

DEKAT₂ JAUH

(SO CLOSE YET SO FAR)

Conversation - 1

Artists Insights: Exhibit, Exchange, Co-Create SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHY



ABDUL-RAHMAN ABDULLAH

Abdul-Rahman Abdullah is an Australian artist whose practice explores the different ways that memory can inhabit and emerge from familial spaces. Drawing on the narrative capacity of animal archetypes, crafted objects and the human presence, Abdullah aims to articulate physical dialogues between the natural world, spirituality and the agency of culture. While his own experiences as a Muslim Australian of mixed ethnicity provide the catalyst, his practice negotiates shared understandings of individual identity and new mythologies in a multicultural context. Living and working in rural Western Australia, Abdullah provides a unique perspective across intersecting and disparate communities. Abdul-Rahman Abdullah graduated from Curtin University of Technology with a BFA in 2012. In recent years he has exhibited work at a variety of cultural institutes and art galleries including the Museum of Contemporary Art, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, Art Gallery of South Australia, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Newcastle Art Gallery and Pataka Art + Museum in New Zealand. He is a current board member of the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts.



FEBIE BABYROSE

Febie Babyrose is a member of **Tromarama**, an art collective based between Jakarta and Bandung, founded in 2006 alongside Herbert Hans and Ruddy Hatumena. Engaging with the notion of hyperreality in the digital age, their projects explore the interrelationship between the virtual and the physical world. Their works often combine video, installations, computer programming and public participation depicting the influence of digital media on the society 's perception towards their surroundings. Tromarama has exhibited in major institutions and events in Australia including the *Closing The Gap: Indonesian Art Today*, Melbourne Intercultural Fine Art (2011), Australia; *7th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art*, Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia (2012); *OPEN HOUSE*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia (2015); *Contemporary Worlds: Indonesia*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia (2019). Tromarama is currently exhibiting at the National Gallery of Victoria's Triennial which opened in December 2020.



JUMAADI

Jumaadi is a Sydney-based artist working between Australia and Indonesia. Working across a range of mediums, including painting, drawing, performance and installation, Jumaadi's practice is informed by personal experience as well as the political and aesthetic lineages of his homeland, including wayang kulit, a tradition of shadow-puppet plays that originated in Java and Bali. Jumaadi has exhibited in various major shows in Australia and Asia including *S.E.A. Focus*, Gillman Barracks, Singapore (2019); *Recent acquisitions*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra (2020); *Connected Museum of Contemporary Art*, Sydney Through the window, Art Gallery of New South Wales, online exhibition (2020); and a solo exhibition, *My love is in an island far away*, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney (2019-20). His work is part of important public collections in Australian institutions including Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney. Jumaadi will take part in the 13th Gwangju Biennale, titled "Minds Rising, Spirits Turning," planned to run February through May 2021 in South Korea.



TINTIN WULIA

Tintin Wulia is an Indonesian-Australian artist/researcher who has been examining the complexities of borders in a globalizing world for more than two decades. She has exhibited in major international exhibitions such as Istanbul Biennale (2005), Jakarta Biennale (2009), Moscow Biennale (2011), and Sharjah Biennale (2013) amongst others. Her works are part of significant collections worldwide including at He Xiangning Art Gallery, China, and the Stedelijk Van Abbemuseum, the Netherlands. In 2017 Wulia represented Indonesia at the 57th Venice Biennale with a solo pavilion on atrocity and secrecy. Initially trained as a musician/film composer and architectural engineer in the USA and Indonesia, Wulia works with video, installation, drawing, painting, sound, dance, text, performance and public interventions, often engaging the audience as participants in her works. Her PhD (RMIT University, 2014) on art, critical play, and the geopolitical borders was followed with an Australia Council for the Arts Fellowship 2014-16 where she extended her engagements in diverse public spaces. Her Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship 2018 at the Walter Reed Biosystematics Unit/Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, NMNH(SI), focuses on mosquitoes, liminality, and wartime collection. She was an interdepartmental Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Centre on Global Migration, University of Gothenburg (2018-20), where she is Principal Investigator for the Swedish Research Council funded artistic research project *Protocols of Killings: 1965, distance, and the ethics of future warfare* (2021-23).

MODERATOR'S BIOGRAPHY



BALA STARR

Bala Starr is a curator, writer and cultural producer. She is currently Director of La Trobe Art Institute at La Trobe University. For six years until late 2019 Bala was director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore, steering contemporary art programs that promoted inquiry, experimentation and interrelations between Asian and international art practices. She previously served as Senior Curator at the University of Melbourne's Ian Potter Museum of Art, and held executive positions at the Melbourne International Biennial and two Australian contemporary art spaces. Throughout her career, Bala has advocated for independent artists and curators, intergenerational exchange and overlooked objects and practices. She has organised major solo projects with artists such as Jason Lim, Jesse Jones, Boedi Widjaja, Marco Fusinato, Ana Prvački, Philip Brophy, Gigi Scaria and Vivienne Shark LeWitt. Bala was one of seven curators of the 7th Kuandu Biennale (Taipei) in 2018, presenting performance and video work by Singaporean artist Zou Zhao. She regularly develops curatorial workshops and forums and contributes to public programs, symposiums and advisory panels.