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PRESS RELEASE

Element Art Space

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Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Sunday: 11:00am – 7:00pm
(closed on Mondays and Public Holidays)

RYB – Back to Basics

Tuesday, 10 January – Sunday, 31 January 2017
Opening Reception: Tuesday, 10 January 2017 from 10:00PM

Element Art Space is pleased to present RYB – Back to Basics, a three-person exhibition featuring Arkiv Vilmansa, Laila Azra and Ronald Apriyan that goes back to the primary colours in art. With the rising popularity of abstraction in painting today, all artists explore the conceptual process by which general rules and concepts of paintings are simplified using the most basic primary colours of Red, Yellow and Blue.

Departing from painting his fictional characters, Arkiv Vilmansa's *Luminous Landscape* took seven years to realise. It started from exploring the idea of light on landscapes as well as the topography of Jerusalem, specifically the areas which the Prophet Muhammad passed. The colour tones in each work show gradation from dark to light, similar to night to day. Vilmansa's works situate the Prophet's journey to Heaven as well and situate the trace of topography in relation to time that is being represented by the primary colours— blue representing the dark, night sky, red insinuating sunrise or sunset and yellow vibrates the colour of the sun.

Continuing on this exploration are Laila Azra's three works. Azra has always been an abstract painter and her works are often influenced by her personal experiences at a universal level. The painting 'Alur Biru' imitates the waves of the sea, which is calming and shows openness, depth and wisdom. She refers to the sense of calm and clarity, which many people often associate with by being near the ocean. 'Hello Yellow' radiates a strong energy with its bold yellow colours. For Azra, yellow symbolises joy and happiness and the work's overwhelming colour attributes to her belief that happiness is within her and attainable by surrounding herself with her loved ones. The red in 'Cinta Merah' is attributed to human's lifelong quest to find love in terms of God as well as life partner. The circular shape of the canvas and the spiral stroke

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throughout the work illustrates the never-ending journey—once you find love, you have to maintain it, which is harder than finding love itself.

Ronald Apriyan extends this discourse through human's earliest memories—as a child. His works which are predominantly blue, which often symbolises depth and stability, are almost dream-like and abstract in thought, similar to how children's brains work. Using a child's viewpoint, Apriyan aims to evoke childhood sentiments in his viewers who are mostly adults. The myriad of pastel and candy shades are reminiscent of children's drawings and refers to the innocence of childhood. Its playfulness and innate humour take the viewers to a childlike state of mind.

RONALD APRIYAN b. 1979, Prabumulih (Southern Sumatra), Indonesia

Children possess something that we (adults) have all lost – the quality of innocence. Ronald Apriyan often refers to the realm of memories and dreams of a child and in his works, he aims to create a bridge to childhood, sentiments conveyed through his myriad of pastel and candy shades, that is reminiscent of children's drawings and evoking the innocence of childhood—playfulness and their innate humour, returning us to a childlike state of mind.

LAILA AZRA b. 1970, Jakarta, Indonesia

The Singapore-based abstract painter Laila Azra's composition is influenced by her personal experience at a universal level. She imbues paint with emotional resonance yet at the same time restricts those emotions within the confines of her often indefinable and mysterious forms. She adapts gestural painting method where she uses her hands and body movement to drip, splash, and scrape on a canvas often positioned flat on the floor. This resulted in bold, rhythmic lines and texture-rich artworks, which are characterised by the weaving and interweaving layers of acrylic paint as well as her other chosen mediums.

ARKIV VILMANSA b. 1979, Bandung, Indonesia

Arkiv Vilmansa obtained a bachelor degree from Parhyangan University in Architecture. He began his artistic journey in 2010 and had his first solo exhibition in Jakarta, Indonesia. He has had many exhibitions in overseas including USA, Italy, France, Australia, Philippines and Malaysia. Recent solo exhibitions include Mae Gallery, Tokyo, Japan; Young Art Taipei Group Show, Taipei, Taiwan and Vivi Yip Art Room, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Cover images (left to right): **Ronald Apriyan**, *You Are My True Love*, acrylic on canvas, 120 x 150 cm, 2016; and **Arkiv Vilmansa**, *4°115RA'411*, acrylic on canvas, 90 x 70 cm, 2016.



Laila Azra, *Hello Yellow*, mixed media on canvas, 80 x 138 cm, 2016