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Sinta Tantra and the 'Constellations of Being', the Art of Celebrating a Family Relationship

by Yudasmoro Minasiani

Sinta Tantra, a Balinese artist based in England and Indonesia, held her solo exhibition entitled 'Constellations of Being'. Held at the ISA Art & Design Gallery, Wisma 46, Jakarta, the exhibition which is open to the public will run from August 6 to September 30, 2022.

ISA Art & Design Gallery is an art gallery created by [ISA Art & Design](#), an art consulting firm and art gallery based in Jakarta. The owner, Deborah Iskandar, has long been in love with Indonesian contemporary art and has over 20 years of experience in the Southeast Asian art scene.

Sinta herself is known as an artist who loves color and composition. Her expression is often expressed in the form of abstracts and murals. [Sinta Tantra](#)'s popular works include several murals from Hong Kong to Liverpool, including the most eye-catching mural that adorns the 300-meter bridge at Canary Wharf, London as part of the 2012 Olympic project.



Sinta Tantra (Photo: Doc. ISA Art Design & Gallery)

Recently, Sinta's work was also plastered on the facade of the Poins Square Mall building and an apartment in South Jakarta.

Sinta's works are enriched by inspiration from past art movements such as Bauhaus, art deco, abstract expressionism, and modernism. As for her own style, Sinta admitted that she was more inspired by Nyoman Lempad and Sol LeWitt with their two- and three-dimensional lines.

Celebrating Family Relationships

This solo exhibition is Sinta's expression in understanding and deepening her relationship with her family which she calls the constellation.



However, from the expression of his work, this process leads more to a 'celebration'. This is beyond simply understanding and exploring.

Sinta did research for two years during the pandemic to realize her solo exhibition this time. As a result, she was inspired by the silhouettes of tropical leaves against a backdrop of abstract geometric shapes and linen.

Here, you can see how Sinta translates the influences gained from European painters such as Henri Matisse and Jean Arp and then blends them into the symbolic forms of Balinese artist, Nyoman Lempad.



I want to connect with people on a level that has transcended words and culture.

To find 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 about the past, present, and future as well as about the relationship between families which he calls the 'constellation' between mother-father-daughter and grandfather-cousins-grandchildren.

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Sinta's work provides different colors to enjoy. It explores all feelings and relationships by combining the past and the present. Her mediums are varied by focusing on her paintings that combine abstract and geometric shapes.



Solo exhibition Constellation of Being (Photo: Doc. ISA Art Design & Gallery)

Creating a Constellation

The solo exhibition Constellations of Being generally describes Sinta's exploration of her relationship with family ties and depicts her with various 'constellations' such as shapes, colors and materials.

“I have a repertoire of shapes and colors that I can install and disassemble as well as a set of rules that I can follow or break if needed,” explained Sinta during a conversation with TRAVELETC.



Media meeting session with Sinta Tantra (Photo: Doc. ISA Art Design & Gallery)

“I am interested in creating a kind of pressure for the audience of my work in terms of composition and combination; a place where they can find their narrative and where I can find mine,” she added.

Sinta paints using tempera paint on photo linen and uses organic materials which she describes as a process of “living and breathing.” She also glanced at the use of gold material by pasting sheet after sheet of gold leaf shapes in her paintings.

Although the visual compositions for the majority of her paintings are made with the help of digital devices, to complete the original paintings, Sinta still uses the manual method she does in the studio.

The solo exhibition “Constellations of Being” was curated by Sadiyah Boonstra and brought to life with the help of sound artist Thibaut Vandamme and Studio Assistant Puti Azalia Ichsan.