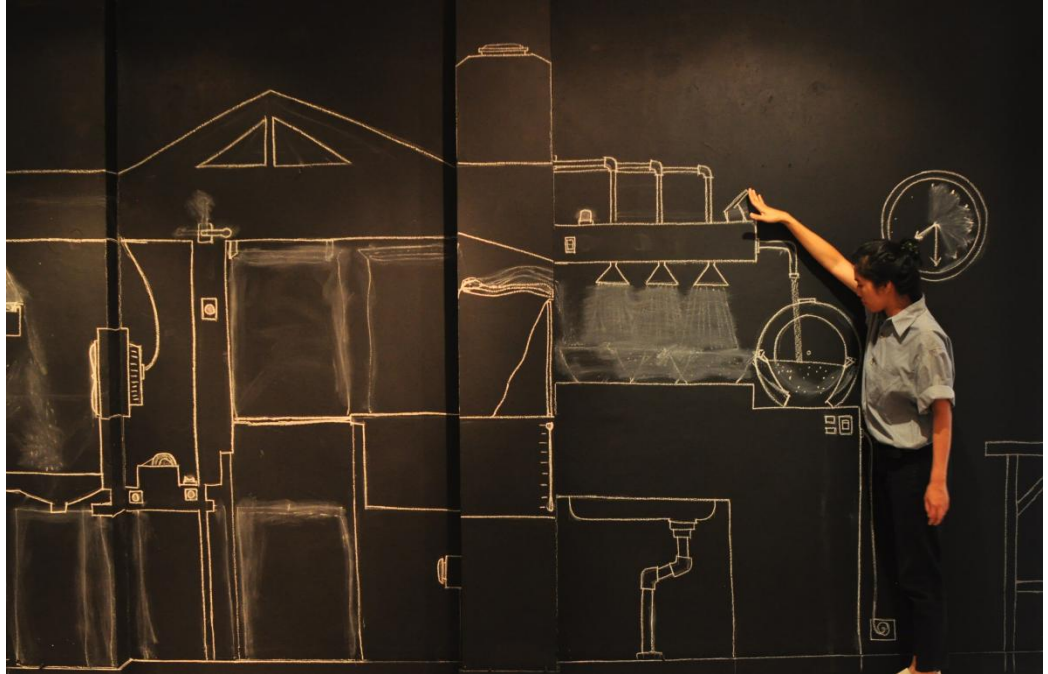
Dita's affinity for hair is embedded in the culture in which she grew up in and her role as a woman. For women, hair is often a symbol of beauty, like a sacred crown. Dita has made use of this unconventional medium in numerous ways to discuss issues that surround her as a young woman.

Panacea in addition to being the title of a chapter of the song *The Fountain of Lamneth*, also refers to the Goddess of Healing, or a cure for diseases. This further inspires Dita to produce a bed of human hair for this exhibition. She sees it as a symbol of energy, strength, healing, tenderness and femininity. Her hair covered bed also represents itself as a comfortable shelter, protection from all and a place from which strength is drawn.

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PRILLA TANIA

Prilla Tania was born, raised and is based in Bandung. It is also home to her alma mater Bandung Institute of Technology where she studied sculpture.



Despite the wide array of works she produces, Prilla carries through a consistent tendency to question everything in existence conceptually and materially. Her works often veer into feminist territory or sociological questioning. At times, she speaks of human emotions and consciousness, transcending any specific ideology or conceptual paradigm to simply play with materials, their possibilities and limitations.

Her works often push the boundaries between flexible and inflexible - cutting edge media art and the visuals of appliqué works -- in order to strip away layers of artistic pretension in order to draw attention to contemporary human concerns of the lack of living and being space.

"Dead elephant leaves an ivory, a dead tiger leaves the stripes, a man dies leaving a name". Her work for this exhibition departs from the question of human relations (consumer) with the media and connects with the lyrics of the song – about death and immortality. She will present a video performance installation with a chalk board, capturing the performance – frame by frame and later turning it into a video.

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BAGUS A. PANDEGA

Bagus A. Pandega graduated from the Institute of Technology from Bandung in fine arts but he is better known among his peers as an artist who incorporates sound or elements of noise in his works.

With each sculptural creation he attempts to integrate light and kinetics. This exploration of the relationship between sound, light and movement sets him apart from his peers.



As part of his submission for the Indonesian Biennale, he produced a sculpture of a human body where the insides are visible. The lungs, made of leather, inflate and deflate mimicking the act of breathing by sending air to the rest of the sculpture. His objective was for the viewer to become conscious of their body and organs.

For this exhibition he draws inspiration from the concept of the fountain– in his perception; a fountain consists of mirror balls and lights. The lyrics of the songs are carefully etched onto the mirror balls which are then gently reflected by the lights onto the Gallery walls making you a part of his *Valley*.

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ANDRY MOCHAMAD (1977 – 2008)

Andry was an artist who made an important mark in the development of contemporary art in Bandung in the late 1990's. His contributions developed a unique character and distinctive style that is rich within the works of young artist from Bandung.

He constantly explored and expanded the boundaries of medium with a varied use of video media, installations, objects, performance art, painting, sound art, site specific works of art. Andry Mochamad was also a collector of an assortment of peculiar objects and dreamt of owning a mammoth fossil to call his own.

His video works have been screened in OK Video, Jakarta in 2003, 2005 and 2007. He has exhibited extensively in Indonesia and was also an active member to VideoLab, an organisation that documents and screens video work in Bandung.

For this exhibition, we will be showcasing an installation that was exhibited in Karlsruhe, Germany in 2007

Gajah Gallery (Singapore) presents The Fountain of Lamneth – an art exhibition curated by Aminudin Siregar featuring Andry Mochamad, Bagus A. Pandega, Dita Gambiro, Henrycus Napitsunargo, Prilla Tania, R.E Hartanto and Syagini Ratnawulan from Bandung, Indonesia

These artists explore experimental methodologies in expressing and showcasing art. The lyrics and architectural form of the song -The Fountain of Lamneth by rock music group Rush, from the album Caress of Steel 1975 are also freely interpreted. The Fountain of Lamneth is often interpreted as a journey of a person, faced with various obstacles throughout his life; starting from his childhood till death.

Through this project, the themes of The Fountain of Lamneth are borrowed as analogies to observe a current inclination in Contemporary Indonesian art practice that leads to the excavation of ethereal ideas such as darkness, absurdity, mysticism, immortality, illusionary truth, the conscious mind.

The artists involved in this project have shown mature conceptions through their works and how they relate to the song. Each artist elaborates on a section from the main song:

Andry Mochamad – *Didacts and Narpets*

Bagus A. Pandega – *In the Valley*

Dita Gambiro – *Panacea*

Henrycus Napitsunargo – *Bacchus Plateua*

Prilla Tania – *The Fountain*

Syagini Ratnawulan – *No One at the Bridge*

RE Hartanto – Overall Impression of the *Fountain of Lamneth*

The exhibition will be held at Gajah Gallery from the 21 April – 25 May 2012.

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