



MUSIM PANJANG II, 2008, mixed media on canvas, 150 x 120 cm

front cover: BANGKIT (WAKE UP), 2008, acrylic on canvas, 132 x 132 cm

STEFAN BUANA

Born Padang Panjang, Sumatra Barat, February 27, 1971
Education Art Institute of Indonesia 1993-2003

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 Wake Up!, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Singapore
- 2008 Stefan Buana: Solo di Galnas, Galeri Nasional Indonesia, Jakarta
Opening Exhibition, Tembi Contemporary, Bantul, Yogyakarta
- 2006 Batik Gempol, Taman Budaya, Yogyakarta
- Kampung Nan D'en Cinto, Hadiprana Gallery, Jakarta
- 2004 Duta Fine Art Gallery, Jakarta
- 2002 Animal Farm, 678 Gallery, Jakarta

AWARDS

- 2003 Infofood Art Awards Finalist
Philip Morris Art Awards Finalist
- 2002 Infofood Art Awards Finalist
- 2001 Top Three Nokia Art Awards 2001, Jakarta-Bangkok
- Indonesia Finalist in Windsor & Newton World Competition, Bandung
- 1998 Best Picture, Dies Natalis ISI XVI
Best Picture, Seni Refleksi Dunia, Benteng Vredeburg
- 1997 Philip Morris Art Awards Finalist
- 1995 Yogyakarta Artist, Pekan Seni Mahasiswa Indonesia, Jakarta



PIKADA RAKYAT BANTUL, 2008, mix media on canvas, 200 x 150 cm

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 Headlights, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Singapore
- Headlights, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur
- 2008 Family Life, Taman Budaya, Yogyakarta
- 2005 Art for Aceh, Taman Budaya, Yogyakarta
- Sculpture Exhibition, Citraland, Jakarta
- Bazar FKY, Yogyakarta
- Bincang Bincang Gallery, Jakarta
- 2004 Understanding Language, Siena Gallery, Semarang
- 2003 Infofood Awards Exhibition, Jakarta Indonesia
- Art Awards Exhibition, Jakarta
- 2002 100 days Anniversary of H. Widayat, Museum Widayat, Magelang
- 2001 MUPH Larosati, Aryaduta Hotel, Jakarta
- 6 Ball Artists, Santi Gallery, Jakarta
- Sakato, Purna Budaya, Yogyakarta
- 2000 MUPH Larosati, Cierum, Jakarta
- 1999 PRASIDHA Group Exhibition 93, Jakarta Duo Exhibition, Ardiyanto Gallery, Yogyakarta
- Duo Exhibition, Kinnara Gallery, Bali
- MURPH, Aryaduta Hotel, Jakarta
- Lustrum ISI Exhibition, Yogyakarta & Bali
- A Week Art Festival, Yogyakarta
- Affandi Prize Exhibition, Yogyakarta
- 1998 IKASMI Group Exhibition, Benteng Vredeburg, Yogyakarta
- Introspeksi, Yogyakarta
- FKY Exhibition, Yogyakarta
- 14th ISI Anniversary Exhibition, Yogyakarta
- Festival of Abstraction, Duta Fine Art Gallery, Jakarta
- Refleksi Zaman, Yogyakarta
- 1997 FKY Exhibition, Benteng Vredeburg, Yogyakarta
- Philip Morris Indonesian Art Awards Exhibition, Jakarta & Bali
- Sakato, Yogyakarta
- Sculpture Exhibition, Citraland, Jakarta
- FKY Exhibition, Benteng Vredeburg, Yogyakarta
- 1996 Pameran Besar Padang, Yogyakarta & Padang
- Young Artists Exhibition, Benteng Vredeburg, Yogyakarta
- Dialog Dua Kota ISI HQ, Yogyakarta
- 1995 Sakato 1, Purna Budaya, Yogyakarta
- Dies Natalis ISI, Yogyakarta
- 1994 FKY Exhibition, Benteng Vredeburg, Yogyakarta
- PRASIDHA 93, Bentara Budaya, Yogyakarta
- Art Performance, Jakarta

