

PRESS RELEASE



Threading Stories in the "Berbicara Melalui Kain" Exhibition



© Goethe-Institut Indonesien/Lusiana Limono

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Goethe-Institut Indonesien presents the second edition of the GoetheHaus Foyer exhibition series entitled "Berbicara Melalui Kain" by Malang-based textile craft artist Lusiana Limono from 11 November to 3 December 2023. Lusiana's works invite visitors to question preconceived notions and reimagine the potential of textiles and craft in shaping our collective consciousness.

The artworks in this exhibition are part of an initiative that Lusiana initiated during postgraduate research, conducted from 2019 to 2022 and is curated by Christine Toelle. Sections of the exhibition are composed of artworks with narratives, encapsulated in the exhibition's subtitle, "Embroider Space, Knit Stories, Weave Meanings, and Tie Time". These phrases embody both the life-line process driven by passion and her lived experience.

"Berbicara Melalui Kain" serves a catalyst for dialogue: sparking discussions on sustainability, identity and the role of tradition in a rapidly industrialising world.

"The combination of female-connoted weaving production and activist practices signifies fabrics as networks that incorporates the sweat of their production while also serving as a critique of industrial production. They encompass care, bridging the realms of aesthetics and the everyday. Lusiana's work expressively combines these aspects without losing its enigmatic character," said Dr. Ingo Schöningh, Head of Cultural Programmes at Goethe-Institut Indonesien.

Lusiana's family background revolves around fabric. Her mother and aunts were seamstresses, while her father and her husband's family were cloth traders. "Fabric holds a special significance for me. I discovered an intriguing relationship between women, textiles, and the domestic space," tells Lusiana.

The diversity of techniques and familiarity of the materials used in Lusiana's artworks reflect the richness of cloth and natural resources that have also shaped our modern world. Lusiana incorporates spices as one of her materials, and according to Christine, the curator, their existence in Indonesian women's history can be found in both the "grandeur" narrative, as symbols of colonial commodities, as well as in the "smaller", more "peripheral" stories.

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Christine added, “The knowledge and culture preserved in these materials become a way to critique the hierarchy between the understandings—regarding, and in between-women, domestic space, and the production of historical discourse. Spices, which are familiar to the kitchen, are used as the basis for academic work, even in formal exhibition presentations.”

This exhibition is divided into three areas: Academic Research on Domestication & Sustainability (*Iestar*); Subject & Family; as well as History, Tradition & Collectivity.

In the Academic Research on Domestication & Sustainability area, Lusiana weaves the concepts of domestication, sustainability and womanhood through the cloths. These artworks demonstrate her expertise, which is often demanded for textile artistry practices. She features a range of techniques such as crochet, *ikat*, pin loom, weave, knit, and even hand-spin.

The artworks in the ‘Subject & Family’ section explore the relationship of self and family; this inspires Lusiana's role as a daughter and a mother. Much like discussions about home, family has become a scale linked to the existence of women. Meanwhile in ‘History, Tradition & Collectivity’ area, visitors are invited to re-knit the understandings regarding women's positionalities.

This exhibition is open for visits every Tuesday to Sunday from 11 November to 3 December 2023 at GoetheHaus Jakarta, from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. WIB.

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About Goethe-Institut

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institute, active worldwide. We promote the study of German abroad and encourage international cultural exchange. We also provide a comprehensive image of Germany through information on German political, social and cultural life. Our various cultural and educational programmes support intercultural dialogue and enable cultural participation. These various programs strengthen the structures of civil society and support global mobility.

About Lusiana Limono

Lusiana Limono is an IKJ Postgraduate Graduate majoring in artistic creation. Lusiana has a high interest in environmental issues and the role of women in knowledge production in the domestic space. Aiming to use craft as a language of expression in works and knowledge production processes, she is interested in the role that cloths and domestic objects play in creating opportunities for a deeper connection between people and their sense thereof (place, wellbeing, identity, root). She looks to the tradition of both textile crafting and the wearable goods to create (assemblage, installation, and objects) and to explore intersections of labor, mindfulness, and culture. She is currently the creative director of KAIT Handmade studio.

About Christine Toelle

Christine Toelle is an art practitioner based in Indonesia. Her focus on art research and publications started in non-profit communities in 2015 and continues to expand as she now takes the role as an Education and Public Programs Coordinator in an art museum in Jakarta. In addition to her work in arts management, she has also written and curated several exhibitions

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specifying the development of artistic mediums. Her works now surround within the development of art projects system development, program outreach & sustainability, and inclusivity in the art and cultural scene.



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