

Melati Suryodarmo

Artist Statement and Biography

Artist Statement

I'm a Ghost in My Own House is based on my interest in the philosophy and the physical process of a charcoal. From the tree to wood, from wood to charcoal, from charcoal to ash. For me, it is interesting to observe the shifting of the original function of the tree, which has been burned to become another form of energy resource useful to mankind. Charcoal is used here to support production, make new elements, melting other elements as well as to destroy other elements.

The charcoal process can represent my thoughts and psychological state, charred by a system and of course by my personal events. To me, charcoal has the potential to change yet destroy. I choose to grind the coals, turning them into powder and dust. Grinded charcoal will only cause it to lose its' potential energy. My thoughts have been charred by the system. If they pass through the processes of liberation, catharsis, or death, perhaps they will grow again into something new. I'm a Ghost in My Own House is also a poetic transformation of feeling, of existing physically yet having our inner selves haunted by the constant loss of the meaning of home.

I'm a Ghost in My Own House is a twelve hour performance where Melati Suryodarmo crushed and grinded hundreds of kilograms of charcoal briquettes on a grinding table placed in the middle of exhibition hall - which she has transformed into a vague and magical charcoal pool. For Melati, charcoal has served as a symbol of life's energy, but she has experienced for herself how life's magic can fade away and even become spent.

Duration of the performance: 12 hours

"I'm a Ghost in My Own House" was performed at the Lawangwangi Arts and Creative Space, Bandung, Indonesia on Oct 3rd, 2012.

Artist Biography

Melati Suryodarmo Indonesia

b. 1969, Surakarta Indonesia

Lives and works in Gross Gleidingen, Germany and Surakarta, Indonesia

The world that inspires me to move my thoughts is the world inside me. The body becomes like a home which functions as container of memories, living organism. The system inside the psychological body that changes all the time has enriched my idea to develop new structures of attitude and thoughts. I try to perceive my surroundings as the fact of the real presence of now, but considering the path of its history. I try to understand the language that are not spoken, and opens the door of perceptions. I respect the freedom in our minds to perceive things coming through our individual sensory register system.

Crossing the boundaries of cultural and political encounters has been a challenge that stimulates me discovering new identification. An effort to find identity is yet a dangerous act of losing the ground of origin. For me, the process of making artwork is a life long research that never stops me to put myself inside the metamorphic constellation. I intend to touch the fluid border between the body and its environment through my art works. I aim to create a concentrated level of intensity without the use of narrative structures. Talking about politics, society or psychology makes no sense to me if the nerves are not able to digest the information. I love it when a performance reaches a level of factual absurdity.
Artist Statement, Melati Suryodarmo, 2008

Melati Suryodarmo's performances have been dealing with the relationship between a human body, a culture in which it belongs to and a constellation where it lives. Through the presence, she compiles, extracts, conceptualized and translates some phenomenon or subjects into movement, actions, and gestures that are specified to her performance. Melati Suryodarmo's performances concern with cultural, social and political aspects, in which she articulates through her psychological and physical body. Her performances feature elements of physical presence and visual art to talk about identity, energy, politics and relationships between the body and the environments surrounding it.

Melati Suryodarmo is an Indonesian born visual artist who lives and works since 1994 in Germany. She was graduated at the Universitas Padjadjaran Bandung in Socio and politics sciences, Hochschule für Bildende Künste Braunschweig, Germany. She was student of Marina Abramovic and finished her post graduate (meisterschule) focused in performance art and Raum Konzept. Suryodarmo has presented her works in various international festivals and exhibitions since 1996, including the 50th Venice Biennale 2003, marking the territory, IMMA Dublin etc. In 2005, Melati Suryodarmo has performed at the Van Gogh Museum Amsterdam, during the Exhibition of the Life of Egon Schiele in 2005; Videobrasil Sao Paolo (2005), Haus der Kulturen der Welt Berlin, 52nd Venice Biennale dance Festival (2007), KIASMA Helsinki (2007), Manifesta7, in Bolzano, Italy (2008), and In Transit festival, HKW Berlin (2009), Luminato festival of the earths, Toronto, 2012.

Since the last six years, Suryodarmo has been presenting her works in Indonesia and other South East Asian countries. For the Padepokan Lemah Putih Solo Indonesia, she has been organizing an annual Performance Art Laboratory Project and “undisclosed territory” performance art event in Solo Indonesia since 2007.

