

3-in-1

The solo exhibition 3-in-1 is Jakarta-born and Bandung-based artist Wiyoga Muhardanto's second collaboration with ROH Projects (What if? at the Discovery Section of ABHK '16) and his third collaboration with the Bandung-based curator Roy Voragen (What if? and Dangling Durians at Equator, Yogya, '15). This current show is the fourth installment of the artist's engagement with the absurdities of contemporary urban life (the first was the self-curated project Ada Perlu Sebentar, PLATFORM3, Bandung, '14).

Wiyoga Muhardanto's show 3-in-1 deals with social, spatial and temporal (im-)mobility and the anxieties that it requires in an effort to move around a city: to move up the social ladder, to move within the city, etc. A megalopolis like Jakarta is gridlocked because of our addiction to the automobile. We try to create shortcuts but there is no way out. Shortcuts tend to end up into detours of epic proportions. The narrowing one-way streets are closing in on us the further we try to go towards our desired ideas of progress and the more we attempt to further our insatiable need for speed. Even our dreams are congested.

Wiyoga Muhardanto's solo exhibition at ROH Projects deals with the multifaceted issues playing out within the urban mundane as a contemporary tragic comedy – but are there any heroes? are there any unsung heroes? is there an Apollonian choir singing some sense in us? and what about the Dionysian impulses? Our desires are infused with hieroglyph-like social codes of class and prestige as well as narcissism.

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Wiyoga Muhardanto transformed the space of ROH Projects considerably by adding an elaborate structure – but not in a criticism of the so-called white cube exhibition space – to highlight the spatial context of his work, to guarantee site-specificity vis-à-vis our bodies, to confuse us, to throw us off balance and to illicit uncomfortable questions. And he does so, as always, in a witty way and without a dogmatic expectation that easy answers are feasible or even desirable.

Wiyoga Muhardanto's work raises questions concerning everyday urban living – in which the alien Other and the random are always proximate – by replicating, combining (parts of) and recontextualizing everyday objects within a re-shaped space. The artist conceptualizes and problematizes the quotidian in which our embodied desires attempt to find an unruly home.

Wiyoga Muhardanto only shows bits and pieces or combines unlikely fragments in his works to subtly play with everyday contradictions that are inherently part of our embodied desires, expectations, needs hopes and dreams we would like to identify ourselves with. And he does so without offering a possible easy 'reading' of his works to avoid a moralizing tone of a know-it-all. Like our cities, the interpretations of Wiyoga Muhardanto's works could be regarded as open-ended (and revisable).

The title of, 3-in-1, refers to the unintended and unwanted consequences of both implementing (jockeys, bribery) as well as revoking (worsening of traffic jams) the policy to only allow a minimum of three passengers per automobile at main thoroughfares in Jakarta during peak hours.

Roy Voragen







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nothing ever happens

200 x 85 x 15 cm and 200 x 50 x 45 cm

2017. Plywood, Pigmented Resin, Enamel Paint, Auto-paint and Iron Structure









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what if?

