

For Immediate Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Market sellers at Kumbasari market with background artwork by Swoofone for DenPasar2017
Photo by Mediawan

DenPasar2018:

Room for Discussion and Collaboration Through Contemporary Art and Design in Bali.

DENPASAR, INDONESIA - Located less than a day's flight from major cities throughout Asia and Oceania, Bali is a wonder with its own distinctive charm. Its long-standing image as the "Island of the Gods" has been fashioned to fulfill an array of tropical and mystical fantasies of its visitors. Teeming with the intricacies of life from its seabed to mountains, the autonomous Balinese ecosystem is thoroughly reflected in the lives of its inhabitants – especially as a locally refined, continuous legacy of Majapahit, a historical Hindu kingdom in the archipelago. Along with this persona, the development of art and design has been an integral component in establishing the perfect identity of "Bali", as "The Last Paradise" built by the Dutch Indies in the 20th century. In many local "art shops" to date, as well as portrayed in popular media such as the blockbuster movie *Eat, Pray, Love* (2010), mainstream representation of Bali heavily favors exoticism towards

traditional or utopian themes, to emphasize the island as a spiritual, picturesque, and inviting to be visited. However, there are more to the multi-layered realities in Bali than meets the eye, as signified by a number of diverse aesthetic developments in the arts and design, which correspond to contemporary social and political climates in both local and global contexts.



Launching of DenPasar2017 Art+Design Map together with Bali's creative communities and Bekraf Denpasar.
Photo by: Eka Permata

Awareness to this reality is progressively giving ways to new momentums and directions for art and design activities in Bali, even more so with current enthusiasm to advance the creative economy sector in Indonesia. Increasingly accessible modes of communication and transportation has promoted exchange of practitioners and scholars from within and beyond the country, which improves creative insights and methods in various local communities. Having its own distinctive history and culture, Bali has a significant potential to be on par with other arts and design landmarks in the country, namely Jakarta, Bandung, Yogyakarta, and Surabaya. This is especially apparent through the works of pioneering initiatives of Balinese and Bali-based origin, which have been valuable contributors to contemporary Indonesian art and design scenes in the forms of artspaces, communities, and social hubs. To name a few, they are Rumah Sanur, Uma Seminyak, Cata Odata, Taman Baca Kesiman, Minikino, Kulidan Kitchen, Studio Eksotika, Teater Kalangan, Ketemu Project, et cetera. The collective effort is even shared by individual artists who are rooted in traditions, by expressing their involvements in contemporary issues through each mastered styles and methods. Similarly, local youths also participate by supporting artistic activities in the campaign to resists the controversial Benoa Bay Reclamation, displaying concern to preserve the threatened balance of nature.



Call for communities to come together and be part of DenPasar2018 movement

Needless to say, numerous activities mentioned above confirm that creative expression in Bali is inseparable to the lives of its inhabitants, and relate closely to the natural ecosystem as a whole. Traditionally, expressing through art and design has been a part of *Ngayah*, which means that the force to create is a notion to revere the ancestor, and the sincerity imbued in the inter-generational production of arts has breathed vibrancy to Balinese culture until this day. Acknowledging this, and without compromising respect towards traditional values, CushCush Gallery (CCG) aims to enrich the dialogues about art, design, and contemporary issues in Bali, from its lively capital Denpasar as a vantage point. Serving as the international entrance to the island-province, as well as the center to its government and commerce, Denpasar city exhibits unique features and potential to advance in the arts and design scenes. After the success of its inaugural event in 2017 with the theme “*Bahasa Pasar*”, or “Market Language”, CCG is to launch this year’s DenPasar2018, with the theme “*JINGGA*”, known as the word to describe the color of

twilight. Inspired from the transition between light and dark, “*JINGGA*” becomes a metaphor to represent the multi-layered dynamics of life, seen through Denpasar as a frame to the tiny universe known as Bali.



“Sekreneng Pasar”, artwork by Syafiudin Vifick for DenPasar2017 exhibition

Photo by Vifick

DenPasar2018 will begin with a group exhibition in October 2018, where CCG embraces creative practitioners and activists from both Bali and beyond, to express their interpretation about the city in the form of visual and performance art. The invitation to participate is available until July 2nd, and has been socialized indiscriminately to include artist, designers, architects, and performers to name a few, as long as the guidelines are observed and followed. The project also calls on

other creative communities in the city to be involved and listed in DenPasar ART + DESIGN MAP 2018-2019, which will be mass-printed and distributed to various locations throughout the island, including tourism sites and creative hubs. Programs in DenPasar2018 also include discussions and workshops to complement the on-going group exhibition. For more information to be program or venue partner for DenPasar2018, as well as take part in DenPasar ART + DESIGN MAP 2018-2019, please visit <http://cushcushgallery.com/ccg/denpasar2018/>.

CushCush Gallery

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DenPasar2018: an exhibition, a movement

A month full of art, design and cultural events happening throughout Denpasar city

JINGGA

Exhibition opens on Friday, 5th October 2018

Exhibition runs from October till December 2018

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ABOUT CUSHCUSH GALLERY (CCG)

CushCush Gallery (CCG) is an addition to CushCush family. It is conceived as a platform for creative collaborations in contemporary art + design. It is an alternative gallery that embraces interactions and celebrates multi-disciplinary creativity through explorations of intersections of art, design, materiality, techniques and crafts.

CushCush Gallery was opened in 2016 with a solo exhibition of "Crucible", that was the outcome of CCG creative-in-resident program of Australian designer, academic and educator Ross McLeod. At the same time, "Future Canggu" exhibition was presented by design interns from RMIT (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) who responded to a specific site in Canggu, Bali. Working together with LagiLagi initiative, CushCush Gallery co-organised CHARCOAL FOR CHILDREN workshops and presented DRAWING FUTURE charity exhibition and PLAY PLAY performance that involved local and international artists and creative communities to explore drawing charcoal together with children. During 'MAKE YOUR OWN CHARCOAL' workshops, the technique of how to make your own DIY charcoal is shared with participants.

In 2017, DenPasar2017 was born with a group exhibition consisting of 17 selected Open Call artists and 4 invited artists/ communities at CushCush Gallery. Alongside the exhibition, a series of artists talk, design talk, street talk, creative and performative workshops, as well as sharing sessions took place that attracted communities from multidisciplinary background and generations to come and participate.

In 2018 CushCush Gallery is hosting a year round program of curated exhibitions, residency, workshops and collaborations that focuses on the development of contemporary art + design experiences in Denpasar and Bali, through facilitating exchanges between local and international community of artists and creatives and Bali.