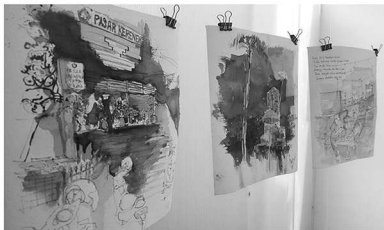


DENPASAR 2017 – HIGHLIGHTING THE DIVERSE CREATIVITY OF DENPASAR

WORDS AND PHOTOS RICHARD HORSTMAN



of Indonesian ethnicity with international, highlighted by a thriving young culture. CCG is making a positive, and much needed contribution to the island's contemporary art infrastructure. And while Denpasar is rapidly expanding and a new contemporary urban culture is in the making, creative hubs such as CCG feed the growing demand for meeting points that are potent venues for the sharing of ideas and discussion.

In 2017 CCG facilitates a year round program of exhibitions, residencies, workshops and collaborations that focuses on the development of contemporary art and design experiences in Denpasar and Bali, hosting exchanges between the local and international communities of artists and creatives and Bali.

"This year's DenPasar2017 is a new and exciting, yearly CCG program that we believe is destined to put Denpasar on the map of the art and design route in Bali," said CCG's co-founder Suriawati Qiu. "The exhibition will introduce locally based young artists and creatives with works that speak of Denpasar."

The DenPasar2017 program of weekly events began on June 10 with the Launch of the DenPasar2017 Art & Design Map and Meet the Artists of DenPasar2017, part 1 (of 2). This was followed by activities such as KitaPoleng & Denpasar Deaf Community dance workshop, led by the brilliant Japanese, Bali-based dancer and choreographer Jasmine Okubo, workshops by the Urban Sketchers Bali Academy, DenPasar Street Talk, with street artists Slinat, Bombadolow and Swoofone, and DesignTalk with Nyoman Miyoga, Fransiska Prihadi, Charlie Hearn and Eva Natasa. The program culminates on Aug 26 with the presentation of Three Eras of Denpasar by Masuria Sudjana and the silent movie screening of Arslip Bali 1928,

narrated by Marlowe Bandem.

The launching of the DENPASAR2017 Art & Design Map spotlighted the first map to highlight city features such as museums and galleries, government and cultural institutions, art and design educational institutions, art and creative communities, artists' studios, cultural heritage/public spaces/monuments, and the markets within the Denpasar area. The map is endorsed by the Bali Tourism Board, Badan KREATIF Denpasar, and the Denpasar Tourism Promotion Board.

The Road to DenPasar2017 began in January through an open call, CCG invited artists and creative communities to respond to "Bahasa Pasar" in small 2 dimensional works. Seventeen participants were selected from creative backgrounds including architects, dancers, fashion, jewelry, and graphic designers, photographers, street artists, and fine artists. As an introduction for the selected artists CCG facilitated a "Melali Ke Pasar" (Journey to the market), a one-day event consisting of 2 parts: DenPasar Talk and DenPasar Walk, with invited speakers, cultural experts, Marlowe Bandem and Ayip Budiman. Bandem highlighted the importance of the role of documentation through art and other creative means, which is deeply embedded in Bali's culture.

Invited artists and art communities in the DenPasar2017 Exhibition were prompted to re-think and give meaning to the city that is relevant in today's society via the theme of the traditional markets, paying homage to the role of the market in the development of Denpasar city. Some of the highlights of the exhibition are the collaborative installation of photographs and short film highlighting the dynamic street art designs by Swoofone, and the Urban Sketchers Bali panoramic group presentation of watercolors depict-

ing Denpasar market scenes.

"The overall response to the DenPasar2017 program has been excellent," said Suriawati, who co-founded CCG with her partner Jindee Chua. "Yesterday's (Aug.5) DesignTalk attracted a diverse audience from many creative backgrounds listening to presentations from creatives each with a unique journey in the fields of interior, landscape, architecture and furniture design."

DesignTalk, along with landscape designer Nyoman Miyoga featured Fransiska Prihadi, an architect who spends 20% of her time designing architecture and interiors, and the other 80% organizing the Minikino Film Week, a Bali based international annual short film festival, Charlie Hearn, who came to Bali from London on an intuitive urge after the 2008 economic crisis and founded Inspiral Architects. His team now designs resorts, private residences, yoga spaces, and other exciting projects. And furniture designer Eva Natasa started out making a personal array of furniture for her home two years ago, in 2016 her collection 'Lula' was exhibited in Italy at Milan Salone Del Mobile.

"Personally I feel these creatives are able to lead their DesignLife journey's successfully in Bali. Bali is unique, open, embracing and nurturing," Suriawati said. "Bali has international exposure, while at the same time gives space, comfort and has just the right environment to support creativity."



Since its arrival upon the Bali art and design landscape in July 2016, CushCush Gallery (CCG) in Denpasar has injected fresh and exciting energy into the local creative scene. An alternative gallery, with an inspiring and unique

program embracing interactions and multidisciplinary creativity via explorations at the intersections of art, design, materiality, techniques and crafts, CCG prioritizes community engagement and learning, along with children's workshops.

In a city that is becoming a melting pot

DenPasar2017 Exhibition continues until Aug. 26
CushCush Gallery (CCG)
Jl. Teuku Umar Gg. Rajawali No.1A
Denpasar, Bali
Tel. (62) 361 484558
www.cushcushgallery.com