EXHIBITION DATES: 27 MARCH - 19 APRIL 2009

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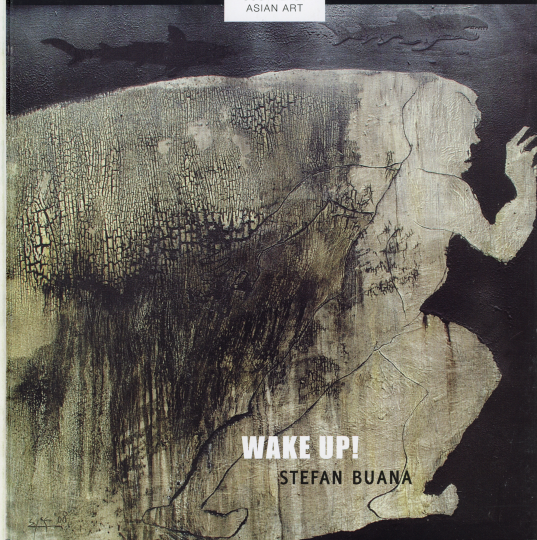
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Gallery opening hours: Tuesday - Saturday: 11am to 7pm.
Sunday: 11am to 3pm. Closed on Mondays and public holidays.

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WAKE UP!
STEFAN BUANA

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stefan buana

by michael vatikiotis

"It's time to wake up", Stefan Buana exclaims. "The world is in a mess and we need to come to our senses to do something about it. Now is the time to act."

Hard as it might be to imagine an artist's contribution to resolving global warming and the financial crisis, this earnest young artist from West Sumatra firmly believes in the power of his imagery. "In a situation like today, you need to be pure and strong," he explains his series of paintings depicting galloping wild horses. When it comes to the faces of almost long forgotten historical leaders like Sultan Hassanuddin and Cajah Mada: "I miss these kinds of heroes from the past," he says. The sorts of heroes we have today simply don't live up to his expectations.

Stefan Buana is one of Yogyakarta's more distinctive and innovative contemporary artists. He deploys a variety of styles and innovative techniques to produce works of such range and diversity you often wonder if more than one artist is at work.

Flipping through a catalogue from a recent exhibition of young Yogy artists, Stefan Buana makes no apologies for his distinctive somber symbolism. Stefan has shunned the brash pop art of his younger artist friends. He finds it extravagantly unreal for the times. For Stefan, inspiration comes from the very real problems of the many friends he has at home in West Sumatra who are less fortunate than him and have fallen on hard times.

The artist recounts the sad story of a couple of his friends from back home in Padang. Their business went bad and they turned to petty crime to make ends meet. Now they are in prison. So the galloping horses are for them, to give them hope.

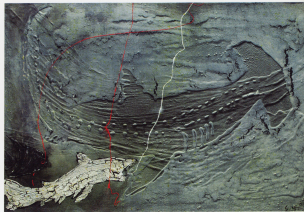
But whilst he brims with confidence for the human spirit, as reflected in the strong line and dynamic spirit of his images, Stefan nevertheless betrays a healthy grip on reality. Indonesia's vibrant new democracy will face an election this year, and to celebrate the new forces of populism he senses around him, he characterizes the politicians fishing for votes in the murky depths of the ocean. Using a creative combination of ink-stained string and sawdust, he conjures up the many faces of voters in a parody of communal unity, their variety presenting at once the impossibility of uniformity. That's democracy for you, he says.



KEPALA KAKI II, 2008, acrylic on canvas, 100 x 100 cm

As well as people, Stefan is always conscious of symbols, drawing for the most part on the animal world for inspiration. The elephant, the horse, the majestic hammerhead shark, all reflect what Stefan describes as "the context of my current existence." Then he takes basic materials like rice, sawdust and string to bring relief to images that he conjures up in dark, shadowy forms with sparse use of colour. Much like the seamy reality he seeks to portray.

Stefan's paintings present Indonesia at a crossroads, straddling modernity and tradition. This is amply reflected in the themes of this exhibition – the nostalgia reflected in paintings like *Rindu Bung Karno*, and *Rindu Sultan Hassanuddin*. Then there is the sharp modern commentary reflected in *Raja Samudra*, *Pikada Rakyat Bantul*, and *Musim Pancing*. This diverse and strident commentary makes Stefan Buana one of the quintessential Indonesian painters of his times.



RAJA SAMUDRA, 2008, acrylic on canvas, 70 x 100 cm



4 TENAGA KUDA, 2008, mix media on canvas, 75 x 120 cm

SOSOK, 2008, acrylic on canvas, 150 x 120 cm



GADIS PANTAI II, 2008, acrylic on canvas, 140 x 115 cm