

Gajah Gallery Presents
Forging Ahead: The Productive Unknown



Suzann Victor, *Crossing*
2026, Acrylic on Canvas, Acrylic Frame, Fresnel Lenses, 208 x 18 x 160 cm

5 July - 9 August 2026
Gajah Gallery Manila

Participating Artists

Ashley Bickerton
BenCab
Charlie Co
Dzikra Afifah
Handiwirman Saputra
Jane Lee
Jigger Cruz

Leslie de Chavez
Marina Cruz
Mark Justiniani
Suzann Victor
Uji 'Hahan' Handoko Eko Saputro
Wei Ligang
Yunizar

MANILA, Philippines – 23 June 2026 – Gajah Gallery is pleased to announce *Forging Ahead: The Productive Unknown*, a group exhibition marking a significant culmination of artistic explorations at **Yogya Art Lab (YAL)**, the gallery's foundry and production house based in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Since 2012, YAL has collaborated with artists from across the region, providing them with a dedicated space to experiment with unfamiliar materials and production processes, opening new directions within their practices.

The exhibition highlights a substantial body of sculptural works born from this close collaborative environment. These works chart artists moving beyond familiar territories to engage with demanding and unfamiliar materials—from bronze and aluminum to glass and experimental composites—yielding unexpected and compelling breakthroughs.

From the enduring iconographies of **BenCab** and **Charlie Co** to the ambitious bronze sculptures of **Mark Justiniani**, **Jigger Cruz**, **Marina Cruz**, and **Leslie de Chavez**, the exhibition traces diverse approaches to sculptural experimentation. **Suzann Victor**'s monumental lens works interrogate perception, visibility, and the politics of representation, while **Jane Lee**'s reflective stainless-steel assemblages use reflection and distortion to unsettle the viewer's perception of space and self.

Meanwhile, the sharp, satirical commentaries of **Ashley Bickerton** and **Uji 'Hahan' Handoko Eko Saputro** stand alongside **Yunizar**'s raw mythologies and **Handiwirman Saputra**'s enigmatic transformations of everyday objects. Also on view are **Dzikra Afifah**'s debut bronze sculpture and **Wei Ligang**'s calligraphic work on handmade paper, extending the exhibition's exploration of material experimentation across diverse practices.

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ABOUT GAJAH GALLERY

Founded in 1996, Gajah Gallery has developed a sustained, critically engaged commitment to Southeast Asian contemporary art, shaped through long-term collaboration with artists and the region's leading academics and art historians. Operating across Singapore, Jakarta, Yogyakarta, and Manila, the gallery presents a rigorous year-round exhibition programme and maintains a strong presence across major regional and international platforms. Its activities extend to long-term research and scholarly engagement, as well as supporting the production of extensive printed publications on seminal artists and collectives, contributing to the scholarship and historiography of Southeast Asian art.

ABOUT YOGYA ART LAB

Co-founded by Gajah Gallery Director Jasdeep Sandhu and Indonesian artist Yunizar, Yogya Art Lab (YAL) was established to provide artists with a dedicated space to experiment with new mediums and to ensure access to high-quality materials. Under the direction of Foundry Director James Page, YAL has evolved into a world-class foundry and production house, enabling artists to realise new dimensions in their practice.



Charlie Co, *Time Walker*
2025, Bronze, 108 x 98 x 183 cm



Benedicto "BenCab" Cabrera, *Three Muses*
2025, Bronze, 60 x 45 x 70 cm

More high-res images available [here](#), image credits to Gajah Gallery.
For images, interviews, and other media enquiries, contact art@gajahgallery.com.