

FROM KOYASAN TO BOROBUDUR

NASIRUN & TANADA KOJI



FROM KOYASAN TO BOROBUDUR
NASIRUN & TANADA KOJI

16 JANUARY - 28 FEBRUARY 2016

DIALOGUE BETWEEN TWO CULTURES

NASIRUN AND TANADA KOJI

This exhibition is a dialogue between Nasirun's Javanese visual language of wayang and Tanada Koji's *ichiboku-zukuri*, the ancient traditional Japanese wood carving technique where sculptures are made by using single blocks of wood. More over, the dialogue is mainly about their cultural points of view regarding the human existence.

In his artworks, Tanada Koji often depicts the figures of adolescent boys and girls. He is fascinated by the quality of being not yet an adult, but no longer a child. There is a sense of incompleteness in this stage, yet as an existence, there is a pure kind of beauty in it. Their appearances seem intermediary; they lie between man and God, nature and humanity, individual and society, and they symbolize the transcendence of all boundary lines. There is a powerful existence in the midst of flux: a fleeting, flickering moment within perpetual transformations of the process of growing up.

In this dialogue, through a series of paintings entitled '*Ibu Pertiwi*' (Mother *Prithvi* or Mother Earth), Nasirun talks about his profound feeling towards mother. *Ibu Pertiwi* is Indonesia's national personification. Since prehistoric time, tribes

in Indonesia often revere earth and natural spirits as the life-giving mother. After the adoption of Hinduism, this mother figure was identified as *Prithvi*, the Hindu goddess of earth. Mother figure depicted in the series of paintings of *Ibu Pertiwi* is an analogy of Indonesia: a country and a mother for its people.

Collaborative works between Tanada Koji and Nasirun entitled 'sun and moon' presented in this exhibition encapsulate the dialogue between two artists from different cultural backgrounds.

This exhibition also highlights the exchange of inspirations between Indonesia and Japan. During a three-month artist residency programme in Bandung, Tanada Koji was touched by the nature of Java; the river, the rain even the wind of Java gave him so much inspiration. A short trip to Magelang and Yogyakarta led him to feel the majestic sunrise at Borobudur and the sunset at Prambanan. This experience brought a great deal of inspiration for Tanada Koji, as we can see in the use of *batik* textile that reflect the nature and culture of Indonesia.

During a short trip to Japan in October 2014 for his solo exhibition

at Mizuma Gallery in Tokyo, Nasirun had a one-night stay in the spiritual city of Koyasan, the birthplace of Shingon Buddhism. This short stay in Koyasan left him with a very profound impression. Nasirun's painting '*Abstraksi Aura Alam*' (Abstraction of Nature's Aura) presented in this exhibition was inspired by the Japanese garden in the Kongobuji Temple where the archbishop of Koyasan Shingon-shu, Matsunaga Yukei, greeted Nasirun.

To me the artworks presented in this exhibition are beyond words that I can think of, or knowledge that I can share. These artworks are about deep and profound feelings. To get the true meaning, we should all see them with our own hearts.

