



Gajah Gallery  
Silent Words

17th April – 27th April 2008

AN EXHIBITION FEATURING THE WORKS OF CELEBRATED  
CONTEMPORARY INDONESIAN ARTIST

Mangu Putra



**Silent Words**, Mangu Putra's latest series of 13 Oil on Canvas pieces, tells a story of the challenges faced by Indonesia, challenges which are as numerous and diverse as its people, culture and history.

The protagonist in the various scenes captured on Mangu Putra's canvases is played by an emaciated old man. At times he appear helpless and pitiful – bare-bodied, tied up and huddled on a cold floor without a mat or blanket. In other paintings, he wears the uniform of a revolutionary Indonesian independence fighter, a uniform which hangs on his fragile body. Reflecting the ideals of nationalism, the old man remembers the rich history of Indonesia, a nation born after great struggle and sacrifice.

The figure of the languishing old man reminds us to think about why Indonesia exists as a nation today. He is languishing because there is no one listening to him. Ignorance and oblivion have silenced him and transformed him into a monument of silence.



In a game of strategy and mental warfare, Mangu ironically pits a poor man against a long-sleeved, brief-case carrying institutional figure. Breaking free from an autocratic government in 1998, Indonesians have embraced democracy. However, some of the more ingrained political and economic issues have proven resistant to change and the disparity of wealth within Indonesian society remains vast.



With *Silent Words*, Mangu Putra presents a powerful series of works that narrate the challenges faced by Indonesia today. The exhibition promises to be an engaging and insightful experience. Please feel free to contact me at 65 6737 4202 or 65 90993965 if you have any questions. I would be happy to assist.

Thank you

Best Regards,

Krisstel Martin

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MICA Building 140 Hill St #01-08  
Singapore 179369  
T:65\_6737 4202  
F:65\_6737 4203  
[www.gajahgallery.com](http://www.gajahgallery.com)  
[www.indonesiancontemporary.com](http://www.indonesiancontemporary.com)  
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