

15 Aug –
20 Sep 2026

Tracing Shadow

Solo exhibition by
Budi Agung Kuswara





Artist Statement

My artistic practice explores how colonial histories continue to shape cultural memory, identity, and our relationship with the natural world. I approach history as a living presence that continues to unfold through bodies, landscapes, inherited knowledge, and the ways we remember. Through painting, cyanotype, drawing, I create spaces where archival traces, living cultural memory and contemporary experience enter into dialogue, allowing new relationships to emerge across time.

At the centre of my practice is the understanding that colonialism fragmented relationships between communities and their ancestors, between people and their environment, and between local knowledge systems and the narratives produced through colonial power. My work seeks to reweave these relationships by bringing memory, material, and lived experience into conversation.

This inquiry has evolved through bodies of work such as *Anonymous Ancestors*, where colonial archival photographs are transformed from ethnographic records into spaces of presence and dignity, and *Tracing Shadow*, where archives, landscape, ritual, and sunlight converge to activate memory as a living material. These works understand the archive not as a closed document of the past, but as a living site where history continues to be negotiated.

These investigations have gradually developed into my artistic framework, **Solar Synthetic Reality (SSR)**.

SSR begins with a perspective rooted in Balinese cosmology, where *Surya* (the Sun) is understood as the primary life giving force that sustains relationships between humans, ancestors, nature, and the spiritual world. *Surya* is not simply a celestial body or a symbol of illumination. It is the force through which life, transformation, and continuity become possible. Time is experienced not as a

linear progression, but as an ongoing cycle in which the past remains present through ritual, memory, and lived experience.

From this perspective, reality is never fixed. It is continually assembled through relationships between people, material, memory, knowledge, and power. Colonialism assembled its own realities through maps, archives, photographs, classifications, institutions, and official histories. Contemporary society continues to assemble realities through digital images, algorithmic systems, networked technologies, and new forms of representation. These realities profoundly shape how we understand ourselves, how histories are remembered or forgotten, and how power continues to circulate across generations.

Within SSR, sunlight becomes an active collaborator in this process. It is a material force that connects temporalities, carrying traces of both past and present. The same sun

that illuminated colonial encounters continues to illuminate the world today. By exposing archival images to contemporary sunlight through cyanotype, the act of image making becomes a material encounter across time. Sunlight does not merely record an image, it transforms the archive into a living event where memory, matter, and history meet. In this way, light participates in generating new possibilities for understanding colonial history not as a fixed narrative, but as an evolving network of relationships that can continually be revisited, reinterpreted, and renewed.

For me, contemporary art is the practice of weaving time itself. Through collaboration with *Surya* the life giving force within Balinese cosmology and the same sunlight that has witnessed generations of human history, I create encounters where past and present coexist, opening new possibilities for understanding history, memory, and our shared realities.

