

LUXURY PURSUITS



SINTA Unbound

SINTA TANTRA
CONNECTS WITH HER
AUDIENCE THROUGH
SHAPES AND COLOURS

Art has existed throughout history for thousands of years, and it continues to evolve today. Regardless of its form or timeline, a work of art that has stood the test of time has one thing in common: it expresses the beauty and aesthetic of its surroundings. This is particularly true for Sinta Tantra, a London-based artist of Balinese descent. Her work focuses on the surroundings, where both the artwork and its surrounding space can create harmony, enhancing the beauty of both while at the same time conveying a message.

Sinta Tantra's latest solo show, "Constellations of Being" is curated by Sadiyah Boonstra, a Jakarta-based independent curator. Tantra's works are known internationally for the way she plays with colours, forms, geometry, shapes, and lines that are beautifully integrated to create a meaningful piece of art. She is also known for her site-specific murals and installations that are displayed across the world, from London, Indonesia, China, Berlin, and London, among others. She spent her childhood in Indonesia, America, and the UK, where she attended the Slade School of Fine



Art and the Royal Academy. She now works between her studios in London and in Ubud, Indonesia.

Drawing inspiration from art movements like Bauhaus, Art Deco, Abstract Expressionism, and Modernism, colour is essential to her practice as it serves a bridge between the language of art and industry. Colour is also key in her artistic practice as a suggestion of a reference to her Balinese heritage and the island's tropical vibrant atmosphere.

Although her work is known for geometric shapes and lines, Tantra has faced the stereotype of being an Asian woman in the western art realm. As a woman of Balinese descent, she is often expected to create something that has

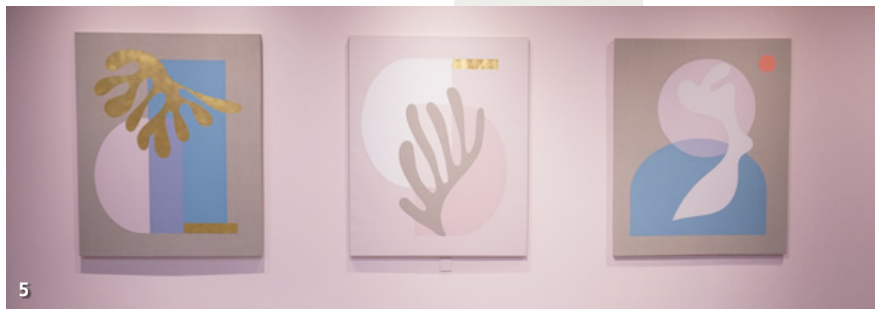


a direct reference to her heritage in terms of subject matter for her paintings and to create something cute and feminine in small sizes. This experience became her motivation to create abstract and structured paintings, which also came from her interest in architectural landscapes. She describes her work as painting on an architectural scale.

Tantra is interested in public arts as it allows her to create works that intersect with the architectural space and not be confined by the two-dimensional medium of a canvas. Her works often amplify the functionality of the surrounding buildings. The two-dimensional artworks interact harmoniously with the three-dimensional environment, both decorative and functional, public and private. The use of space allows the viewers to be engaged in her work more directly. This approach of combining the two and three-dimensional lines in her work, was inspired by the American artist Sol LeWitt, as seen in "Constellations of Being".

The exhibition draws inspiration from silhouettes of tropical foliage against a backdrop of abstract geometric forms and linen. The artist refers to the works of French painter Henri Matisse and German-French sculptor Jean Arp. These influences are visible in the use of shapes and forms that resemble Matisse's cut-outs and Arp's sculptures. Tantra also draws inspiration from Balinese artist Nyoman Lempad's use of figurative forms.

Tantra's technique of painting consists of a meticulous process of layering tempera paint on linen, which is then sanded between coats resulting in a rich colour and matt finish. The use of gold leaf in her work is to create a contrast



with the vibrant matt colour backdrop. While the colours absorb light, the gold reflects and shines, "continuously shifting as the light fades from day to night, from viewer to viewer as they move or walk around, allowing for shifting meanings and experiences," says Boonstra.

The show "Constellations of Being" delves into the stories and family history of Sinta Tantra. In finding out about these stories, she interviewed her parents and asked them to tell stories of their childhood. As stated by Boonstra, "these paintings, explore the sense of being and belonging, the fluidity of migration, identity, the shift from human to the global, merging colonial past with the present to form new dialogues and ways of relooking and reconnecting...creating new constellations of history, emotions, experiences, as well as shapes, colors, and materials." The different stories are also told through the three-dimensional installation of Balinese cut rocks, sand, mirror, glass pieces, coral, incense sticks, flowers, fruit, and photographic archival material.

"I want to connect with people on a level that transcends words and cultures. I have a vocabulary of shapes and colours that I can arrange and de-arrange and a self-constructed set of rules that I can adhere to or, at times, break," Tantra says. "I'm interested in creating a kind

of tension for the viewer in the compositions and combinations, a place where they can find their own narrative, where I can find my own narrative."

"Constellations of Being" is available for viewing from 6th August - 30th September 2022 at ISA Art Gallery, Wisma 46, Jakarta.

For more information about this exhibition and other ISA Art Gallery exhibitions, please visit our website www.isaartanddesign.com or WhatsApp +62 811 1733553.

1. "Constellations of Being I", "Constellations of Being II", and "Constellations of Being III & "Taksu". Image courtesy of ISA Art Gallery
2. Sinta Tantra. Image courtesy of Sadiyah Boonstra
3. Image courtesy of ISA Art Gallery
4. "Remben (Purusa)" (left) and "Mukri (Combing My Hair by the River)" (right). Image courtesy of ISA Art Gallery
5. "Taman Ujung (A Water Palace)", "Indah Ripon (Black Magic)" and "Harsiam (Broken Eggs)" (from left to right). Image courtesy of ISA Art Gallery.