

ART PRESS RELEASE

MAYA + BARRACK

Opening Night: 18 July 2012, 6pm

Exhibition runs till 1 Aug 2012

Maya Gallery, 666 North Bridge Road, Singapore 188800



Maya + Barrack is a collaboration in contemporary art between Indonesian artists from Jogjakarta-based art group *Barrack Art Stefan Buana* in Jogjakarta, and Maya Gallery Singapore's resident artists.

Barrack Art Stefan Buana artist line up includes founder Stefan Buana, Afif AF, Ahmed Zafli, Bayu W, Harlen Kurniawan, Rully Rahim and Wira Perdana. Together with *Maya Gallery's* resident artist Sunar Sugiyou, their works explore their artistic journey, and the understanding of their place in the midst of social, cultural, economic and global issues. This collaborative group exhibition also hopes to offer opportunities for young artists to showcase their works by placing them with experienced artists, and in the process encourage further friendships and creative collaborations.

ARTIST BIOS

Barrack Art Stefan Buana, Yogyakarta

Stefan Buana (b. 1971), one of Indonesia's prominent contemporary artists, is known for his innovative and symbolic paintings using various materials and exploring with a variety of techniques. His works have been related to various themes, from political and social issues, to natural disasters, agriculture and tradition. This Padang-born artist is a graduate of the Indonesian Institute of the Arts (ISI), Yogyakarta. His works have been exhibited at many museums and galleries in Indonesia, as well as in New York, Japan and Singapore. He will be featured in the upcoming New York Biennale Art (NYBA) 2012-2013.

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Afif AF or Afif Abdul Fatah (b.1985) often depicts in his works the strength of the human spirit, which allows one to step out of the boundaries to attain his dreams. In *'Fireworks II'*, this spirit is reflected by the soul, driving the energy in every person. Afif graduated in Fine Arts at the Indonesian Institute of the Arts (ISI) in Yogyakarta. He has exhibited widely in solo and group shows in Indonesia including the National Gallery of Indonesia and Jogja Gallery. This 27-year old was a finalist in the Guasch Coranty International Painting Prize 2012 in Spain. His works will be featured in the upcoming New York Biennale Art (NYBA) 2012-2013.

Ahmed Zafli (b. 1974) explores global issues in his art, which to him is a form of self-expression to convey his concerns and questions. In *'Dulu Masih Ada'* (Repeated Story), the line-drawn *'Rumah Gadang'* or Minangkabau traditional house, symbolises not only the slow disappearing of culture and heritage in the midst of modern life, but the imbalance among humans, culture and nature, which once promised happiness. Born in Padang, West Sumatra, Ahmed graduated from the Yogyakarta State University. He has participated in a number of group exhibitions all across Indonesia, and most recently in the Yogyakarta Art Festival XXIV "Future of Us". A finalist in the prestigious Indonesia Art Award 2010, he will display his works at the New York Biennale Art (NYBA) 2012-2013.

Bayu W. or Bayu Whardana (b. 1982) reflects on the dynamics of life, from the individual's uniqueness, tradition, social transformations, acculturation and self development in his art. In *'Worker'*, every human being is likened to a worker building its colony to survive, and prepare for his future generations – from fulfilling his needs, to address the interests of the economy, culture and politics. This Padang-born artist in Fine Arts at the Sarjana Wiyata University Yogyakarta, and has participated in numerous exhibitions in Indonesia, including the "Future of Us" Yogyakarta Art Festival XXIV. In 2012, he showed his works in "Postcards From The Edge", A Visual AIDS Benefit, in New York. Besides painting, he is active in writing and theater, having participated in a variety of poetry and theater performances.

In **Harlen Kurniawan's** (b. 1980) world, which upholds universal values of honesty and determination, an artist is like a factory of ideas and so needs to create his art wholeheartedly in order for these ideas to continue to exist. Each work thus has its own spirit, character and honesty. *'Cerita Yang Terulang'* (Repeated Story) visualises the memory of a favourite motorcycle, remembered fondly for its faithfulness in getting him to his desired destinations, despite its experiences with collisions, scratches and eventually being sold off to fund for his wedding. This Bukit Tinggi-born artist graduated from the Indonesia Institute of the Arts (ISI). Harlen recently had a couple of solo exhibitions in Medan and Yogyakarta, and has participated in a number of group exhibitions in Indonesia. His work also involves video art, performance and installation.

Padang-born artist **Rully Rahim** (b. 1980) is fascinated with doodling, which he enjoys doing and thus forms the process of exploration in his works. *'Your Imagination'* was created as a form of artistic imagination which was born out of his habit of scribbling and doodling on the edges of his notebooks during high school. A graduate of the Indonesian Institute of the Arts (ISI), Rully has exhibited widely in Indonesia, including the Jogja National Museum. In 2011, he was one of three artists in an exhibition at SIGlarts entitled "Balance". His works were also shown in "Postcards From The Edge", A Visual AIDS Benefit, in New York in 2012.

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For **Wira Purnama** (b. 1983), his work is an expression of sincerity, which he finds innate beauty. In 'Karung-karung' (Sac), one is faced with bags or containers every day. It represents simplicity but yet is interesting to note that every content is different and can evoke feelings of anger, happiness or otherwise. Born in Balikpapan, Indonesia, Wira graduated from the Indonesian Institute of the Arts (ISI). He has held several solo exhibitions in Indonesia. In 2009, he showed his works in the Tujuh Bintang Art Award exhibition "The Dream" at Jogja National Museum. Wira recently participated in the Yogyakarta Art Festival XXIV "Future of Us".

Maya Gallery's Resident Artist, *Singapore*

Sunar Sugiyou (b. 1961), Maya Gallery's resident artist, and one of Singapore's talented and established artists, has created numerous works that explore his Javanese roots with the use of Chinese brush painting. He has exhibited in numerous group and solo shows in Singapore, Malaysia and Dubai. His works can be found at the Singapore National Museum, National University of Singapore, Development Bank of Singapore, residences of royal families from neighbouring countries, Taiwan and the UAE, and various corporate and private collections in Singapore and overseas.

Maya Gallery is open daily, from 12 noon to 6pm. For more information, please contact Fari or Ernie at +65 6291 1760 or via email: omg@mayagallery.com.sg, or view our website at www.mayagallery.com.sg.