

Press Release

Eko Nugroho's Solo Exhibition **We Are Concern about Nothing**



Date | 2013. 10. 1 (Tue) - 11. 3(Sun)

Place | Arario Gallery Seoul

Work | Painting, Sculpture, Embroidery and Wall Painting

Opening Reception | 2013. 10. 1(Tue) 6pm

Arario Gallery will be hosting Korea's first ever solo exhibition of the Indonesian artist Eko Nugroho's works from October 1 to November 3, 2013. Nugroho, internationally known for his recent exhibition at Pompidou, his participation in the Venice Biennale, and collaboration with Louis Vuitton, is the rising star in the Indonesian art scene. This solo exhibition will take place at Arario Cheongdam, and will include Nugroho's sculptures, paintings, embroideries and an elaborate large-scale mural.

Nugroho will be presenting black and white paintings, embroideries, and sculptures modeled after human bodies along with a colorful wall-size mural that portray his singularly strong yet fluid lines.

The paintings are all portraits of unique, unknown subjects, comprising sturdy phrases, alluding to the environmental and systematic conditions of existence such as the society or political entanglements.

Eko Nugroho came into fame with his works that reflect socio-political issues that emerged in the wake of the Suharto administration in the late '90s. Keeping refreshing faith in the purity of human nature, he represents Indonesia's cultural preference to collective homogeneity to individual perspectives. Democracy was the source of hope for minorities in the Indonesian society under over 30 years of dictatorship; Nugroho's arrival was a timely event that reflected this need. Nugroho questions oppressive social norms that quash the individual, as well as the hypocritical norms that perpetuate the cycle of collectivism.

The artist thus expresses his concern:

"It seems like being different is becoming harder with each day. The society doesn't like difference. I'm scared of the possibility that one day each of us individuals would become exhibited objects in the glass cases of museums."

But the artist opts for humorous or, at times, absurd and ironic dialogues encapsulated in word balloons in his paintings instead of pouring out incisive words of criticism. These icons, inspired by doodles and comics, are bold and often dynamic. However, the inclusion of tools such as masks and helmets remind the viewers of concepts such as camouflage or concealment, emphasizing the dark possibilities of the adverse effects human nature may harbor.

The artists' insights formally resemble the humorous expressions in comics. The characters in his works look like robots or specific characters in comics; drawn with thick black lines, they remind the audience of European art animation from the '70s and '80s in France. In fact, Nugroho has published comics that reflect the liberal and artistic atmosphere of Yogyakarta, and produced simple cell animations based on drawings and traditional Indonesian shadow plays. The characters, wearing layers of symbolic factors set in an unidentified time line and location, are in themselves attractive. In short, Nugroho's works reflect the political turmoil that took place are still happening now in Indonesia's past and present, as well as social and economic development, the inflow of foreign culture, and its mixture with domestic culture.

Artist Bio



Eko Nugroho graduated from Indonesia Art College, and debuted in the local art circles in the late '90s during the liberating period of reformasi. Cities such as Yogyakarta were then becoming the center of dynamic expressions, and Eko began to boldly pursue his style, inspired by this passionate atmosphere. He took on a large-scale mural project at Japan's Fukuoka Asian Art Museum and Queensland Art Gallery in Brisbane Australia, exhibited his works at Australia's Museum of Contemporary Art in 2011, Paris Museum of Modern Art in 2012, Singapore Tyler Print Institute in 2013, and California Pacific Triennale (planned by Dan Cameron), and produced scarfs for Louis Vuitton, elected as the Foulards D'Artistes for the Fall/Wingter season in 2013.

His works are currently held by Singapore Art Museum, The National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne, the Art Gallery of South Australia in Adelaide, Queensland Art Gallery, Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris, Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt, and The Guy & Myriam Ullens Foundation. Eko Nugroho was selected as one of the fifty most promising artists under the age of 50 by Art and Auction in June 2013.

