

PRESS RELEASE

Goethe-Institut Jakarta and ruangrupa host *Conversation about documenta*



Ahead of the 15th edition of the documenta, the internationally renowned contemporary art exhibition in Kassel, Germany, which will be held in 2022, the Goethe-Institut Jakarta collaborates with the art collective ruangrupa, which has been appointed as the artistic director of documenta 15, to introduce documenta to the Indonesian public.

As one of the most important contemporary art events in the world, documenta has been held since 1955 in the city of Kassel, Germany. Every five years, documenta turns the city into a global art hub that attracts more than 800,000 visitors from around the world during the 100-day exhibition. Therefore, documenta is often referred to by the nickname “100 Day Museum”.

Nearly 70 years since its inaugural edition, documenta has established its position as an institution that goes far beyond surveying the trends of contemporary art. Each edition of documenta edition has a distinctive character according to the ideas and concepts of its artistic director. This means that documenta is not merely an art exhibition, but also a platform for testing various innovative concepts and new standards for exhibitions. For the 15th edition, ruangrupa, a collective from Jakarta, Indonesia, has been chosen as artistic director of the documenta.

Therefore, Goethe-Institut and ruangrupa, in collaboration with the documenta, will host *Conversation about documenta*, a discussion and education program aimed at introducing the international art exhibition to the Indonesian public and in anticipation of the documenta 15, which will be held in 2022 in Kassel, Germany. You can find further information regarding documenta 15 below. The event *Conversation about documenta* will feature **documenta’s General Director, Dr. Sabine Schormann**, and the **co-curator of documenta 11, Prof. Ute Meta Bauer** as speakers.

In addition, *Conversation about documenta* will also present interactive group discussions with a number of artists and art collectives from Indonesia regarding the development of non-formal education as an artistic practice in the country by using various strategies, methods and

approaches. This session is one of the focuses of ruangrupa's work in sharing strategies for developing non-formal education. For this reason we have invited six speakers, both groups and individuals, who have developed this particular practice, namely:

Serrum is an association of art and education studies in Jakarta, which was founded in 2006 and focuses on educational, socio-political and urban issues by using an educational and artistic presentation approach.

KUNCI Cultural Studies Center was founded in 1999 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. KUNCI is involved in the production and sharing of critical knowledge through media publications, interdisciplinary encounters, action research, artistic intervention and education, both within and between community spaces.

LabTanya is an architectural studio research unit, which was founded in 2014. Through its practice, it develops various research methodologies, experiments, and knowledge production, together with the community of citizens to respond to city issues in all their daily complexities.

Kelas Pagi Papua provides space and education in the field of Visual Arts (Photography and Video) in Jayapura and its surrounding areas for free. Kelas Pagi is a community-based photography school, which was founded in Jakarta in 2005, and later expanded into Jogja, Papua and Kediri.

Agus Nur Amal has been developing traditional Acehnese fairy tales since 1992 through his single theater, PM Toh. Until now, PM Toh has performed around the world more than 600 times. The most remembered work by the storyteller is a performance and traveling workshop during the post-conflict and tsunami in Aceh in the mid-2000s.

Erni Aladjai is a writer and researcher who established the mobile reading community 'Bois Pustaka' in the Lipulalongo Village, Labobo District, Banggai Laut Regency. In 2016, she received a grant from the Kelola Foundation and organized a residency where teenagers studied Paupe art with maestros- the poem of peace in the Banggai tribe.

When?

July 8, 2019
3.30 – 7.00 PM

Venue:

GoetheHaus
Goethe-Institut Jakarta
Jl. Sam Ratulangi No. 9-15
Menteng, Jakarta

For more information about the moderators and speakers of this event, click [here \(bit.ly/2RLIGjW\)](https://bit.ly/2RLIGjW). Media representatives who would like to interview our speakers are kindly requested to inform our Public Relations Manager as listed below prior to the event.

For press accreditation and enquiries:

Fajar Zakhri
Public Relations Manager
Goethe-Institut Jakarta
Fajar.Zakhri@goethe.de
T +62 21 23550208 – 145
M +62 812 8216 7141

 [Press photos can be downloaded here](#)

Official statement by documenta on the appointment of ruangrupa as documenta 15 artistic director

**22 February 2019
PRESS RELEASE**

ruangrupa Selected as Artistic Director of documenta 15 For the First Time an Artist Collective Curates the International Art Exhibition

Nominated unanimously by the International Finding Committee the Supervisory Board appointed ruangrupa, a collective of artists and creatives from Jakarta, Indonesia, with a ten-member core as the artistic direction of documenta 15. This was announced by the general director of documenta und Museum Fridericianum gGmbH, Dr. Sabine Schormann, today. As a result, documenta will be organized by an artist collective for the first time. documenta 15 takes place from 18 June to 25 September 2022 in Kassel.

