



Syaifudin Vifick capturing the night scenery behind Pasar Kumbasari, with Slinat's mural on the wall, telling an art movement story related to the market life on that road.

Credit: Syaifudin Vifick, DenPasar 2017 Participant

Acknowledging the Market: Pasar in Denpasar

DENPASAR - Who isn't familiar with the City of Denpasar when they get to Bali? Well, your air steward or stewardess on the plane will say, "Welcome to Denpasar," when the airport is actually located in Badung, yet, not to fret, Denpasar is actually the capital city of the Province of Bali itself.

Denpasar was a name of a resting area owned by the King of Badung, KyaiJambeKsatrya, from Puri (meaning: Kingdom) JambeKsatrya. As the resting area is located to the North of the Market's position then, the name becomes "Den" meaning North and "Pasar" meaning market. The resting area became Puri Denpasar when PuriJambeKsatrya was taken over by PuriKalerPemecutan, which also established the town Denpasar in the year 1788.

The significant market was located where the memorial Field of Puputan-Badung (the sacrificial fight towards the Dutch invasion in 1906) is today, near to the kilometer zero of Denpasar City - it was in the heart of the city. After PuputanBadung, the market was moved to above the Tukad (meaning: river) Badung and long known to be PasarBadung.

As Oxford Brookes University Urban Design Research Student, GedeMaha Putra, wrote on his blog post Bali Kini: Denpasar, "Pasar, in

a traditional society, would not be in a building, it would be in an open space, temporary, and many would take place under a tree. It is the heart of the village's economy, providing daily needs." To Putra, the pasar is also the space where "communication and information exchange" takes place with those from outside the village too. Thus, pasar become social spaces within towns.

As time passes, the meaning of pasarin Denpasar has not moved much yet its existence tends to be in a building or under a canopy or umbrellas. More and more pasar have existed in Denpasar providing different kinds of daily needs and has its own particular characters - still in the style of traditional markets or a much modern shop. For example, the area of PuriJambeKsatrya, in Jalan (meaning: road) Veteran is now known as PasarSatria, is a bird and pets market, and cheap or second hand items from religious needs to clothes at PasarKereneng, are still in forms of

traditional markets. While the hub of cloths and textiles in Jalan Sulawesi, and gold jewelries trading in Jalan-Hassanudin are in forms of shops.

There has been a major change too towards PasarBadung. As it caught a huge fire last year due to a gas tube explosion in one of its kiosks, now it exists in the former Tiara Grosir supermarket area, JalanCokroaminoto. Being the most influential economic market in Denpasar, the routes of the roads near to the relocation have changed significantly.

Under the Denpasar Government website, denpasarikota.go.id, we can find these shops and traditional markets under KawasanBisnis (meaning: Business District). It really shows how economy is important in Denpasar and created particular areas of items that the general public can seek to. Interestingly, JalanTeuku Umar has become one of them, a business area for trading also servicing gadgets, electronics, automotive, interiors, and other local necessities.

CushCush Gallery, located in JalanTeuku Umar itself, is a gallery that aims to "be an alternative platform for contemporary arts and design." And with its position in the middle of the buzzing city, it has a new endeavor

on pasar and Denpasar. "Denpasar's unique and different persona, where the majority Balinese living side by side with a diverse in-coming migrants who have settled down within the city area, makes life in Denpasar richer," CushCush Gallery explained.

That new endeavor is DenPasar 2017, a group exhibition that involves artists and creative communities to "observe, understand, and re-learn the meaning of 'Pasar' and Denpasar" with the theme Bahasa pasar or "market language." By looking at Denpasar's own meaning, it confirms that market is significant in Denpasar's growth as a city. CushCush Gallery corresponded, "The market is a great platform to get to know the character and soul of a city, as it is a place where everybody talks, looks, and interacts as whom they really are."

The exhibition is in line with Denpasar's Vision of "becoming a Creative city by acknowledging its culture towards a Harmonious living." Having accepted participants young and old coming from diverse creative disciplinary, Owner of CushCush Gallery, SuriawatiQiu, acknowledged, "It is a very good beginning with these participants. DenPasar 2017 is aimed to bring up the creativity side

of Denpasar City. With their different interpretations, thoughts, observations, it is hoped to show more of Denpasar's significance which can be introduced to the public and younger generation."

DenPasar 2017 has started with MelaliKePasar (meaning: going to the market) session. Starting with DenPasarTalk (provided by culture enthusiasts, Arief AyipBudiman and Marlowe Bandem) and then DenPasarWalk (going through four markets together) with the participants. "MelaliKePasar shows hidden treasure and have let me re-looked [bold-highlight-italicize] at sceneries we usually see and do not realize at the same time - which actually formed BahasaPasar narratives all this time," participant of DenPasar 2017 fashion designer, Elizabeth MyraJuliarti, shared.

More about DenPasar 2017 can be found on Instagram @CushCushGallery, Website www.cushcushgallery.com, or E-mail to denpasar2017@cushcushgallery.com The DenPasar2017 Exhibition will be opened on May 26th 2017 at CushCush Gallery, Teuku Umar Street, Gang Rajawali no. 1A Denpasar. (Savitri Sastrawan)