Hermanto Soerjanto



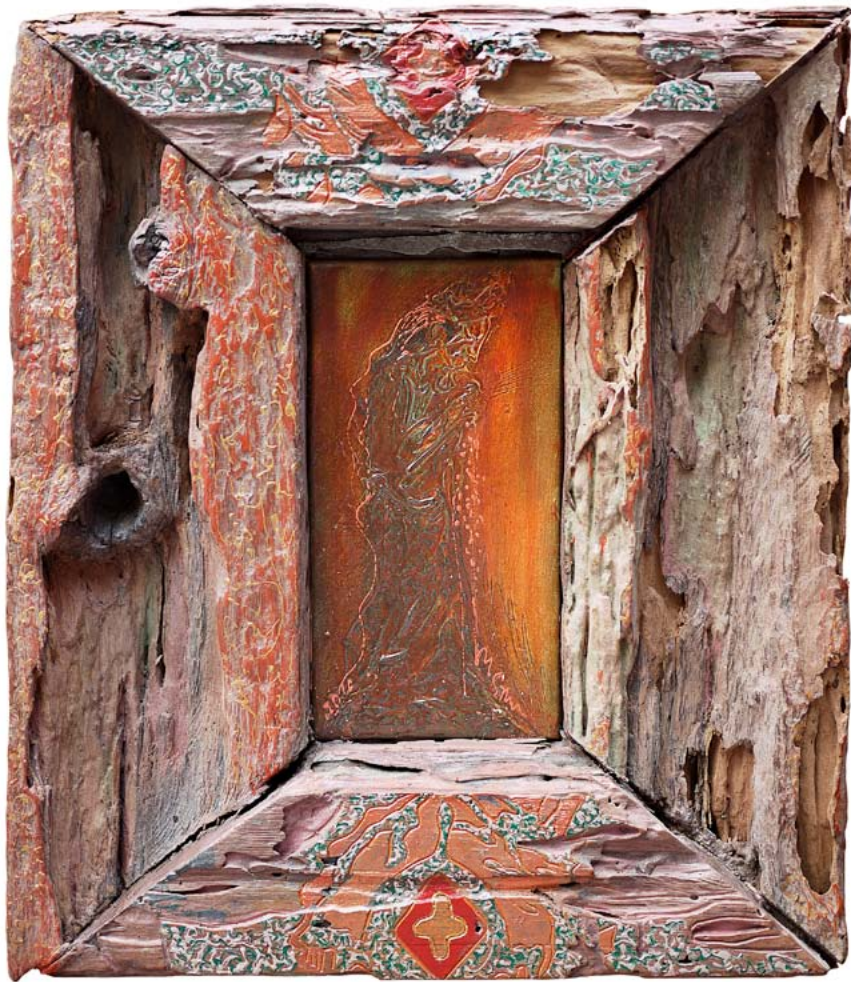
NASIRUN | *Abstraction of Nature's Aura*, 2014,
mixed media on canvas, 300 x 500 cm



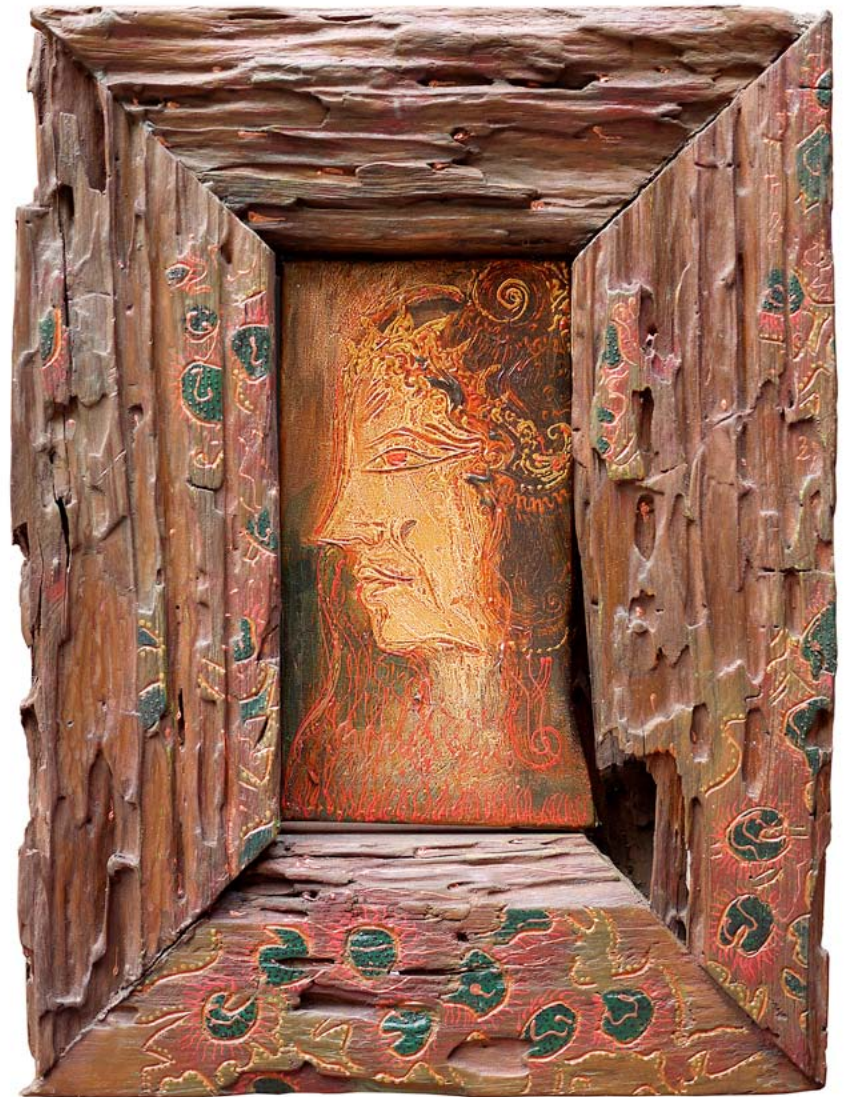
NASIRUN | *Ibu Pertiwi (Motherland) #1*, 2015,
oil on canvas, wooden frame, 68 x 68 cm