–Budi Agung Kuswara, August 2026

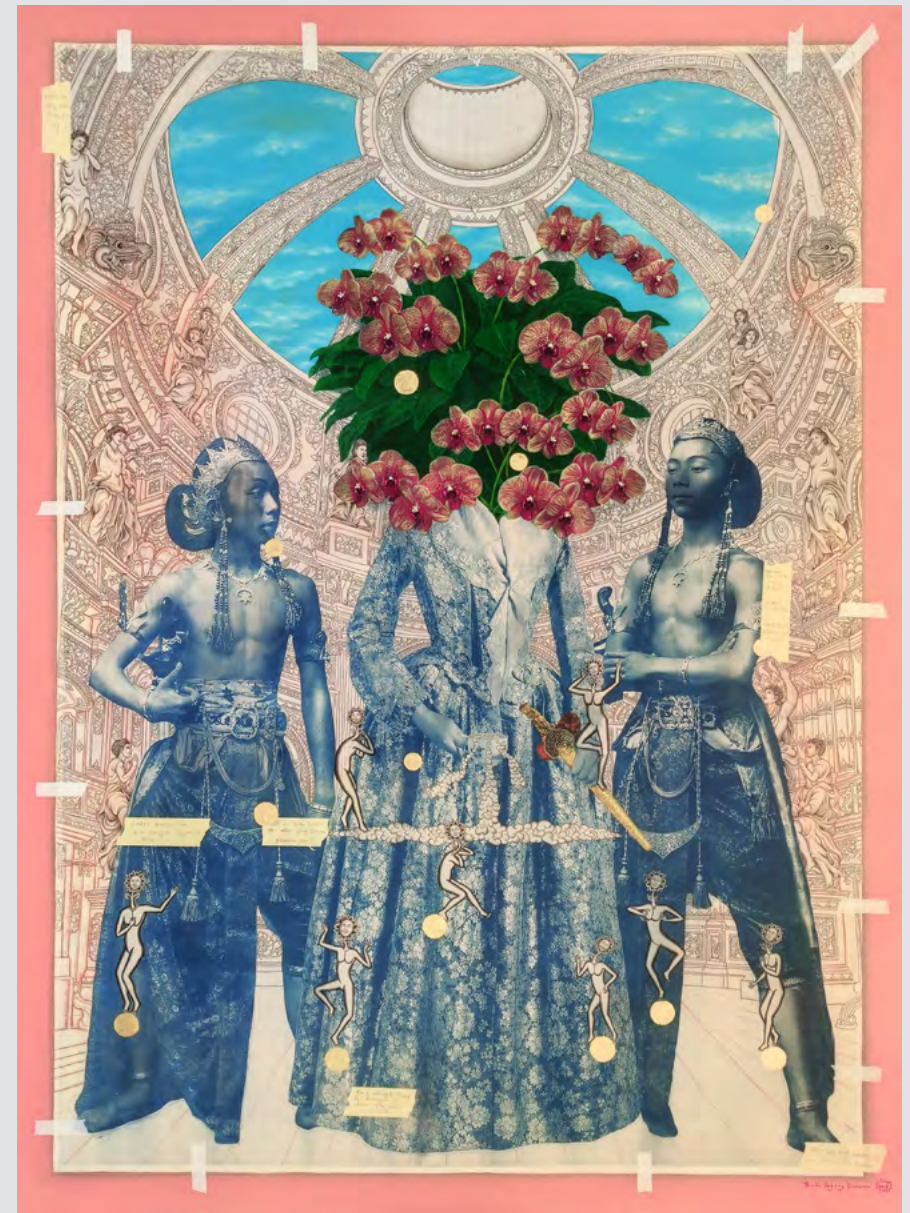


Anonymous Deities from the East (Anonymous Ancestors series), 2024

cyanotype, acrylic, ink, gold leaf 24k on canvas
200 × 145 × 4.5 cm







Dialogue (Tracing Shadow series), 2026

cyanotype, acrylic, ink, gold leaf 22k on canvas
200 × 145 × 4.5 cm



Fusion Dialogue #3, the images file under the sun, 2023

cyanotype, acrylic, ink, gold leaf 24k on kamasan canvas
145 × 200 × 4.5 cm





Stage of Poses (Tracing Shadow series), 2026

cyanotype, acrylic, ink, gold leaf 22k on canvas
140 × 130 × 4.5 cm





Rehearsing #1 (Tracing Shadow series), 2026

cyanotype, acrylic, ink, gold leaf 22k on canvas
250 × 145 × 4.5 cm



Kalian mengundangku
menjadi hiburan?
Sekarang aku mau
mengambil panggungnya.

"Kalian mengundangku menjadi hiburan? Sekarang aku mau mengambil panggungnya."
(You invite me to entertain? Now I'm taking over this stage.)



Anonymous Deities from the East #3 (Balinese Baroque series), 2026

cyanotype, acrylic, ink, gold leaf 22k on paper
99 × 78 cm





Empowerment over Hierarchy (Residual Memory series), 2022

cyanotype, acrylic, ink, gold leaf 24k on cotton paper
151 × 300 cm (triptych, 151 × 100 cm each)





