

PRESS RELEASE

***Bend Sinister* : Artists Adam de Boer & Sinta Tantra present new paintings inspired by thier residency in Yogyakarta, Indonesia**

7 September, 2014



As a conclusion to their summer-long residency in Yogyakarta with Cemeti Art House and Mes 56, Adam de Boer and Sinta Tantra present *Bend Sinister*, a collaborative exhibition combining new painting and sculpture installed within one of Tantra's signature immersive painted environments.

"Culture in contemporary life is not just working through acculturation or assimilation but also various meetings and associations containing 'misinterpretations' and 'mistranslations'".

-Enin Supriyanto

The title of the exhibition draws its name from European heraldry. A "bend sinister" is a heraldic charge that reverses the more common diagonal sash from right side to left. Aside from obvious formal similarities that link the abstract paintings made by both artists to coats of arms, bends sinister have sometimes been used in heraldry to symbolize a family's illegitimate offspring. Both de Boer and Tantra share Indonesian ancestry but were born and raised outside of the country, and they have framed their residencies in Yogyakarta as a kind of homecoming.

According to iCAN's curator Enin Supriyanto the artists "are related to Indonesia in a unique way; connected and disconnected simultaneously" and therefore uniquely poised to make "work that is not about the effort of discovering identity, but rather the acknowledgment that a number of *slips* or different meanings are possible."

Bend Sinister is part of iCAN's WIPS! (Works-in-Progress) program. This summer the artists have had the opportunity to question directly the roles (extant or otherwise) that their Indonesian heritage plays in their lives and work.

With kind support from Artist International Development Award provided by The British Council and Arts Council England, UK.

For more information and images, please contact Ries, riestembi@gmail.com / 0818260134

Opening Times

14 - 22 September, 2014
Mon - Sat
11.00 - 17.00

iCAN (Indonesian Contemporary Art Network)
Jl. Suryodiningratan No.39
Yogyakarta

Note to Editors

Adam de Boer (b. Riverside, California 1984) graduated with a BA in Painting (2006) from the College of Creative Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara and an MA in Fine Art (2012) from the Chelsea College of Art and Design, London. Selected solo exhibitions include *All is Well* (2006) at the Santa Barbara Arts Fund, *Finca* (2010) at Flashpoint Gallery, Washington, DC, *Jalan* (2013) at Riflemaker, London, UK, *Distinto Niveles de Bienestar* (2013) at Escuela Taller, Bogotá, Colombia, and *Moving Monuments* (2014) at the University of California, Santa Barbara. De Boer has received various awards from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, the Cultural Development Corporation, the Santa Barbara Arts Fund, and in 2011 won the Arts for India Scholarship to support his post-graduate studies. In the fall of 2012 he participated in a studio and teaching residency at the International Institute of Fine Arts in Modinagar, India and spent the fall of 2013 in Bogotá, Colombia as a resident artist at laagenicia. www.adamdeboer.com

Sinta Tantra A British artist of Balinese descent, Sinta Tantra was born in New York in 1979. She studied at the Slade School of Fine Art, University College London 1999–2003 and at the Royal Academy Schools 2004–06. Tantra is well regarded for her site-specific murals and installations, many in the public realm. These include works for Canary Wharf Group, Liverpool Biennial, Southbank Centre, Transport for London and Newnham College Cambridge University. Tantra's international group exhibitions include William Holman Gallery, New York (2014), ICAD, Jakarta (2013), Identity Gallery, Hong Kong (2013) and NEST, The Hague (2012). A recipient of

many awards, including research grants from the British Council, Arts Council England and the prestigious Deutsche Bank Award, Tantra's work is in the collections of the UK's Government Art Collection and private international collections. Tantra has recently been shortlisted for the North Kensington Public Art award for a collaboration with Nick Hornby, alongside finalists such as Julian Opie. For more information, visit www.sintatantra.com

Cemeti Art House was founded by Nindityo Adipurnomo and Mella Jaarsma in 1988, and has since been exhibiting and communicating the works of both Indonesian and foreign contemporary artists. Cemeti is a not-for-profit organization that works to promote discourse in the field of visual arts in Yogyakarta and operates a robust exhibition platform, hosting regular public discussions and workshops. The Indonesian Visual Art Archive (IVAA) runs parallel to Cemeti Art House, focusing on documentation, education and information. www.cemetiarthouse.com

Mes56 is a not-for-profit arts institution established in Yogyakarta in 2002 by a group of local contemporary artists. The institution places emphasis on photo-based art with an experimental and multidisciplinary approach. The mission of Mes56 is to develop contemporary art discourse and visual culture, while optimizing the South East Asian regional art network through programmes such as residencies, discussions and interdisciplinary art projects. mes56.com

iCAN (Indonesia Contemporary Art Network) works on promoting multidisciplinary dialogue between visual art and another division of art and sciences through art projects, research and education. canmanage.net

Artist International Development Award programme is a £750,000 fund, jointly funded by the British Council and Arts Council England. The programme offers early stage development opportunities for individual freelance and self employed artists based in England to spend time building links with artists, organisations and/or creative producers in another country.

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