For the eight-member Finding Committee, Elvira Dyangani Ose (director of The Showroom, London) and Philippe Pirotte (director of the Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste – Städelschule, and director of Portikus, Frankfurt am Main) gave the following reasons for the unanimous decision: “We have appointed ruangrupa because they have demonstrated the ability to appeal to various communities, including groups that go beyond pure art audiences, and to promote local commitment and participation. Their curatorial approach is based on an international network of local community-based art organizations. We are eager to see how ruangrupa will develop a concrete project for and from Kassel. At a time when innovative strength particularly stems from independent organizations active on the community level, it seems only logical to offer this collective approach a platform with documenta.”

The Indonesian word ruangrupa loosely translates as “a space for art” or “a space form.” This field of tension is already apparent from the collective’s central curatorial approach. Farid Rakun and Ade Darmawan, who represented ruangrupa today in Kassel, formulated their decidedly participatory curatorial goals for the international art exhibition in 2022 as follows: “We want to create a globally oriented, cooperative, interdisciplinary art and culture platform that will have an impact beyond the 100 days of documenta 15. Our curatorial approach aims at a different community-oriented model of resource usage – economical, but also taking ideas, knowledge, programs and innovations into account. If documenta was launched in 1955 to heal war wounds, why shouldn’t we focus documenta 15 on today’s injuries, especially ones rooted in colonialism, capitalism, or patriarchal structures, and contrast them with partnership-based models that enable people to have a different view of the world.”

The collective was founded in 2000 in Jakarta, Indonesia. ruangrupa runs an art space in South Jakarta and realizes exhibitions, festivals, publications and radio formats. The collective has participated in many cooperation and exhibition projects, including the Gwangju Biennale (2002 und 2018), the Istanbul Biennale (2005), the Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (Brisbane, 2012), the Singapore Biennale (2011), the São Paulo Biennale (2014), the Aichi Triennale (Nagoya, 2016) and *Cosmopolis* Centre Pompidou (Paris, 2017). In 2016, ruangrupa curated TRANSaction: Sonsbeek 2016 in Arnhem, the Netherlands. In 2018, the participants founded GUDSKUL, an educational and networking project for creatives based on cooperative work.

At documenta 14, ruangrupa participated with its internet radio station as a partner of the decentralized radio project *Every Time a Ear di Soun*, which brought together eight worldwide radio stations. ruangrupa is a nonprofit organisation. At least one member of the organisation will spend a lot of time in Kassel for the preparation of documenta 15. The Chairman of the

Supervisory Board of documenta und Museum Fridericianum gGmbH, Lord Mayor Christian Geselle, welcomed the Finding Committee's selection: ^[1]_{SEP} "For ruangrupa, the principle of networking is of central importance. From Kassel, interdisciplinary artistic interventions will be initiated, which will make the documenta city visible internationally and bring the (art) world to Kassel, as it were. Our city can only benefit from this. I am pleased that documenta is looking to the future in such an exciting way."

The Hessian Minister of Higher Education, Research and the Arts, Angela Dorn, stresses the potential of social debate: "I am already looking forward to the fact that in three years, with documenta 15, Kassel will again be hosting the world's most important contemporary art exhibition. The state of Hesse is proud to enable this platform, which promotes discussion of cultural positions today as well as perspectives for the future. With the expansion of the documenta archive into an independent research institute we will further strengthen contemporary art in Kassel. I congratulate the Finding Committee, which proposed the Indonesian artist collective for the artistic direction of the next documenta, and am pleased that the Supervisory Board followed this suggestion. With the selection, documenta is consciously giving room to the non-European view of the art world and bringing the world to Hesse in a completely new way. ruangrupa uses art in its home country to address public issues and problems. I'm looking forward to seeing how they incorporate this idea in documenta 15."

Hortensia Völckers, director of the German Federal Cultural Foundation, is eagerly looking forward to seeing how the concept is developed further: "As the German Federal Cultural Foundation, we were very pleased about the successful course of the process to find the artistic direction of documenta 15 and congratulate all participants on a result that makes us expect an interesting and inspiring documenta. We are happy to be part of this process and to be able to contribute our expertise to such a renowned exhibition project."

Sabine Schormann paid tribute to the great commitment of all members of the international Finding Committee: "I would like to thank the international Finding Committee for a dedicated and intensive selection process, which with the presentation of ruangrupa as Artistic Direction sends a strong signal for a vibrant and sustainable documenta 15. I am looking forward to see how the participatory approaches are made more specific in the development process."

The Finding Committee for documenta 15 is composed of the following experts: ^[1]_{SEP} Ute Meta Bauer, founding director, NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore; Charles Esche, director of the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven, the Netherlands; Amar Kanwar, artist and documentary filmmaker, New Delhi, India; Frances Morris, director of Tate Modern in London, Great Britain; Gabi Ngcobo, curator of the 10th Berlin Biennale 2018 in Germany (South Africa); Elvira Dyangani Ose, director of The Showroom London, England; Philippe Pirotte, director of the Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste – Städelschule Frankfurt/M., Germany (Belgium); Jochen Volz, director of Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, Brazil.

<https://www.documenta.de/en/press>