[Exhibition Works]



Yes, We Concern About Nothing

2012, Acrylic, ink, krink marker on canvas, 200x150cm



International Disappointed

2012, Acrylic, ink, krink marker on canvas, 200x150cm



Solidarity are under the pillow

2012, Acrylic, ink, krink marker on canvas, 200x150cm



Let Me Thinking Of You,
2012, 혼합재료, 190x90x70cm



Let Me Believe

2013, fiber resin figure painted with acrylic, plastic flowers, 163x110x86cm (front)



Let Me Believe

2013, fiber resin figure painted with acrylic, plastic flowers, 163x110x86cm (front)



**Anomali In Animated,
2013, machine embroidered rayon thread on fabric backing, 139cm diameter**



Medusa Generation,
2013, machine embroidered rayon thread on fabric backing, 136cm diameter



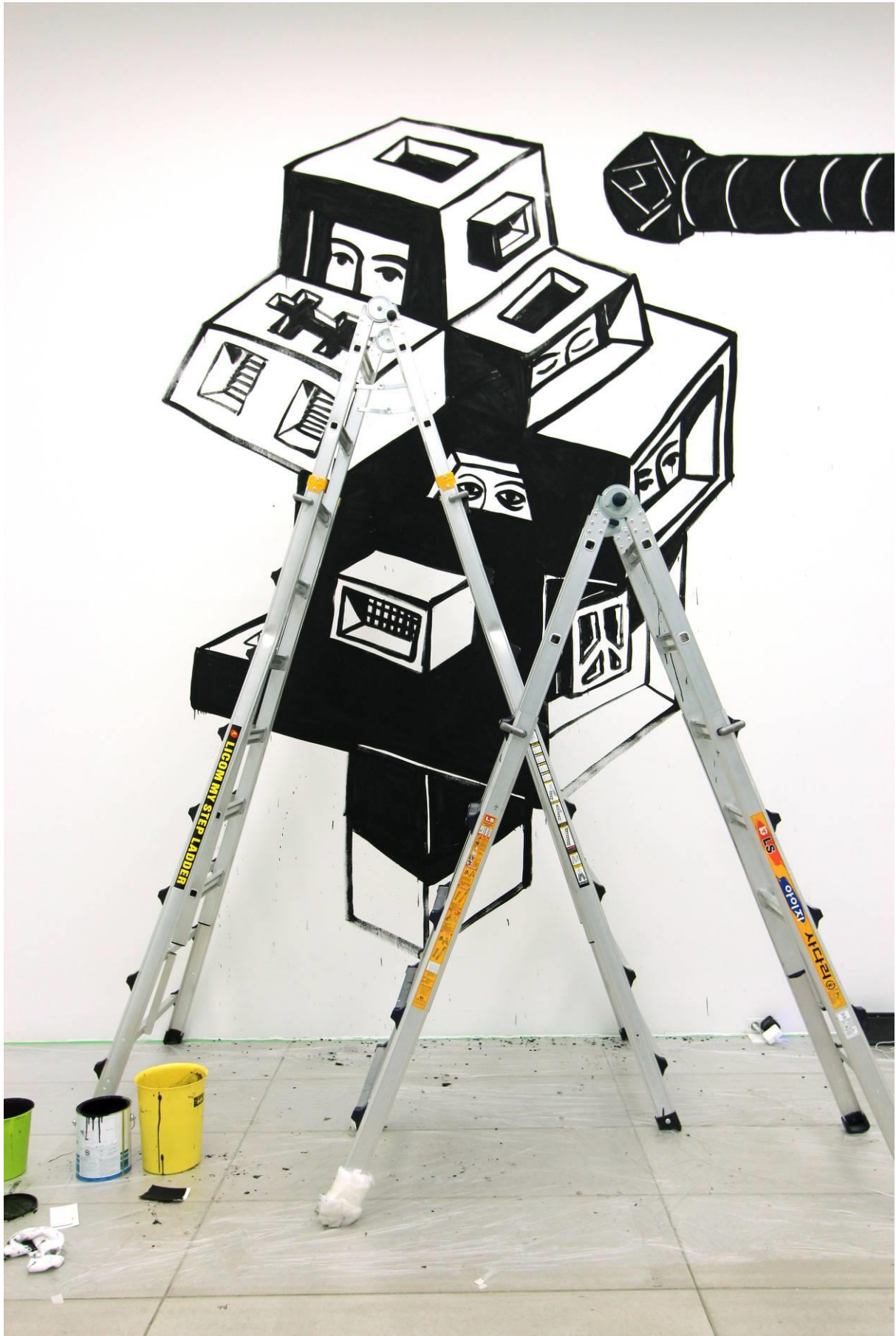
I Am A Fungus of My Own,
2013, 천 위에 레이온 실로 기계 자수, 71x77cm



