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PRESS RELEASE



Element Art Space

Raffles Hotel Arcade

328 North Bridge Road #02-13

Singapore 179369

Gallery Hours:

T. +65 6883 2001

F. +65 6883 2707

Open Daily: 11:00am – 7:00pm (closed on Public Holidays)

MADE SUKADANA: Millenium Barong

Friday, 7 June – Sunday, 7 July 2013

Opening Reception: Friday, 7 June from 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Element Art Space is pleased to present the first Singapore solo exhibition of Balinese artist, Made Sukadana.

Sukadana, who lives in both Bali and Yogyakarta, remains obsessed with the journey towards one's self. In the surging tide of Indonesian contemporary art which celebrates the mundane-exploration towards Balinese traditional roots, Sukadana became the pioneer of 'Bali Abstract-Expressionism.' On large canvases, lines, sketches and visual images are liberally drafted and the sweep of the paint brush's massive curls are enriched by overflowing color. In the Millenium series, liberal scratches and notches undergo reduction and crystallization to present textures that are similar to reliefs in the Hindu temples. The canvases become the event and site of freedom in expressing visual idioms and ancient lore of Bali.

Balinese culture has been experiencing a long process of transformation that has produced various concepts and highlighted achievements. Since a decade ago, Balinese art has been viewed 'exotic' and many artists abandon Balinese lore and tradition for fashionable theme on socio-political issues. This has left some Balinese visual artists dealing with the stigma, one of whom was Made Sukadana. Interacting with the *Barong* mask performance since an early age, his sentiment of this traditional celebration are subsequently manifested in his forthcoming creative arts. From there, he regained his conviction to re-read the root of his indigenous tradition. He presents the *Barong*,



called *Banaspati Raja* (Covarrubias, 1973: 332) a symbol of king that reigns over the forest, the natural world and its content.

Sukadana has been widely collected in the region and his works can be found in institutions such as Kembang Jati Foundation (Indonesia), Dr Oei Hong Djien Museum (Indonesia) and the Istana Art Collection (Singapore).

‘Millenium Barong’ composes of 13 artworks. The exhibition will run until 7 July 2013.

About Element Art Space

The gallery first opened in October 2009 under the mentorship of Chua Soobin--one of the most prominent gallerists in South East Asia and was the first to introduce avant-garde Chinese art to the region. Initially named S.Bin Art Plus, the gallery changed its name to Element Art Space in 2011. Drawing from Soobin’s more than 20 years of experience in the art industry, the gallery’s aim remains consistent: to promote great and innovative artists from South East Asia and provide exchange and dialogue with artists, galleries and collectors from throughout the world. The gallery also offers residencies to a highly selected number of emerging artists from the region. The gallery’s inaugural exhibition, “Harmony,” featured the works of 33 painters and sculptors from throughout the world, many of which have never been displayed to the Singaporean public before--marble sculpture by Fernando Botero and gold-plated sculpture by Marc Quinn just to name a few. Following this grand entrance to the Singapore art scene, the gallery continues to be the advocate for compelling and challenging contemporary work by today’s most exciting emerging and mid-career artists.

For more information, contact: Stephanie Seet

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