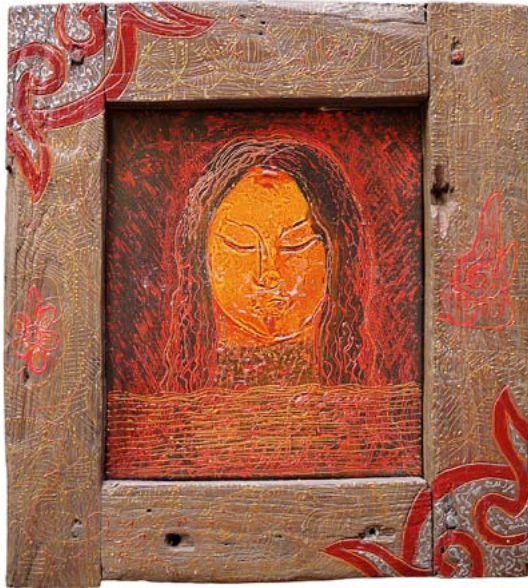


NASIRUN | *Ibu Pertiwi (Motherland) #2*, 2015,
oil on canvas, wooden frame, 68 x 68 cm



NASIRUN | *Ibu Pertiwi (Motherland) #3 - #11*, 2015,
oil on canvas, wooden frame, dimensions variable







NASIRUN | *Kuda (The Horse)*, 2015,
oil on wood, 88 x 120 x 32 cm



NASIRUN | *Gajah (The Elephant)*, 2015,
oil on wood, 57 x 65 x 29 cm

NASIRUN & TANADA KOJI

Torso - Sun & Moon,
2015,
oil and acrylic paint on
paper mache,
90 x 33 x 32 cm each





TANADA KOJI

Blossoming Girl
Standing on Eight
Sided Forms, 2015,
paint on wood
(camphor tree),
plinth : rose wood,
146.5 x 45 x 45 cm

TANADA KOJI

Almanac Torso -
March, 2015,
paint on wood
(camphor tree),
buttons,
147 x 33 x 32 cm





TANADA KOJI

*Almanac Torso -
February, 2015,
paint on wood
(camphor tree),
buttons,
147 x 33 x 32 cm*

TANADA KOJI

Cloaked Boy, 2015, paint on
wood (camphor tree), single
woodblock construction,
batik megamendung,
139 x 71 x 44 cm