Wall Painting at Arario Gallery, Seoul, Korea







[Other Works]



2013 Venice Biennale Indonesian Pavillion

[2013 Louis Vuitton Collaboration]

2013 Fall/Winter Scarf Collection



2013 Fall/Winter Scarf Collection

Eko Nugroho (b. 1977, Yogyakarta, Indonesia)

Education

1993 – 1997 High School for Fine Arts (SMSR) Yogyakarta
1997 - 2006 Painting Department, Indonesian Art institute,
Yogyakarta



SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2013

"We are Concern about Nothing", Arario Gallery, Seoul, Korea
"We are what we mask", Singapore Tyler Print Institute, Singapore

2012

"Temoin Hybride", Musee d'Art Moderne Paris, France
"Threat as a flavour", ARNDT, Berlin, Germany

2011

"This republic need more semeleh", Ark Galerie, Jakarta, Indonesia
"Lombard-Freid Projects", New York, USA
"The Eko Chamber", Art Gallery of South Australia North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

2009

"SOLO EXHIBITION OF EKO NUGROHO", Galerie Nouvelles Image, Den Haag, The Netherlands
"UNDER THE SHADOW", Pekin Fine Art, Beijing, China
"IN THE NAME OF PATING TLECEK", Nadi Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia. Curated by Enin Supriyanto

2008

"MULTICRISIS IS DELICIOUS", Semarang Gallery, Semarang, Indonesia, Curated by Rifki Effendi
"IT'S ALL ABOUT COALITION", National Museum of Singapore (commission Project), Singapore
"THE PLEASURES OF CHAOS" Ark gallery, Jakarta, Curated by Jim Supangkat

2007

"IN WONDERLAND" Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Curated by Adeline Ooi

2006

"MERDEKA ATOE SMS", Toimoi, Jakarta, Curated by Farah Wardani

2005

"SORRY I AM LATE TO CELEBRATE", Artnivora Gallery, Jakarta, Curated by Riffky Effendi
"EKO NUGROHO", Artoteek, Den Haag, Netherland

2004

"JAUH DI MATA DEKAT DI HATI" workshop and exhibition, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan

2003

"FIGHT ME", Via-via café, Yogyakarta

2002

"BERCEROBONG" (Like A chimney) Cemeti Art House, Yogyakarta

2001

"INDONESIA VS TELEVISI" Mural Exhibition for Public Space at Panembahan no 1 Yogyakarta

2000

"HERK" Mural Exhibition at apotik Komik gallery, Yogyakarta

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2013

Indonesia Pavilion for Venice Bienale, Venice, Italy

California Pacific Triennale, Curated by Dan Cameron, Orange County Museum of Art, California, USA

"WRITING WITHOUT BORDERS", Lehmann Maupin Gallery, HK

2012

"FANTASY ISLANDS", Louis Vuitton Singapore

"MIGRATION", Museum Art Contemporary, Sidney, Australia

"RALLY: CONTEMPORARY INDONESIAN ART, JOMPET KUSWIDANANTO & EKO NUGROHO", National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

"CLOSE THE GAP: INDONESIA ART TODAY", MiFA gallery, Melbourne, Australia

"TRANSFIGURATION & CONTEMPORARY MYTHOLOGIES", Espace Cultural Louis Vuitton, Paris, France

"BEYOND THE EAST", MACRO (Rome Museum of Contemporary Art), Rome, Italy

"THE GLOBAL CONTEMPORARY, ART WORLDS AFTER 1989", ZKM Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, Germany

"Fantasy Islands", Louis Vuitton Maison 5 Canton Road, Tsimshatsui, Hongkong

2010

"Beacons of Archipelago-Contemporary Art from Southeast Asia", Arario Gallery, Cheonan, Seoul, Korea

"CONTEMPORANEITY", MOCA Shanghai, China. Curated by Jim Supangkat & Biljana Ciric

"THE 2010 NEXT WAVE FESTIVAL: THE ULTIMATE TIME LAPSE MEGAMIX", Melbourne, Australia

"LIHAT! VIDEO ART FROM INDONESIA", Galería Jesús Gallardo, Leon Mexico. Curated by Katerina Valdivia

Bruch.