Education

- 2001 – 2002 Postgraduate Program (Meisterschule) in Performance Art at the Hochschule fuer Bildende Kuenste, Braunschweig, Germany
- 1994 – 2001 Study of performance art and sculpture under Prof. Anzu Furukawa, and Prof. Marina Abramovic. Degree in Fine Art at the Hochschule fuer Bildende Kuenste, Braunschweig, Germany
- 1993 Degree in International Relations Studies, Faculty of Politic and Socio Sciences, Universitas Padjadjaran Bandung, Indonesia

Selected Exhibitions and Festivals

- 2013
 - Gambar idoeop- video art exhibition, galeri Semarang, Semarang Indonesia
 - Development“ group exhibition, at TNS Foundation, Gdansk, Poland
 - “Undisclosed territory #7“ padepokan Lemah Putih, Solo, Indonesia
 - “Slapstick“, Performance Program, Kunst Museum Wolfsburg, Germany
 - re-act feminism #2, Fundació Antoni Tàpies, Barcelona, Spanien; Akademi der Künste, Berlin, Deutschland
 - Die auf dem Boden Liegenden, liegen gelassen – The lying on the floor, “abandoned to lie”, Künstlervereinigung MAERZ, Linz, Austria.
 - “Pressing“ Fondazione @videinsight, Turin, Italy
 - “Market Forces“, Osage Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2012
 - “I am a ghost in my own house“, Solo exhibition at Lawangwangi Art foundation, Bandung, Indonesia
 - “Transart 2012 Festival“, performing John cage’s Songs Books, in collaboration with Natalia Pschenitschnikova, MAS Museum Ötztal, Bolzano, Italy
 - “Homoludens“, group exhibition at Galeri Emmitan; Surabaya
 - “Tai Ping Quo“, Parasite and Spring Workshop, Hongkong.
 - “Insight“, Group exhibition at Kuntraum, Vaduz, Lichtenstein
 - “Beethoven Marathon-in collaboration with Stewart Goddyear“, Luminato Festival, Koerner Hall RCM, Toronto
 - “Flow“, group exhibition, Gallery Michael Janssen, Berlin
 - “domestic stuffs“, group exhibition at Galeri Salihara, Jakarta; Cemeti Art House Yogyakarta.
 - “ZEITGEIST“- Galeri Seni Bataviasche Kunstkring, Jakarta
 - “Reclaim.doc“, group exhibition at Jakarta National Gallery, Jakarta

“re.act.feminism #2” - a performing archive at the Galerija Miroslav Kraljević in Zagreb,
Croatia, Museet for Samtidskunst Roskilde, Denmark; Galerija Miroslav Kraljević Zagreb,
Croatia; Instytut Sztuki Wyspa Gdańsk, Poland; Tallinna Kunstihoone Tallinn, Estonia
“Beyond the Self”, McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Garden, Langwarrin, Victoria;
the Anne and Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, Adelaide, Australia
“Acts of Indecency”, solo exhibition at Art Dept, VWFA Jakarta, Indonesia

2011 Bienalle Jogja XI“, Jogjakarta, Indonesia
“Beyond Pressure IV“ performance art festival; Yangon and Mandalay, Myanmar
“Beyond the East: Indonesian Contemporary Art“ Museo d’arte Contemporanea Roma, Rome, Italy
“Performance Hautnah“, Künstlerforum, Bonn
“Performance I Bibliotek“, Kunstbanken Hedmark Kunstsenter, Hamar, Norway
“Kunst Hier und Jetzt“, Allgemeine Konsumverein, Braunschweig
“re.act Feminism vol. II“, 2011 -2013, Centro Cultural Montehermoso, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain
“Between Sky and Sea III“ Hergla Island, Norway
“hijacking TV“ video exhibition at Gallery Salihara, Jakarta
“Beyond the Self“, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra; Australia
“Passionate Pilgrim” for House Without Maid Project, curated by Jorge Leon and Simone Aughtlerlony, Villa Tobler, Zürich, Switzerland.
“Absence“, Manila Contemporary, Manila, the Philippines
“Almost There“, a dance choreography piece, World Dance Day Festival, at Teater Besar Institut Seni Indonesia Surakarta, Indonesia
“A Feather Fell down from the Silence“, at R.I.T.E.S, Substation, Singapore
“Negotiating Home, History and Nation” Two Decades of Contemporary Art from South East Asia 1991 - 2010, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
“Undisclosed territory#5“, Padepokan Lemah Putih, Solo Indonesia
“Performance Art Laboratory (PALA) Project“, Padepokan Lemah Putih, Solo Indonesia

2010 “Passionate Pilgrim” for House Without Maid Project, curated by Jorge Leon and Simone Aughtlerlony, de Internationale Keuze, International Theater Festival, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
“Passionate Pilgrim” for House Without Maid Project, curated by Jorge Leon and Simone Aughtlerlony, Bern Biennale, Haus der Universität, Bern, Switzerland
“Ugo“ for One Night Stand, curated by Myriam Laplante, Fondazione Volume, Rome, Italy
“Passionate Pilgrim” for House Without Maid Project, curated by Jorge Leon and Simone Aughtlerlony, Tanz Im August, Berlin
“Passionate Pilgrim” for House Without Maid Project, curated by Jorge Leon and Simone Aughtlerlony, Alcantara Festival, Lisbon, Portugal
“Lilith Performance event“, Lilith Performance Studio, Malmoe, Sweden

“Grenzart”, Kirschau, Germany

“Exergie- butter dance – extended”, Asian Body festival, Moderna Dans Teatern, Stockholm

“Passionate Pilgrim” for House Without Maid Project, curated by Jorge Leon and Simone Aughterlony, Maisson des Arts de Schaerbek, Brussels

“trouble-festival”, Les Halles, Brussels

“Ugo” solo performance at „mobilized Performance Series“, Mobius, Boston, MA, USA