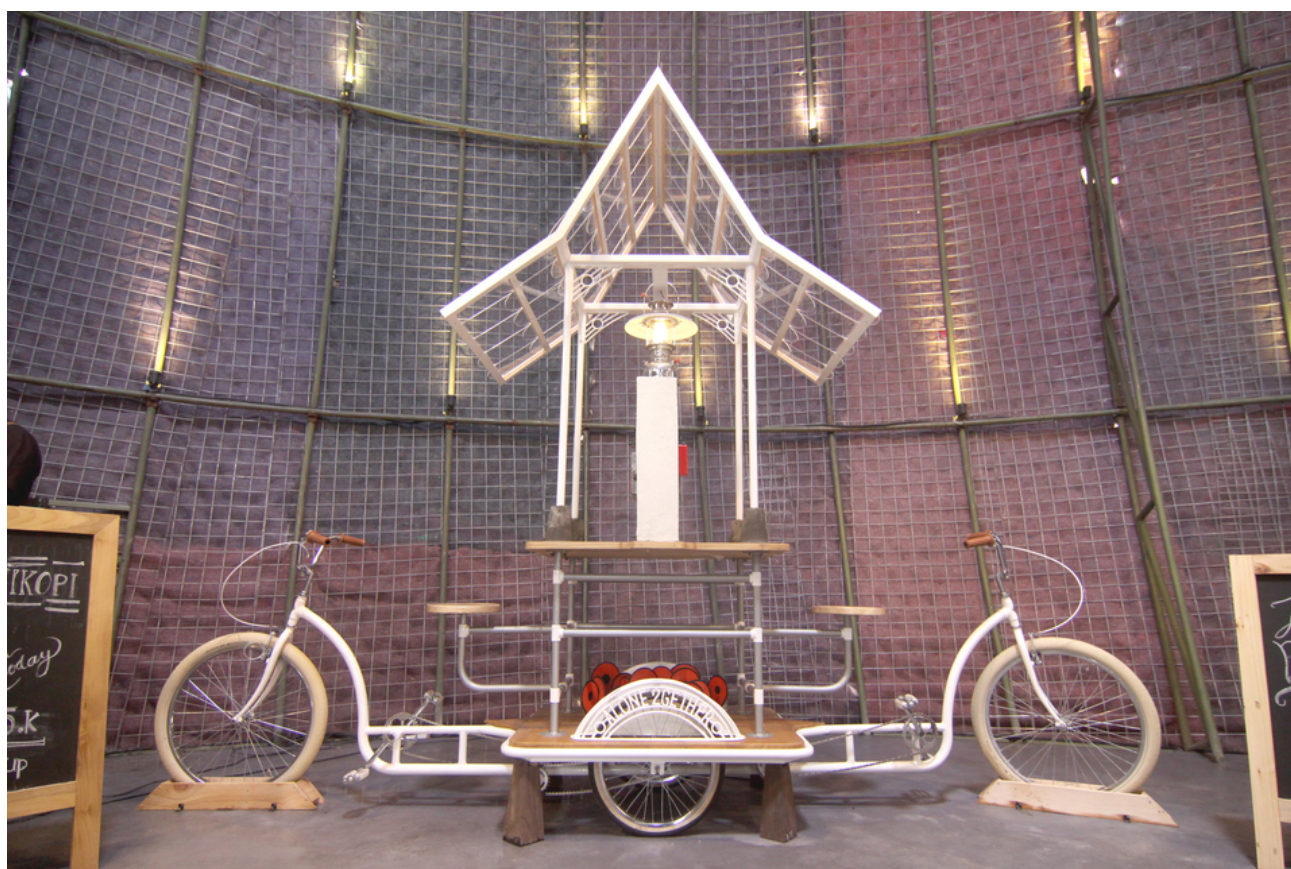


Home › Lifestyle

# Indonesians Vie for Prestigious Emerging Artist Award

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'Taman Budaya: Face Off Face Dinner' by indieguerillas, the husband-and-wife duo of Dyatmiko Lancur Bawono and Santi Ariestyowanti. (Photo courtesy of Prudential Eye Awards)

**Jakarta.** Two sets of promising Indonesian artists are in contention for the same prize at the prestigious Prudential Eye Awards in Singapore that opens on Saturday.

Aditya Novali from Solo, Central Java, has been nominated for the award for “Best Emerging Artist Using Installation,” for his works including “Conversation Unknown” – a series of 3,500 ink drawings of Indonesians and others who have influenced the Indonesian contemporary art scene.

Also up for the same award is indieguerillas, the husband-and-wife duo of Dyatmiko Lancur Bawono and Santi Ariestyowanti. Their installation artwork, “Taman Budaya: Face Off Face Dinner,” challenges the Javanese concept of mealtimes as communal time by examining how people respond to the advent of a digital screen – not unlike the intrusion of mobile phones into daily human interactions.

Aditya and indieguerillas arrive at the 2016 Prudential Eye Awards, which showcases emerging artists and their works from across Asia, from different backgrounds.

Aditya’s architecture studies at Bandung’s Parahyangan University are a clear influence in his work, which is more structural and formalistic. He also studied conceptual design at the Design Academy Eindhoven, in the Netherlands, and has more recently focused on concepts revolving around the ideas of boundaries, identity and nation.

Indieguerillas, meanwhile, come from a background in design – Dyatmiko studied interior design and Santi studied visual communication, both at the Indonesia Institute of Arts in Yogyakarta.

The duo began indieguerillas as a graphic design firm, with a philosophy of being “constantly in guerrilla [mode] to find new possibilities.” Their graphic design background continues to influence their exploration of unconventional media and techniques.

A recurring motif in indieguerillas’ artworks is the Punakawan, or jester, character from the Javanese wayang tradition. Their works feature hip-hop iterations of Punakawan decked out in brand-name items, in a reflection of what they call Indonesians’ cultural inferiority complex – a malady that indieguerillas admit to suffering from as well, in which they claim to be proud and happy to be colonized by global consumerism and be disconnected from their own roots of culture and tradition.

Aditya and indieguerillas are up against Taiwan’s Huang Po-Chih for the prize for best installation artist at the Prudential Eye Awards. Other categories at the event honor emerging artists in photography, sculpture, painting, and digital/video.

Special awards will also be given out for Best Asian Contemporary Art Institution, Best Exhibition of Asian Contemporary Art – both through public voting on the Prudential Eye Awards website – as well as Lifetime Achievement Award for Asian Contemporary Art, and the Award for Visual and Popular Culture.

“There is no doubt that the selection of artists demonstrates both quality and variety,” says Niru Ratnam, director of the Prudential Eye Awards. “I’m particularly impressed by this year’s shortlists as I truly believe they represent a new generation of artists emerging across Asia and am intrigued to see the exhibition of the shortlisted artists’ works at ArtScience Museum.”

“The quality of submissions for the 2016 awards was impressive, and is representative of the dynamism of contemporary art practice in Asia,” says Honor Harger, executive director of the ArtScience Museum. “We are pleased to provide a world stage for some of the region’s most striking emerging artists [...].”

The awards and exhibition, which runs until March 27 at Singapore’s ArtScience Museum, are now in their third year and part of this year’s Singapore Art Week.

The total prize money amounts to \$150,000, of which \$20,000 as well as a specially commissioned trophy will be awarded to the winner of each category. An overall winner will be chosen from the winners of the five categories and awarded the prize of "Best Emerging Artist," winning a further \$30,000 and a solo exhibition at START at the Saatchi Gallery in London.