Construction to Flourish, 2020

cyanotype, acrylic, ink on kamasan canvas
200 × 145 × 4.5 cm







Exotica (Tracing Shadow series), 2026

cyanotype, acrylic, ink, gold leaf 22k on canvas
140 × 130 × 4.5 cm



Generasi Indonesia Emas #2 (Tiba Anak Cucu series), 2024

cyanotype, acrylic, ink, gold leaf 24k on canvas
200 × 145 × 4.5 cm



The Return from Anonymous Ancestors (Tiba Anak Cucu series), 2025

cyanotype, acrylic, ink, gold leaf 24k on canvas
200 × 145 × 4.5 cm





Artist Bio



Budi Agung Kuswara (b. 1982, Bali, Indonesia) graduated with a Bachelor in Fine Arts from the Indonesia Institute of Arts (ISI), Yogyakarta, Indonesia in 2009. Trained in *kamasan* painting, Budi retains the intricacy and delicate linework of this traditional art form in his contemporary works. His artistic practice is rooted in a decolonial spirit, exploring how bodies, memories, and archives can reveal alternative histories and possibilities of healing. Working primarily with painting, cyanotype, and socially engaged art, Budi connects sunlight, time, and community as living elements within his process. In recent years, his inquiry has evolved into an approach he calls Solar Synthetic Reality (SSR), examining how contemporary images shaped by digital systems can be brought back into dialogue with sunlight as an index. His works are part of the collection of Singapore Art Museum, Singapore; National University (NUS) Museum, Singapore; Ur-Mu Museum, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Museum Azman, Shah Alam, Malaysia; and Tumurun Private Museum, Solo, Indonesia. Budi Agung Kuswara lives and works in Bali, Indonesia, where he founded Ketemu Project and co-founded Rumah Berdaya Denpasar.

Artist CV

Education

2009 Bachelor in Fine Art, Indonesia Institute of the Arts, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Solo Exhibitions

- 2026 *Tracing Shadow*, Mizuma Gallery, Singapore
- 2024 *Tiba Anak Cucu*, The Back Room, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2023 *Repose: Under the Sun*, Kiniko Art Room, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2021 *Residual Memory*, Mizuma Gallery, Singapore
- 2018 *Anonymous Ancestors*, Ubud Readers & Writer's Festival, Bali, Indonesia
Arus Berlabuh Kita, Asian Civilization Museum, Singapore (in collaboration with Samantha Tio)
- 2015 *After Paradise*, Paradiso, Bali, Indonesia
- 2013 *Jump!*, Theatre Street Cones, The Esplanade, Singapore
Kebon Indah, Baba House, National University (NUS) Museum, Singapore (in collaboration with Samantha Tio)
Weaving Dreams in the Wind, Community Wall, The Esplanade, Singapore (in collaboration with Samantha Tio)
- 2012 *Floating Desires*, TAKSU Gallery, Singapore
The 12th Winds of Artist in Residence, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan
The Wax on Our Fingers, Indonesian Contemporary Arts Network, Yogyakarta, Indonesia (in collaboration with Samantha Tio)
- 2008 *i.self*, Komaneka Fine Art Gallery, Bali, Indonesia

Group Exhibitions

- 2026 Pan Pacific Triennale, Taitung Art Museum, Taiwan
Faces & Figures, Mizuma Gallery, Singapore
- 2025 *Gothic Modern: Nusantara #1*, TAKSU Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Beyond Unsettled Pasts, Erasmus Huis, Jakarta
Connecting, Mizuma Gallery, Singapore
ARUNG, Can's Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2024 ARTSUBS 2024 - WAYS OF DREAMING, Pos Bloc Surabaya, Surabaya, Indonesia
Reconstructing Erotica via Post-tradition, Titik Dua Ubud, Bali, Indonesia
Doxa & Episteme – In Search of the Real Deal, Mizuma Gallery, Singapore
- 2023 MAMALUNGSA, Cemeti - Institute for Art and Society, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
wARTa #3, Jogja Gallery, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Light to Night Festival 'Residual Memory of The Walls', Budi Agung Kuswara x Studio Batu, National Gallery Singapore (Gallery Façade), Singapore
- 2022 *Good News from Bali*, Mizuma Gallery, Singapore
PANEL Blue, Galerie Dumonteil, Paris, France
ARTJOG MMXXII: Arts in Common - Expanding Awareness, Jogja National Museum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Group Exhibitions

