

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Colors Of Bali

Rediscovering natural pigments & dyes in Balinese traditional crafts

CushCush Gallery is presenting Colors Of Bali exhibition with exhibition opening on Saturday 4th December 2021 at 7pm that runs till 19th December 2021. The exhibition, together with a published accompanying catalogue and a short documentation video, is the culmination of a research and explorative program by the same title initiated by CushCush Gallery co-founders Suriawati Qiu and her partner Jindee Chua that aims to document and share findings throughout engagements with artists, artisans, academics, researchers, design practitioners, culture lovers, collectors, policy makers, as well as students on the development of natural pigments and dyes in six traditional crafts of Bali explored during research, most of which was done from December 2020 to August 2021.

COB main poster

“The current prolonged Covid-19 pandemic has had a rather disruptive impact on Bali’s economy and people’s living. Last year, during the pandemic we had a chance to travel to several villages and districts in Bali. A brief conversation with a weaver family in Tejakula during one of these early trips reminded us of Bali’s many dying crafts, heavy dependence on tourism that is taking its toll during the current situation, and at the same time Bali’s wealth of local knowledge, resources and wisdom. It was then that the seeds of ‘Colors Of Bali’ were sown: a journey of learning and discovering natural dyes and pigments in Bali’s traditional crafts. It has been such fascinating journey of explorations; we cannot wait to share these with our friends and communities. We are thankful to The Australian Government for funding Colors Of Bali through the Australian Consulate-General in Bali and the Australia Awards Alumni Grant Scheme (AGS) that is administered by Australia Awards in Indonesia.” shared **Suriawati Qiu, CushCush Gallery Co-Founder**, a successful grantee of Australian Alumni Grant Scheme in 2020.

The six traditional crafts that are investigated in the Colors of Bali program are divided into two streams: one is the wayang stream, containing the crafts of *Wayang Kulit*, *Topeng*, and Kamasan painting, which all share the same narratives from ancient epics like Mahabharata and Ramayana. The other is the textile stream which encompasses the crafts of Gringsing, Cepuk and Songket, which all have roots or have been influenced by the ancient Indian textile, the Patola.

35 pieces of selected works presented at the Colors Of Bali exhibition and insights are established from conversations, interviews, observations with respective artisans and people, as well as research through written articles and books by academics, anthropologists, and researchers in their relevant fields to form a more holistic perspective on the crafts. Artists, artisans and cultural practitioners include late I Nyoman Mandra, I Made Sesangka Puja Laksana, Ni Wayan Sri Wedari, Ni Made Kartini, Ni Nyoman Mandri, Ni Wayan Jemparing, I Made Danan Adi Laksana, Cokorda Raka Sedana (Cok Alit), Cokorda Putra Wiyuda, I Wayan Nartha, I Ketut Sudiana, I Nyoman Sadra, I Putu Wiadnyana, I Nengah Sadri, Ni Kadek Trisnawati, Ni Wayan Sari (Ibu Luh), Cokorda Sawitri, late Ida Swarga Ida I Dewa Ayu Alit (Wak Alit), Ida Ayu Ngurah Puniari, and Ni Ketut Astiti (B, Jero).

Three researchers, academics and educators I Nyoman Gede Maha Putra of Warmadewa University, Siobhan Campbell of the University of Sydney and I Wayan Karja of Institut Seni Indonesia (ISI) Denpasar each writes an article to share their perspectives in relation to Bali’s historical, social and cultural context in the development of crafts and significance of colors. Fiona Caripis of Kajimundo

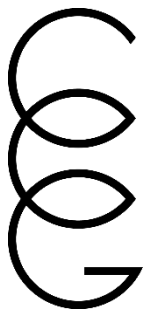
was a consultant earlier in the program as her interest in sustainability issues and plant dyes are in line with Colors Of Bali's concerns. Later, I Wayan Warmada and team of the Department of Geology Engineering at Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, came on board conducting laboratory testing that is crucial for deriving at some conclusions for possible future investigations.

"It was through Suriawati's and her partner Jindee's love of natural materials, sustainable design and Balinese culture, combined with the skills, networks, and experience she gained in Australia that Colors Of Bali emerged. Colors Of Bali raises awareness about the importance and value of reviving traditional Balinese craftsmanship. This exhibition seeks to connect creative communities in Bali, Australia and the wider regions, and encourage a discussion about how to preserve traditional practices while also making them commercially successful." **Anthea Griffin, the Australian Consul-General in Bali.**

Ms Anthea Griffin, herself an art and culture aficionado, will give the opening address at the exhibition opening of Colors Of Bali, followed by a performance by the students of HMJ *Pedalangan* of Institut Seni Indonesia (ISI) Denpasar. Alongside the two-weeks exhibition, a series of public events (online and offline) including artisans-led workshops, curatorial tours and discussions will take place and we invite everyone near and far to join in this inspiring journey of discovering the Colors of Bali.

***poster schedule of public program**

ABOUT CUSHCUSH GALLERY



CushCush Gallery (CCG) is a creative platform / space located in downtown Denpasar, dedicated to multidisciplinary collaboration by bridging various creative fields such as architecture, communication design, interior design, product design, arts including performance and crafts. Through a variety of activities and a strong emphasis on children's creative learning, CCG's inclusive philosophy addresses three main aspects: 'Creative Education, Creative Collaboration, Creative Community' and seeks to engage with a broader aspect together with Bali/Indonesia/International communities with unlimited backgrounds and professions.

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