

ART | PROFILE



# SINTA TANTRA

## Art and the City

COLOR AND LINE ARE HER HALLMARKS, AND PUBLIC REALM, HER CANVAS. THROUGH HER MURALS AND ART INSTALLATIONS, SINTA TANTRA SHOWS THAT ART IS MADE FOR EVERYONE, FOR ALL WALKS OF LIFE, FOR ALL LAYERS OF SOCIETY.

*Text BANNY RAHAYU Photos courtesy of SINTA TANTRA*

**B**orn in New York and of Balinese descent, Sinta Tantra considers herself fortunate to have spent the majority of her life in London, UK, in which she gains access to showcase her works nationwide and worldwide. But to us, it's not her sheer luck; it's a mixture of talent, creativity and hard work that has brought her to be what she is today. Sinta set her sights

on a career as an artist specializing in site-specific murals and installations after earning degrees in Fine Art from the Slade School of Fine Art at University College London and the Royal Academy Schools. "There, we were encouraged to be independent thinking, to be by ourselves, to reflect and to dig deep, in terms of what we produce," she explains on how the education she obtained help shape her talent.





Universe of Objects in Arsenic, Railings and Archive, 2010 Salon Vert Gallery, London  
Group Show for *And There Was...*

Sinta's work, as she puts it, is described as 'abstract geometric'. She plays with vibrant pop colors painted across mediums such as the facades and walls of the city's architectures. Her notable works include a mural titled 'A Beautiful Sunset Mistaken for a Dawn' on a 300-meter bridge of Canary Wharf in the bustling district of London and the sculpture 'The Eccentricity of Zero' in Holland Park, London, comprising two circular glass panels with colors that interact well with its surroundings. Her works have so far been displayed everywhere from Hong Kong, Songdo, Cologne, New York to Yogyakarta.

As for Indonesia, she sees major potentials with its cities' art communities. She has completed a handful of smaller-scale contemporary projects but has never done a public commission here. "I've been staying in Jakarta for the last two weeks and I've

been looking at busway. It's an exciting canvas to work on," enthused her, looking forward to weave art into the city's infrastructures.

But what's so captivating about producing an artwork in a public space? "It makes a connection with people that don't necessarily go inside an art gallery. Everybody has the right to see art and have access to it. That's why I'm so keen on facing work outside of gallery space and interacting with the public," she answers. Sinta believes that even though people may not sure whether what they see is a form of art or not, there's still an unconscious level of appreciating it.

Sinta is currently participating in an exhibition titled 'Lost and Found', held for a month at World Trade Center in Jakarta, which also features the works of a British artist and two local artists which have previously studied in the UK.