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## What SE Asian Galleries Will Show at Sydney Contemporary Art Fair



Yavuz Fine Art

Pink Man vs Mae Posop (Goddess of Rice) by Manit Sriwanichpoom

by Nicholas Forrest

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The South-East Asian art market has grown significantly in recent years, with Singapore and Indonesia emerging as dominant forces in the Asia-Pacific region. The strong presence by galleries from the region at the upcoming **Sydney Contemporary** art fair reflects the rapid development of the South-East Asian art scene. A total of seven South-East Asian galleries will travel to Sydney for the inaugural edition of the fair:

**[Equator Art Projects](#)**, **[The Drawing Room](#)**, **[Art Plural Gallery](#)**, **[Sundaram Tagore Gallery](#)**, **[Yavuz Fine Art](#)**, **[Element Art Space](#)**, and **[Umahseni](#)**.

Jakarta-based gallery Umahseni will bring to Sydney what will undoubtedly be the most controversial works of the fair. Umahseni Director, **Leo Silitonga**, has revealed that he will be presenting a new series of paintings by the highly controversial Indonesian artist **Ronald Manullang**. The new works are part of the

artist's "16th Day: The Visitation" series which comment on the relationship between Indonesia's first president, **Sukarno**, and the Japanese geisha who became his fourth wife. "This series of paintings will be exhibited outside Indonesia to avoid protest and possible violent reaction towards images of Sukarno with a nude lady," said Silitonga.

Equator Art Projects is located within Singapore's Gillman Barracks art district and is the sister gallery to **Langgeng Gallery** in Indonesia. For Sydney Contemporary Equator Art Projects will present a solo exhibition of works by renowned Indonesian artist **Uji Handoko Eko Saputro** (aka **Hahan**). Australia was recently treated to a wonderful presentation of Hahan's street art and comic-inspired works as part of the **7th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT7)** in Queensland. Hahan was also commissioned to create the Kids' APT7 mascot – a hermit crab named Pong Pongan.

The Drawing Room is a contemporary art gallery based in Makati City, Philippines. In September 2012 the founder of the gallery, **Cesar Villalon Jr.**, launched a new space in Singapore within the Gillman Barracks art district. The Drawing Room will present a group show for Sydney Contemporary featuring the work of six artists: **Alfredo** and **Isabel Aquilizan**, **Jose Legaspi**, **Gaston Damag**, **David Griggs**, **Diokno Pasilan**, and **Emmanuel Santos**.

Singapore-based Art Plural Gallery's Sydney Contemporary booth will feature the work of eight artists: **Chun Kwang Young**, **Fabienne Verdier**, **Bernar Venet**, **Li Tianbing**, **Doug** and **Mike Starn**, **Julia Calfee**, **Ian Davenport**, and **Qiu Jie**. According to a gallery spokesperson, these artists collectively push artistic boundaries not only metaphorically but also tangibly, as the artworks make use of lines to redefine their autonomous nature and create new visual languages.

Element Art Space is one of the most prominent galleries in Singapore. The gallery first opened in 2009 as **S.Bin Art Plus** under the mentorship of prominent Singaporean photographer and gallerist **Chua Soobin**. In 2011 the gallery was relaunched as Element Art Space with a focus on innovative artists from South-East Asia. For their Sydney Contemporary presentation Element Art Space will exhibit the work of three artists: **Arkiv Vilmansa**, **Hendra "HeHe" Harsono**, and **Radi Arwinda**.

Singapore gallery Yavuz Fine Art will be presenting an extensive group show featuring works by artists from Thailand, the Philippines, Iran, Indonesia, Singapore and South Korea. The gallery will exhibit six artists

from Thailand: **Navin Rawanchaikul, Manit Sriwanichpoom, Vasan Sitthiket, Jakkai Siributr, Uttaporn Nimmalaikaew, Lampu Kansanoh; Paulo Vinluan and Winner Jumalon** from the Philippines; **Shadi Ghadirian** from Iran; **Fendry Ekel** and **Iwan Effendi** from Indonesia; **Michael Lee** from Singapore; and **Shin Kwang Ho** from South Korea.

New-York based Sundaram Tagore Gallery opened a Singapore branch within the Gillman Barracks art district in 2012, after becoming the first international gallery to open in Hong Kong in 2008. For Sydney Contemporary the Gallery will bring together selected works from a group of internationally recognized artists including **Golnaz Fathi, Susan Weil, Lee Waisler, Nathan Slate Joseph, Steve Mccurry, Robert Polidori, Annie Leibovitz, Denise Green, Sohan Qadri, and Hiroshi Senju.**

*Sydney Contemporary is a new biennial contemporary art fair being presented at the Redfern based multi-disciplinary arts institution Carriageworks from September 20 to 22. For more information visit the Sydney Contemporary website [here](#).*