



Indonesian Contemporary Paintings

Western art was introduced to the region known today as Indonesia since the onset of colonialism. While a nineteenth century Javanese studied art in Europe and became a painter who was quite famous, what was considered as Modern Indonesian Art only emerged in the early twentieth century, when Indonesian artists started expressing their own thoughts and minds, primarily through their paintings, challenging the long-established popular trend of depicting romanticized landscapes of the countryside known as the *Mooi Indië* (Beautiful Indies).

The development of Indonesian art evolved through various stages and debates. In the 1950s, artists of the Yogya School, who painted the lives of the common people using a realist approach, questioned the propagation of abstraction of the Bandung School, which they considered to be subservient to Western influences. Later, in the 1970s, domestic politics led artists to adopt more abstract approaches either using artistic method from the West or from Indonesian arts and crafts. However, many artists continued to challenge the established trends and sought freedom in their expression.

Today, Contemporary Indonesian painters use various conceptual approaches and technical methods to express their concerns and ideas. Although it is particularly hard for Balinese artists to break away from their strong cultural roots, they have also engaged in discourses going beyond the common themes of Balinese art and developed their own individual artistic styles in presenting them.

Artists:

I Made Wianta

I Nyoman Erawan

Agung Mangu Putra

I Made Wiradana

I Made Palguna

Ida Bagus Komang Sindhu Putra (1)

Ida Bagus Komang Sindhu Putra (2)

(Presented by Tony Raka Gallery, Mas, Bali, Indonesia)

Naufal Abshar

Erianto

Soni Irawan

labadiou Piko

(Presented by D-Gallerie, Jakarta, Indonesia)

Sinta Tantra

(Presented by ISA Art Advisory, Jakarta, Indonesia)