

## APOTHEOSE

A Solo Exhibition by Albert Yonathan Setyawan

10 April – 17 May 2015

One of the strong characteristic of Albert Yonathan's works is the geometrically or symmetrically well organized ceramic objects, which is repetitive in its own configuration because the all the parts came from the same object. Each part usually represents animal, plant, human or some architectural shapes that resemble a shrine or religious buildings. All of the objects were made in a simplified manner and relatively small in size. To configure all the ceramic objects he has created, Albert uses a very simple geometric pattern or shapes such as triangle, circle, square, hexagon or a diamond shape. Because of the strong repetitive and geometrical arrangements, Albert's works somehow creates a deep religious or spiritual that is not resemble any particular religious practice but instead deals with cosmological ideas of human interconnection with nature and the universe.

In recent years Albert has created some installations that derived from a 'mandala' and 'labyrinth' structures. The pattern consisted of repetitive objects that closely resemble a stupa or a temple. Some of the installations were installed during the opening of the exhibition as a performance pieces. Both of Albert's ceramics and drawings are like a visual mantra, showing shapes and images from nature, all brought into his neatly arranged configuration as symbols. His artistic process can be seen as a process of divination or deification, meaning to separate something from the ordinary environment and worship it sacred. It is one way among many others to find spiritual awareness in the interconnection between human, nature, and the universe. The word 'apotheose' or 'apotheosis' is synonym to the word divination, which means to exalt or to glorify something, to transform something ordinary into something considered divine. Albert's works are about finding spiritual awareness outside the boundaries of institutional religion.

The exhibition will be showing two of his new mandala installations and some other works including drawings and prints. He also invited one of his friends Tunyaporn Hongtong, a writer who lives and works in Bangkok, Thailand to write a short essay as a response to the main idea of the exhibition. The essay that will be presented later in the catalogue is not a curatorial writings but instead a form of free creative writing as a way to view the concept that Albert has been drawn into in his works in a different form.

### About The artist

*Albert Yonathan Setyawan* graduated from Bandung Institute of Technology, majoring in ceramic art in 2007 and finished his master degree in 2012 at the same university. Since end of 2012 he moved to Kyoto, Japan to continue his study in contemporary ceramic art at Kyoto Seika University and now finishing his master degree in ceramics craft department and will proceed to doctoral course in next year. He had participated in several important group exhibitions in Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Italy and Japan, including the 55<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale as one of the artists representing Indonesian Pavilion. His last solo exhibition was at Mizuma Art Gallery Tokyo, entitled Enshrined.

### About Mizuma Gallery

Mizuma Gallery was established in Singapore's new art cluster Gillman Barracks in Spetember 2012 by director Sueo Mizuma. The gallery was established in 1994 in Tokyo, and since its opening in Singapore aims for the promotion of Japanese artists in the region as well as introducing new and promising young talents from South East Asia to the International art secene. The gallery is creating a new vector of dialogue within Asia, by exchanging art projects in between Far East and South

East Asia. It has featured the work of Japanese artists including Aida Makoto, Yoshitaka Amano, Tenmyouya Hisashi, and Yamaguchi Akira. It has showcased the work of renown East Asian artists such as Jun Nguyen Hatsushiba, Ai Weiwei, He Yunchang, Li Mingzhu, Xia Xing and Zhao Zhao. The Gallery also organises exhibitions showing the creations of Indonesia's forerunner artists including Heri Dono, Nasirun, Made Wianta, Indieguerillas, Albert Yonathan Setyawan and Angki Purbandono. Mizuma Gallery also participates yearly in Art Stage Singapore, and Art Basel Hongkong.

#### Contacts

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