TANADA KOJI

Torso of anxious boy #1,

2016, paint on wood (mango tree), silver leaf, 48 x 26 x 17.5 cm

Girl from the mountain appears in the valley ,

2016, paint on wood (mango tree), silver leaf, 40 x 25 x 23 cm

Boy of knowledge P.A. #3,

2016, paint on wood (mango tree), silver leaf, 40 x 23 x 21.5 cm

Girl-like Bandung guardian deity of children #4,

2016, paint on wood (mahogany), 33.5 x 21 x 20 cm

Image of KIA #5,

2016, paint on wood (mahogany), 35 x 24.5 x 18 cm

Raincoat boy #6

2016, paint on wood (mahogany), silver leaf, 326 x 20.5 x 15.5 cm

Pants torso - bifurcated temptation #7,

2016, paint on wood (mahogany), 28 x 28.5 x 14 cm

The tree who become a boy #8,

2016, paint on wood (mahogany), silver leaf, 26.5 x 26.5 x 16 cm

Elder sister of girl from the mountain #9,

2016, paint on wood (mango tree), silver leaf, 44.5 x 31 x 21 cm

Gymnastic Boy #10,

2016, paint on wood (mango tree), silver leaf, 49 x 39 x 25.5 cm

Torso of Kerudung and SINDY #11,

2016, paint on wood (tamarind), 71.5 x 26 x 17.5 cm

Torso of of ANIS's body #12,

2016, paint on wood (champak), 61 x 20 x 16 cm







FROM KOYASAN TO BOROBUDUR
NASIRUN AND TANADA KOJI

16 January - 28 February 2016

Mizuma Gallery Pte. Ltd
22 Lock Road #01-34
Gillman Barracks
Singapore 108939

T : +65 6570 2505
F : +65 6570 2506

www.mizuma.sg
info@mizuma.sg

Executive Director : Sueo Mizuma
Curation : Sueo Mizuma, Hermanto Soerjanto
Co-operation : Maharani Mancanagara
Proofreader : Theresia Irma
Design : Fredy Chandra
Printer : Print Ideas

Gallery Project Manager : Fredy Chandra
Gallery Manager : Theresia Irma
Gallery Liaison : Jane Koh

Paperback ISBN : 978-981-09-8295-9
E- Book ISBN : 978-981-09-8296-6

First Published in Singapore, 2016,
in a print run of 500.

Text © Mizuma Gallery and Curator.

Images © Nasirun and Tanada Koji,
Courtesy of Mizuma Gallery and the artist.

© 2016 Mizuma Gallery, writers and
artists. All rights reserved under International
copyright conventions. No part of this catalogue
may be reproduced or transmitted in any form
or by any means, electronic or mechanical,
including photocopy, recording or any other
information storage and retrieval system
without prior permission from the publisher.

GILLMAN BARRACKS

Mizuma Gallery is a part of Gillman Barracks (GB) is Asia's up-and-coming destination for contemporary art. It is distinguished as a vibrant centre in Asia for the creation, exhibition and discussion of contemporary art. Named after the late British General Sir Webb Gillman, GB is now home to 11 international art galleries, three restaurants, as well as the NTU Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) Singapore. For more information, please visit www.gillmanbarracks.com

MIZUMA GALLERY

Mizuma Gallery was established in Singapore's new art cluster Gillman Barracks in September 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 the introduction of new and promising young talents from South East Asia to the international art scene. The gallery creates a new vector of dialogue within Asia, by exchanging art projects between East Asia and South East Asia.

Mizuma Gallery has featured the works of Japanese artists including Aida Makoto, Amano Yoshitaka, Tenmyouya Hisashi, and Yamaguchi Akira. Moreover, it has showcased the work of renowned East Asian artists such as Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba, Ai Weiwei, He Yunchang, Li Mingzhu, Xia Xing, and Zhao Zhao. The gallery also organises exhibitions featuring 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 Hong Kong.

