

PRESS RELEASE

“Para Sekutu yang Tidak Bisa Berkata Tidak” (The Acquiescent Allies) Exhibition Views the Collection of Four Distinctive Art Institutions with New Perspectives



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Galeri Nasional Indonesia together with Goethe-Institut Indonesien will host an exhibition titled **“Para Sekutu yang Tidak Bisa Berkata Tidak”** (translates as The Acquiescent Allies), running from **28 January to 27 February 2022**. The event provides an opportunity to present Galeri Nasional’s collection in a narrative that explores the genesis of the collection as well as highlight interpersonal relations among artists.

The exhibition is part of *Collecting Entanglements and Embodied Histories*, a long-term curatorial dialogue project initiated by Goethe-Institut, in collaboration with four leading art institutions in Thailand, Singapore, Germany and Indonesia: MAIIAM Contemporary Art Museum in Chiang Mai, Singapore Art Museum, Hamburger Bahnhof (part of Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin) in Germany, and Galeri Nasional Indonesia.

A series of exhibitions take place in each country, displaying works from all four institutions. Each exhibition features distinctive curatorial narratives led by each curator: Anna-Catharina Gebbers (Germany), Gridthiya Gaweewong (Thailand), June Yap—and **Grace Samboh** (Indonesia), who is the exhibition curator of “Para Sekutu yang Tidak Bisa Berkata Tidak”. Besides collections of the four institutions, the exhibition also displays selected works from Museum Seni Rupa dan Keramik – Unit Pengelola Museum Seni and a few private collections, as well as historical archives.

The starting point of the Jakarta exhibition was a desire to create an opportunity to see and enjoy the collection of Galeri Nasional, which has almost 2,000 artworks, only some of which have been publicly displayed. The exhibition also has an interest in tracing the genesis of the collection and the institution itself. Two historical exhibitions at Galeri Nasional provide the backdrop of Grace Samboh’s curatorial exploration: the ‘Paris-Jakarta 1950-1960’ exhibition in 1992 and ‘Contemporary Art of the Non-Aligned Countries’ in 1995. Her exploration results in questions about relationships among the exhibiting artists and the participating countries. What can we learn from these exchanges? Were they merely symbolic gestures of alliances? What



were the relationships among the artists? Were there actual exchanges among them? Reflections on these questions will manifest as five parts in the exhibitions: Convivialities, Allegiances, Festivities, Kinship, and Forces.

The exhibition title is taken from a work that will be on display: *Paduan Suara yang Tidak Bisa Berkata Tidak* (1997) by artist **S. Teddy D.** The work (as seen on the featured image) has been reproduced for this exhibition. Among the artists whose works will be on display are **Agus Suwage, Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook, Basoeki Abdullah, Belkis Ayón Manso, Bruce Nauman, Danarto, Dolorosa Sinaga, Emiria Sunassa, Ary “Jimged” Sendy, Käthe Kollwitz, Marintan Sirait, Nguyễn Trinh Thi, Öyvind Fahlström, Siti Ruliyati, Tisna Sanjaya, and Wassily Kandinsky.** Visitors can also see a commissioned installation by **Ho Tzu Nyen** and **Cinanti Astria Johansjah.**

Grace Samboh, researcher and curator, expands on the purpose of the event: “I hope this exhibition will provide many opportunities for visitors to experience the works on display and promote understanding of the underlying historical events. The curatorial perspective is not the only way to look at the artists’ practices and the events that drive them to create such works. I am looking forward to listening to visitor opinions and exchanging stories in this long-awaited event.”

Dr. Stefan Dreyer, Regional Director of Goethe-Institut for Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand states: “I am very glad to see “Para Sekutu yang Tidak Bisa Berkata Tidak” at Galeri Nasional Indonesia open to the public, the fourth and final exhibition in the long-term project Collecting Entanglements and Embodied Histories, in which Goethe-Institut has acted as a matchmaker and facilitator among the four art institutions that have collaborated closely to make this happen. I hope the exhibition will provide an opportunity for the public to enjoy and get to know remarkable works from the collections of Galeri Nasional Indonesia, Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, MAMMO Contemporary Art Museum, and Singapore Art Museum.”

“The exhibition “Para Sekutu yang Tidak Bisa Berkata Tidak” will be the first temporary exhibition in 2022 for Galeri Nasional Indonesia,” says **Pustanto, Head of Galeri Nasional Indonesia.** “This exhibition, which involves close collaboration among cultural institutions in four countries, has become a means of diplomacy through artworks and art figures, as well as a symbol to get back up after the pandemic. We hope the exhibition can be a source of information and art appreciation platform for the public, while enhancing international art networks. Do not hesitate to visit the exhibition in person, because we have prepared and will apply a visitation system in line with the current health protocols, so visitors can come to appreciate the art safely and comfortably.”

Before visiting, in line with the health protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic, exhibitiongoers are required to pre-book their visitation slot online via galnas-id.com latest six hours before arrival. Visitors can also access schedule, sessions, and remaining visitation quota on the site. With the exception of public holidays, a limited number of hourly slots are available daily, between 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Visitors can access all available information about artworks and exhibition narratives by scanning QR codes in the exhibition area and by listening to audio guides with their personal devices.

