

Gajah Gallery Presents
Menamai | Naming
A Solo Exhibition by Octora



Octora, *Monalisa dari Jawa (Mona Lisa from Java)*
2025, Merino Wool, Cotton and Metal, 111 x 130 cm

25 July - 23 August 2026
Gajah Gallery Jakarta

Jakarta, 14 July 2026 – **Gajah Gallery Jakarta** presents *Menamai | Naming*, a solo exhibition by Indonesian artist **Octora** that examines how colonial systems of knowledge continue to shape contemporary ways of seeing. Through a new body of work encompassing photography, weaving, sculpture, and installation, the exhibition considers how acts of naming and representation continue to inform understandings of Indonesian cultural identity.

The exhibition is informed in part by the artist's early encounter with photographs related to the May 1998 anti-Chinese riots in Indonesia, an experience that has become a lasting point of inquiry in her practice.

Working with archival photographs and ethnographic records, Octora approaches the photograph as both historical document and constructed image. Images are cut apart, woven, and reassembled, interrupting the authority of the archive and the systems of knowledge through which it was produced. Underpinning the exhibition is the recognition that looking is never neutral: every image reflects a particular position, and every act of viewing is conditioned by inherited ways of seeing.

Alongside these works are sculptures that extend the exhibition's inquiry into naming and classification. *The Flower That Remembers*, Octora's first aluminium sculpture produced in collaboration with **Yogya Art Lab**, centres on *Rafflesia arnoldii*, reconsidering the histories embedded within its name and the authority that naming confers.

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Octora, *Word*
2026, Merino Wool and Cotton, 144 x 33 cm



Octora, *The Flower That Remembers*
2025, Edition of 3, Merino Wool & Cotton and Aluminum, 105 cm (d) x 30 cm

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

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Octora (b.1982) is a Chinese-Indonesian artist whose practice examines the intersections of image-making, historical narratives, and collective memory. Shaped by the profound social and political transformations she witnessed growing up in Indonesia, her work reflects on how systems of power influence cultural narratives and identity.

Octora holds a Master of Contemporary Art from the Victorian College of the Arts. She previously studied Law at Parahyangan University and Sculpture at the Faculty of Art and Design, Bandung Institute of Technology.

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.