- 2021 *Facing the Sun*, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, Schloss Görne, Kleßen-Görne, Germany
Tonight the Air is Warm, Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2021 *Baroque Archipelago*, Mizuma Gallery, Singapore
- 2020 *Rooted in Bali*, Mizuma Gallery, Singapore
- 2019 *ART•BALI 2019: Speculative Memories*, AB•BC Building, Bali Collection, ITDC Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia
- 2018 *ART•BALI 2018: Celebration of the Future*, AB•BC Building, Bali Collection, ITDC Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia
- 2017 *Crossing: Beyond Baliseering*, fortyfivedownstairs theatre, Melbourne, Australia
- 2016 *Love Me in My Batik*, ILHAM Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Water and Land: International Showcases on Environmental Arts, Taipei, Taiwan
Guandu International Nature Art Festival, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2015 *ECONOMY*, Latent Spaces, Art Stage Singapore, Singapore
Genetik, ARMA Museum, Bali, Indonesia
Oktopost, The Esplanade, Singapore
Conversations Beneath the Skies, Biblioteca de Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2013 *I Imagine*, Jendela, The Esplanade, Singapore
Water, TAKSU Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
TEASE!, TAKSU Gallery, W Hotel Bali, Bali, Indonesia
- 2012 *Nasi Campur*, TAKSU Gallery, Singapore
- 2011 *Peripheries*, Asia Triennial Manchester, United Kingdom
Drawing Conversations, Siena Art Institute, Siena, Italy
Jogja Art Fair 2011, Taman Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Foreign Exchange, Diego Rivera Gallery, San Francisco Art Institute, California, United States
Halo Halo 5, Manila Contemporary, Manila, Philippines
Bali, Making Choices, Indonesian National Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2010 *SDI Now*, Toni Raka Gallery, Bali, Indonesia
ExpoSign, Jogja Expo Centre, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Jogja Gumerkah! Jogja Bangkit!, Jogja National Museum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2009 *3 Young Contemporaries*, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Seeing You, Seeing Me, Contemporary Portraiture, Manila Contemporary, Manila, Philippines
- 2008 *Reinventing Bali*, Sangkring Art Space, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Hybridity, Bali Art Now, Jogja Gallery, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
The Last Supper, Bentara Budaya, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2007 *KALIYUGA*, Gallery TEMBI, Jakarta, Indonesia
Global Warming –Local Warming I Bumi, Garuda Wisnu Kencana, Bali, Indonesia
NEO-NATION, Jogja Biennale IX, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2006 *Rotten Head*, The Art Center, Bali, Indonesia
- 2005 *Indonesian Art Festival*, Sekolah Tinggi Seni Indonesia, Bandung, Indonesia
Obesity (A performance art piece), Bali Museum, Bali, Indonesia
- 2004 *Having Fun*, Langgeng Gallery, Magelang, Indonesia
- 2003 *Open Air*, Borobudur International Festival, Magelang, Indonesia
Termogram, Neka Art Museum, Bali, Indonesia

Collections

Museum Azman, Shah Alam, Malaysia
Ur-Mu Museum, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
National University (NUS) Museum, Singapore
Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
Tumurun Private Museum, Solo, Indonesia

Residencies

- 2016 GREEN ART: Water Ecology Project, Bamboo Curtain Studio, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2012 Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Residence Program, Fukuoka, Japan
TAKSU Kuala Lumpur, Artist Residency Program, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Commissions

- 2024 Indigo resort, Bintan
- 2022 Padma Resort Semarang
- 2019 Busan Sea Art Festival, Busan, South Korea
- 2018 RI-SING 50, Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth (MCCY) and Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
- 2015 Our Lake of Imagination, Torch Up Program, 28th SEA Games in Singapore, Singapore
Conversations Beneath the Skies, Ciudadela (Biblioteca De Mexico), Mexico City, Mexico
- 2014 Art Forum, Connexion by Farrer Park, The Farrer Park Company, Singapore

Conferences

- 2019 Southeast Asian Arts Residencies Meeting, Taitung, Taiwan
Voice of Asia, MOCA, Busan, South Korea
- 2017 Creative Climate Leadership Program, Koper, Slovenia
- 2016 17th Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists Scientific Meeting, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Mizuma Gallery

Mizuma Gallery is a contemporary art gallery in Gillman Barracks, Singapore, established in 2012 as an extension of Mizuma Art Gallery, founded by Sueo Mizuma in Tokyo in 1994. The gallery focuses on strengthening artistic exchange between East and Southeast Asia, promoting East Asian artists in the region, and introducing Southeast Asian artists to international audiences. Its programme spans established and emerging artists, with a strong emphasis on contemporary practices from Japan, China, Indonesia, Singapore, and the wider region.

Gillman Barracks

Set in a former military barracks dating back to 1936 and surrounded by lush tropical greenery, the Gillman Barracks visual arts cluster was launched in September 2012. Gillman Barracks' vision is to be Asia's destination for the presentation and discussion of international and Southeast Asian art. Today, Gillman Barracks is a place for art lovers, art collectors, and those curious about art. The cluster is a focal point of Singapore's arts landscape, and anchors the development of visual art in the region and beyond.

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Mizuma Sueo

General Manager
Theresia Irma

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