The five-week exhibition entails scheduled curatorial tours with Grace Samboh and a range of online and offline public programs for different age groups. Taking place throughout the five weeks of the exhibition, the program plan includes the following:



- **Nayamullah, Gema, dan Para Sekutu... (Nayamullah, Gema, and the Allies...):** a sound workshop and performance conducted by Nayamullah (artists Julian Abraham “Togar” and Saleh Husein) with composer Gema Swaratyagita, Friday-Sunday, 28-30 January 2022 at Galeri Nasional Indonesia
- **Call and Response:** a weekly movie program curated by film conservationist Lisabona Rahman and artist/researcher Raslene on Fridays 4, 11, 18, and 25 February 2022 at Galeri Nasional Indonesia. The program kicks off with an online discussion in collaboration with Historia.id on Thursday, 3 February 2022
- **Menelusuri Hikayat Banjir Kanal Timur (Exploring the History of East Flood Canal/BKT):** a small-group cycling tour in collaboration with Manual Jakarta, hosted by Ary “Jimged” Sendy (artist), JJ Rizal (historian), and Ng Swan Ti (photography educator and BKT local resident) on Sunday, 6 February 2022
- **“Para Sekutu yang Tidak Bisa Berkata Tidak” online seminar series:** a collaborative program hosted by exhibition curator Grace Samboh and Galeri Nasional Indonesia’s curator Bayu Genia Krishbie on Thursdays 10 and 17 February 2022
- **Membangun Rumah (Building a House):** a workshop and performance series by artist Marintan Sirait on Sunday, 6 February and Friday-Sunday, 11-13 February 2022 at Galeri Nasional Indonesia
- **Alkisah...(Once Upon a Time):** a storytelling workshop and exhibition tour-making with curator Grace Samboh on Saturdays 12, 19, 26 February at Galeri Nasional Indonesia.
- **Kolaseku, Keluargaku (My Collage, My Family):** a collage-making workshop with artist Ika Vantiani for children on Sunday, 13 February 2022 at Galeri Nasional Indonesia.

Follow the latest updates on “Para Sekutu yang Tidak Bisa Berkata Tidak” by visiting collectingentanglements.net, galeri-nasional.or.id and by following the social media platforms of Goethe-Institut Indonesien and Galeri Nasional Indonesia. The exhibition is supported by media and community partners: Dari Halte ke Halte, Historia, IndoArtNow, Kompas, Manual Jakarta, Prambors, Tanamtumbuh Media, The Finery Report, Whiteboard Journal, and WMN by Narasi.

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About Collecting Entanglements and Embodied Histories

Initiated by Goethe-Institut, Collecting Entanglements and Embodied Histories is a dialogue between the collections of Galeri Nasional Indonesia, MAMMOET Contemporary Art Museum, Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, and Singapore Art Museum. The project manifests as four exhibitions with distinctive curatorial narratives in the four collaborating institutions, regular online public programs livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube, and as a video essay series by art practitioners on selected artists.

About Goethe-Institut

The Goethe-Institut is Germany’s international cultural institute and promotes cultural collaboration worldwide. It encourages knowledge of the German language and conveys a comprehensive image of Germany by providing information about cultural, social, political life in the country. The cultural and educational programs of the institute encourage intercultural dialogue and enable cultural involvement. Focusing on shared artistic production, reception, and reflection, the Goethe-Institut initiates and organizes projects which foster worldwide mobility of people working in arts and culture and strengthen cross-cultural networks from a global perspective.

About Galeri Nasional Indonesia

Galeri Nasional Indonesia, a museum/gallery of modern and contemporary Indonesian art under the supervision of the Directorate General of Culture, Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology. Located in the heart of Indonesia’s capital city in Central Jakarta. Galeri



Nasional Indonesia manages works of art from the state collection from the 1800s to the latest era, which are done by leading Indonesian and foreign artists. Galeri Nasional Indonesia runs a collection maintenance and acquisition program, exhibitions, education, partnerships, and the publication of works of art. The National Gallery of Indonesia is a center for art activities (art center/exhibition center), as well as a barometer of quality and representation of the development and progress of Indonesian art.

Exhibiting Artists

- Agus Suwage
- Ahmad Sadali
- Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook
- Ary "Jimged" Sendy
- Basoeki Abdullah
- Belkis Ayón Manso
- Bruce Nauman
- Budiani
- Bui Suoi Hoa
- chi too
- Chris Chong
- Cinanti Astria Johansjah
- Damas Mangku
- Danarto
- Dolorosa Sinaga
- Edhi Sunarso
- Emiria Sunassa
- Etcétera
- Fajar Sidik
- G. Ravinder Reddy
- Gregorius Sidharta Soegijo
- Henk Ngantung
- Ho Tzu Nyen
- I Gusti Nyoman Lempad
- I Ketut Soki
- Jimmy Ong
- Julian Abraham "Togar"
- Käthe Kollwitz
- Kustiyah
- Maria Berrios & Jakob Jakobsen
- Marintan Sirait
- Nge Lay
- Nguyễn Trinh Thi
- Nuriya Waji
- Oesman Effendi
- Öyvind Fahlström
- Pacita Abad
- Paula Isman
- Rusli
- Rustamadji
- S. Teddy D.
- Sarah Ortmeyer
- Semsar Siahaan
- Siti Adiyati Subangun
- Siti Ruliyati
- Tisna Sanjaya
- Walter Spies
- Wantanee Siripattananuntakul
- Wassily Kandinsky
- Wong Hoy Cheong

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