

ROH

PRESS RELEASE

5 JANUARY 2023

**ROH announces its participation at S.E.A. Focus 2023**

ROH is pleased to share its participation at S.E.A. Focus 2023: *a world, anew*, exhibiting a solo presentation of Yogyakarta-based artist, Agung Kurniawan, *The God of Small Things*.

Agung Kurniawan (b. 1968, Jember, Indonesia) is a multidisciplinary artist working with drawings, installations, performances, theater, and happening arts. He looks at the socio-political as well as historical aspects of trauma and tragedy situated in a place or a nation by unraveling the stories from first-hand sources and recounting them with his own imaginative narration. Kurniawan has been developing a new series of striking works on paper that interweave complex layers of history and narrative with fiction based off of his ongoing interest in the Indonesian reformation period of 1965.

*The God of Small Things* is built out of thirteen almost identical-sized small oil paintings. Lines, composition and details become the anchor that maneuvers his narrative in each piece. Sensitivity allows him to be humbled towards these paintings. Through this series of small paintings, Kurniawan has found poetry, or a prayer or spell. There exists a whole other universe that needs to be considered and honored. The narratives deftly interwoven through his compositions act as sacred praise to the almighty nobody, whispered carefully – sincerely and in faithful order – just as a prayer or spell is cast for the big gods.

In relation to Kurniawan's prolific performance work, we are also delighted to invite you to take part in his participatory performance, *Sri: A Short Biography of a Genocide Survivor*. This performance was intended to bring up the Indonesian mass killings of 1965 – 66 into the larger public collective memory. All this time, stories about the genocide are silenced. But we need to remember the tragedy, how the gruesome cruelty has changed Southeast Asia's geopolitical map and commemorate humanity's dark history. Hundreds of thousands of victims must be recognized as victims, not as criminals. Through involving the audience, the performance will commemorate this dark history of humanity in a manner that is contemplative and personal.

In addition to our gallery presentation and public program, we are excited to return to OFF Focus: Fringe Film Programme to screen Mella Jaarsma's performance documentation of *DogWalk* (2015/16).

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**About ROH**

ROH is a gallery initiated in 2014 that aims to serve the Indonesian art ecosystem by building a consistent local program, while simultaneously fostering a broader, borderless dialogue. ROH has played a more nomadic role in the past couple of years while building its new permanent space, exploring unconventional presentations for artists in dynamic temporal settings and situations. In 2022, ROH has moved into its new permanent space in Jalan Surabaya 66, Jakarta, carefully reconsidering a colonial mid-century house into a flexible space for contemporary art.

For further information, please reach out to [info@rohprojects.net](mailto:info@rohprojects.net).

**About S.E.A. Focus**

S.E.A. Focus is a leading showcase and art market hub dedicated to Southeast Asian contemporary art. It aims to bring together a fine curation of established and emerging artistic talents to foster a deeper appreciation of contemporary art and artists in the region.

For the latest updates on S.E.A. Focus, visit [seafocus.sg](http://seafocus.sg)

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**Location and date**

*The God of Small Things*  
S.E.A. Focus  
ArtSpace @HeluTrans  
Tanjong Pagar Distripark  
Singapore

Vernissage (by invitation only):  
5 January  
18:00-21:00

Public Days:  
6 - 15 January  
VIP hours; 12:00-13:00  
Public hours; 13:00-20:00

*Sri: A Short Biography of a Genocide Survivor*  
Performance by Agung Kurniawan  
ArtSpace @HeluTrans  
Tanjong Pagar Distripark  
Singapore  
13 January  
Session 1; 14:00-14:30  
Session 2; 18:30-19:00

*DogWalk (2015/16)* by Mella Jaarsma  
OFF Focus: Fringe Film Programme  
14 January 2023  
17:00  
The Projector  
6001 Beach Road  
Singapore