



Ines Katamso and one of her artworks

Human Nature

Ines Katamso expresses her interests in all things living through her artistic mediums, colours and practices *By Deborah Iskandar*

Tatler Living 122

From performance art to multimedia art to installations, the contemporary art scene in Indonesia has grown to become more diverse, inclusive and substantial than ever before. The industry has been increasing popularity globally and growing in demand at auctions, museums, and galleries. Ines Katamso, for

example, is a French-Indonesian artist who carved out her place in the Indonesian contemporary art industry and now has grown to be praised both within and outside the country.

After finishing her studies abroad on textile design in France, she returned to Indonesia to create a surface design and interior

design studio, Atelier Seni. With sustainability holding great importance at the core of both her life and artistic practice, Katamso is known for her delicate but assertive designs, combining geometric shapes and organic forms in her artwork. More recently, Katamso is taking her art in a more graphic direction; she focuses on patterns and shades to create her compositions.

Asserting that her art “values poetry over mindless accessorising”, Katamso’s artwork never fails to mesmerise and leave a lasting impression on her audience. Shapes, lines and colours play off each other in her compositions to conquer any space. Her artistic mediums are no longer merely inert surfaces but, through her actions, has become more intricate as she intertwines, deconstructs, and weaves. She will be presenting these latest pieces at a solo show from August 28 to September 25, installed in a spacious gallery

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Sketches and works by Katamso at her studio



for pieces at this exhibition came from the forms she had observed while studying the bacteria growing in her studio. Though the components that made up living organisms are not visible to the naked eye, she finds intrigue in their abstract and organic shapes; Katamso further asserts their importance in allowing the human being to live.

As well as looking at these components of life as they exist in the present, she also traces her roots back, looking to the chain of events that created the shared ancestors of all life on earth, humans, flora, and fauna included. It serves as a reminder that humans are not so distinct from everything else. "These genetic similarities between all living things," Katamso says, "tend to be forgotten in this anthropocentric society. It is good to remind us of the contrary."

Our existence is, she expresses, at the same time unlikely, beautiful and deeply tied to each other. Humans are not separate from nature but rather are a part of it; by comparison, the entirety of humankind is smaller than one might think. "I hope that my viewers can feel the humility and awe towards the concept of 'life' that I hold." For more information regarding this exhibition and ISA Art and Design's other shows, please visit www.isaartanddesign.com.

illuminated by natural light.

Steeped in introspection and drawing from experimentation and meticulous research, her art prompts her audience to look within themselves. While her art has always revolved around themes of life and growth since she started painting three years ago, Katamso is now even more interested in the mechanics of nature through biology, microbiology and even astrophysics. In her practice, she combines the pragmatism of the science field with emotions and the idealism of art. It was these mechanical processes that inspired her to reconsider her work.

She hopes that, by viewing her work, her audience will take a step back and consider their impact on the world in which they live, contemplating their place in nature. In the metropolis of Jakarta, home to one of the world's densest human populations, in more ways than one, modern humans are disconnected from nature. Katamso reminds her audience of the beauty of nature and how intricately and excellently made it is, especially in a place

where human-made structures of concrete, glass and metal dominate the landscape.

Katamso's interest in the origin of life, which, in her words, are "the natural processes by which life has arisen from non-living matter", has led her to observe organisms on a microscopic scale. Inspirations

Photography Ines Katamso