2009

"CREAM" International Festival for Arts and Media Yokohama, Japan

"Lyon Biennale X: The Spectacle of The Everyday", Lyon, France. Curated by Hou Hanru, Thierry Raspail

"4TH INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE ROTTERDAM", Rotterdam, The Netherlands

"TALES FROM WOUNDED-LAND", Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York, USA

"DORODORO, DORON!", Hiroshima Contemporary Art Museum, Hiroshima, Japan.

2008

"MASK/GEMASKERD", Heden, Den Haag, The Netherlands

"EXPENDITURE" Busan Biennale 2008, Busan, South Korea.

"MANIFESTO", National Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia

"EXPOSE #1" – A Presentation of Indonesian Contemporary Art by Deutsche Bank & Nadi Gallery, Four Season Hotel, Jakarta, Indonesia

"SOMETHING FROM NOTHING", Contemporary Arts Center New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

The Bridge Art Fair, New York, USA.

2007

"GEOPOLITICAL OF ANIMATION", The Andalusian Centre of Contemporary Art, Sevilla, Spain.

"MILITIA" OK Video, National Gallery, Jakarta.

"THE PAST THE FORGOTEN TIMES": Six Indonesian Artist Interpret Indonesian History," Traveling Exhibition: Artoteek ,The Hague, Netherlands; Cemeti Art House, Yogyakarta; Erasmus Huis, Jakarta; Yaitu Gallery, Semarang; Bliz Art, Shanghai- Fringe Festival, Singapore.

"WIND FROM THE EAST", KIASMA Museum of Contemporary, Helsinki, Finland.

2006

"ASIA PASIFIC TRIENNALE 5" Queensland Art Gallery, Australia.

"DIRTY YOGA", Taipei Biennale, Taipei Fine Art museum, Taiwan.

"GOING DIGITAL," The Kirk Theater, Utrecht, The Netherlands.

ART RESIDENCES

2011

SAM Projects, Villa Raffet, Paris, France

ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany

2009

Veduta-Biennale de Lyon, France

2008

Heden, Den Haag, The Netherlands

Contemporary Arts Center New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Singapore National Museum, Singapore

2007

Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland

2006

Gallery of Modern Art, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia

Taipei Fine Art Museum, Taipei, Taiwan

2005

Artoteek Den Haag, The Hage, The Netherlands

Rimbun Dahan, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany

2004

Amsterdam Graphics Atlier (AGA), The Netherlands

Fukuoka Contemporary Art Museum

AWARDS

2010 Best Illustration Kompas Short Stories 2009

2008 Academy Art Award for Emerging Artist, Indonesian Institute of Arts

COLLECTION

Tropen Museum, Amsterdam, Netherland

Asia Society Museum, New York, USA

Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) Brisbane, Australia.

Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, USA.

Private Museum of Dr. Oei Ong Djien, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Museum and Art Gallery of the Nothern Territory, Darwin, Australia.

Akili Museum, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Haus Der Kulturen Der Welt, Berlin, Germany.

Artoteek Den Haag/HEDEN, The Hague, Netherland.

ARK Gallerie, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Cemeti Art House, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Deutsche Bank, Frankfurt, Germany

Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kualalumpur, Malaysia

Singapore Art Museum, Singapore

COMMISION PROJECTS

2010 Art Jog 2010, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

2009 CREAM, International Festival for Arts and Media Yokohama, Japan.

BMW Jakarta, Indonesia

2008 Singapore National Museum, Singapore.

- 2006** Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia.
2004 Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan.

Please direct further inquiries to:

Yea Jin Song / Publicity (Seoul)
E. yeajinsong@arariogallery.com
T. +82 10 4403 0741 / + 82 2 541 5701

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