



| Art |

# Healing Hands

Celebrating doctorSHARE's 10 years of legacy, ISA Art & Design organised production of a site-specific commissioned mural with its design generously donated by the British artist of Balinese descent, Sinta Tantra. *By Deborah Iskandar*

The nature of Indonesia's archipelagic territory of around 17,000 islands separated by bodies of water presents a beautiful challenge especially for people in the rural areas to find healthcare providers due to lack

of transport and expensive costs. This was dr Lie Dharmawan's experience that drove the creation of doctorSHARE, a non-governmental organisation that provides free medical treatments, educates the populace, and works

together with local government and healthcare providers to empower existing systems. Its three floating hospitals are sturdy and compact to dock closer to smaller islands, and yet capable of performing advanced operations with many modern technologies; each has also served during natural disasters including the 2018 earthquakes in Palu, Sulawesi, and Lombok, East Nusa Tenggara.

doctorSHARE'S fight for accessible basic health care that drives the hospital's vision and mission is worth celebrating with a special artwork since it has been socially and scientifically proven that art can enhance the daily lives of individuals, and may even provide healing and therapeutic elements for hospital patients.



doctorSHARE teams including Julia Tan; sponsors from Jotun Paint; Tata Suwita; Deborah Iskandar; Linda Tan; Yohanna Irawan; and the Ambassador to ASEAN for New Zealand, HE Pam Dunn, with her husband, Ross



colors, shapes, and composition to trigger pleasurable sensations from spiritual to physical. The discovery of this element has made it possible for artists all around the world to be able to shift our perspectives and views of the world in different lights.

Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, further described art and its effect on our health in her most famous publication, *Notes On Nursing: What it is and What it's Not*, that "The effect of beautiful objects, of variety of objects and especially brilliance of color is hardly at all appreciated ... we know little about how we are affected by form, by color and light. But we do know this, that they have an actual physical effect on our mood and well-being... The variety of form and brilliancy of color in the objects presented to patients are actual means of recovery."

Art promotes and inspires us to look at healthcare from the same viewpoint with no discrimination or exclusivity for its audience; moreover, as an entity, it does not speak a single language but art transfers feelings and the bases of thought through its universality. This medium of communication allows an extremely wide reach and provides powerful healing elements as a catalyst for change. Art and science has always had a symbiotic relationship since the days of Leonardo Di Vinci, and this is the legacy of doctorSHARE and Sinta's Dazzle mural to show that art knows no boundaries on its ability to help and inspire others from all walks of life.

Hospitals, schools, and all public institutions have increasingly included artworks of different sizes in their settings to provide a visually uplifting outlook for daily medical workers, patients and visitors, as well as a memorabilia for the visitors and a mark of identity. Supported by one of the leading paints and powder coating companies, Jotun Indonesia, the production supports a great cause of bringing art and healthcare's healing qualities to everyone. Sinta Tantra's mural provides the main area of the Nusa Waluya II floating hospital with the bright appeal of the Dazzle camouflage patterns used on the World War II ships. Her distinctive architectural, asymmetrical diagonal lines and mirrored rectangle shapes form a spatial void

that distorts the perception of the viewer while keeping a restorative balance and symmetry. Meanwhile, the colours used reflects the tropical climates of the archipelago that the boat travels through with blue of waves and waters, and bright pink of the equatorial climates.

Pablo Picasso said that, "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life". For centuries, art has an illuminating presence that captures, embellish, and provides its placement and surroundings a great narrative, and has even worked in functions of war just like the Dazzle colours and patterns, which enabled the warships to disengage its target appeal to their opponents. In greater hands, it's a form of therapeutic entity when it visually possesses the right