

Aku Diponegoro

Sang Pangeran
Dalam Ingatan
Bangsa

dari Raden Saleh
hingga Kini

AT A GLANCE

CURATORS

Dr. Werner Kraus
Jim Supangkat
Dr. Peter Carey

VENUE

Galeri Nasional Indonesia
Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No.14
Gambir, Jakarta Pusat, 10110
Indonesia

DATES

Opening
5 February 2015 / 19.30
(Invitation only)

Exhibition

6 February – 8 March 2015 /
10.00 – 19.00
(Open for public & free entry)

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A PRINCE FOR ALL SEASONS: Diponegoro in the Memory of the Nation, from Raden Saleh to the Present

Most present-day Indonesians remember Prince Diponegoro as an early nineteenth-century freedom fighter who led the Javanese in their fight against Dutch colonialism known as the Java War (1825-30). Others see the Java War leader as primarily a Yogyakarta prince whose image can be found in classrooms throughout Indonesia alongside other national heroes.

The exhibition *A Prince for All Seasons: Diponegoro in the Memory of the Nation, from Raden Saleh to the Present* revisits the extraordinary story of Diponegoro (1785-1855), as presented through the eyes of classical painters, contemporary artists as well as the general public.

Curated by Dr Werner Kraus, Jim Supangkat, and Dr Peter Carey, the exhibition serves as a link between past and present. It aims to encourage a deeper understanding of cultural and commemorative memory, allowing the Indonesian public to build a narrative picture of the past and therefore develop a certain image and identity for themselves.

It is also a sequel to the highly successful art exhibition *Raden Saleh and the Beginning of Modern Indonesian Painting*, initiated by the Goethe-Institut Indonesien, together with Galeri Nasional Indonesia, State Secretary of the Republic of Indonesia, and the German Embassy, which took place in June 2012 and attracted around 20.000 visitors in two weeks. It was the first-ever monographic show of the painter's works in his homeland, bringing together paintings and drawings from private and public collections. One painting shown during the Raden Saleh exhibition was *The Arrest of Diponegoro*, which was restored with

the generous support of the Yayasan Arsari Djojohadikusumo afterwards and is at the heart of the present exhibit.

A Prince for All Seasons is divided into three sections, each representing a different approach to Diponegoro:

The first section, *Diponegoro in the Mouth of Indonesian Art History: The Making of a Hero*, focusses on Indonesian art works which have Diponegoro as a topic. The highlight will be the newly restored *The Arrest of Diponegoro* (1857) by Raden Saleh. The painting is complemented by a number of (pseudo) portraits of Diponegoro, attributable to well-known Indonesian artists, such as Soedjono Abdullah, Basuki Abdullah, Harijadi Sumodidjojo, and many others. In addition to these works, there will be a photo and video documentation explaining the meticulous detailed restoration process. The restoration was done by GRUPPE Köln (Cologne, Germany), led by Susanne Erhards.

A second section titled *Diponegoro, Raden Saleh and History in the Eyes of Indonesian Artists* gives the opportunity for a number of contemporary Indonesian artists, such as Srihadi Soedarsono, Heri Dono, Nasirun, Entang Wiharso, and many others, to present their own contemporary approach to the figure of Diponegoro.

The third section, *Diponegoro Unlimited*, focusses on items connected to Diponegoro, including photography, woodcuts, playing cards, comic books, political posters, and bank notes. In this way, the exhibition challenges common traditions of art reception and is also designed to inspire a public discussion about the nature of art in post-modern Indonesia.

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The additional room The Spirits of the Dead Keep Watch will be arranged for exhibiting the original “holy war” white tabard of Diponegoro and other personal artefacts such as his pusaka pike and battle saddle. This room is considered a heirloom room.

This historic exhibition is initiated and coordinated by the Goethe-Institut Indonesien and is a joint cooperation between the Goethe-Institut Indonesien, Galeri Nasional Indonesia, the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture, the German Embassy in Indonesia, Arsari Djojohadikusumo Foundation, Erasmus Huis, Djarum Foundation, Yayasan Taut Seni, Galeri Foto Jurnalistik Antara, and Universitas Paramadina.

A series of other fringe events, such as panel discussions and workshops, will complement this landmark exhibit, including the parallel exhibition Prince Diponegoro in Dutch Perspectives from 1800 Until Now, housed by Dutch cultural center Erasmus Huis. This exhibit, which also runs from 12 February to March 11, focusses on Diponegoro’s influence on Dutch politics and society in the nineteenth and twentieth century through letters, manuscripts, and articles in the Dutch press. It shows how the relationship between Diponegoro and the Netherlands continues to exist in and inspires works of art.

