ART & CULTURE

Constellations of Being: Sinta Tantra Solo Exhibition

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Sat, 06 Aug 2022

Known for her love of color and composition, Sinta Tantra's work is an experiment in scale and dimension, a blend of pop and formalism, an exploration of identity and aesthetics.

ISA Art & Design presents its newest solo exhibition which will take place at the ISA Art & Design Gallery at Wisma 46, Jakarta, August 6-30 September 2022. The exhibition, titled *Constellations of Being* , showcases the work of Balinese artist, Sinta Tantra.

Sinta is a Balinese artist based in the UK and Indonesia. She is known for her love of color and composition and her expression is often translated into abstract paintings and murals.

Her famous works are in the form of murals in public spaces from Hong Kong to Liverpool. Among the most eye-catching are the murals that adorn the 300-meter bridge at Canary Wharf, London as part of the 2012 Olympic project.

Recently, she also completed a mural project that adorns the facade of Poins Square Mall and Apartments in South Jakarta.

East-West Inspiration. For her balanced composition, Sinta's works are inspired by past art movements such as Bauhaus, Art Deco, Abstract Expressionism, and Modernism. As for her style, this young artist admitted that she was more inspired by Nyoman Lempad and Sol LeWitt with their two- and three-dimensional lines.

Sinta's solo exhibition this time focuses on her life story and family history which she calls "the constellation."

After more than two years of in-depth research during the pandemic, the inspiration for this solo exhibition was drawn from the silhouettes of tropical leaves against the backdrop of abstract geometric shapes and linen. Here, we can see how Sinta translates the influences gained from European painters such as Henri Matisse and Jean Arp and then fuses them with symbolic forms typical of Balinese artist, Nyoman Lempad.

Memory: Exploration of Stories of the Past. In order to get inspiration for her works, Sinta asked her parents about the history and memorable memories in the family. The result is a collection of beautiful paintings that tell stories about the past, present, and future as well as about the relationship between families or the "constellation" between mother-father-daughter and grandfather-cousins-grandchildren.

The paintings that are displayed explore the sense of being tangible and belonging, the fluidity of migration, identity, and the shift from humans to global beings. Combining the colonialism of the past with the present to create new topics and ways to see and reconnect with the past.

Emotions in Form, Color and Matter. The collection of paintings in the solo exhibition "Constellations of Being" explores Sinta's past within the scope of her family's constellation to create new constellations of history, emotion, experience, form, color, and material.

"I want to connect with people on a level that has transcended words and culture. I have a repertoire of shapes and colors that I can plug and unload and a set of rules I can follow or break if needed," says Tantra.

She continues, "I'm interested in creating a kind of pressure for the viewer of my work in terms of composition and combination; a place where they can find their narrative and where I can find mine."

Collaboration: Digital x Manual. Sinta paints using tempera paint on photo linen and uses organic and mineral materials – which she describes as a process of "living and breathing." Lately, she has also looked at the use of gold material, namely by attaching gold leaf sheet after sheet in her paintings.

Although the visual composition for the majority of her paintings was made with the help of digital devices, to complete the original painting, Sinta still uses the manual method by hand, which she does in the studio, involving good preparation.
The solo exhibition " *Constellations of Being* " was curated by Sadiah Boonstra and brought to life with the help of Sound Artist Thibaut Vandamme and Studio Assistant Puti Azalia Ichsan.