



## **UNDERSTAND, UTILISE, UPLIFT: 3 SOUTHEAST ASIAN ARTISTS PRESENTED BY SILVERLENS X ROH PROJECTS, JAKARTA**

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**3 SOUTHEAST ASIAN ARTISTS STRETCH THE POSSIBILITIES OF THEIR MATERIALS AND CONCEPTS;**

Art Radar profiles three internationally-recognised Southeast Asian artists presented in an exhibition curated by Filipino artist Gary-Ross Pastrana in Jakarta. The works on show demonstrate a thorough understanding and exploration of materials, which has resulted in unconventional and cross-cultural forms.



Known to expand notions of contemporary art by representing established and emerging talents, Silverlens Galleries and ROH Projects have recently launched a group show at the Equity Tower 40E Jakarta (Indonesia) that includes the work of Arin Dwihartanto Sunaryo, Patricia Perez Eustaquio and Maria Taniguchi. On view until 28 August 2016, this collaborative exhibition does more than illustrate the similarities and contrasts that exist in Indonesian and Philippine contemporary art. More than anything, it rouses viewers by putting forward what other forms could result from familiar (if not, cliché) materials such as graphite, resin, acrylics and video clips, among others.

To further explore the show, Art Radar recently caught up with its curator, Gary-Ross Pastrana. A Silverlens Galleries represented artist himself, he puts into words what strikes him most about the three featured artists:

*“For Maria, it would be her unquestionably clear and specific understanding of modernism and (the reductive aspect of) abstraction. For Patricia, [it’s] her willingness to experiment and ability to articulate in any medium. Additionally, they are two of the smartest, most determined, and self-aware artists I know. For Arin, I was really interested in his method of extending, expanding the idea painting – how even a video projection could be seen as another layer, like a final glaze in the process of painting.”*

Asked if these were the same aspects that he wanted to highlight in the exhibition, the curator explains:

*“I wanted to hint on these aspects, but I was also careful not to impose any overarching theme that the artists would suddenly need to comply with. This may not seem to be the normal curatorial strategy but in the end I am still, primarily, an artist and I relate and identify with them as my peers – fellow artists, whom I trust and respect dearly. And so, while I had some works in mind and was in contact with them in the run-up to the show, I still allowed them to have the final say as to which ones would actually be part of the exhibition. In the end, I think it worked out well and actually, pretty close to what I originally had in mind.”*

Consisting of works on paper, paintings, a sculpture, mixed media and video pieces, the works in this Silverlens Galleries x ROH Projects show are perhaps best linked together by the artists’ dedication to their materials, approaches and concepts. Born in the late 1970s and early 1980s, a time when their countries were subject to military dictatorship – Suharto in Indonesia and Marcos in the Philippines – Sunaryo, Eustaquio and Taniguchi individually and collectively show that non-representational art can depict personal journeys, socio-political concerns and key issues in contemporary art.



## 1. Arin Dwihartanto Sunaryo

Residing in Bandung, the 'Paris of Java', Indonesia, Arin Dwihartanto Sunaryo (b.1978) is known for challenging the vocabulary of painting by integrating materials such as volcanic ash, photographic images and resin with pigments. After receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Painting from Bandung Institute of Technology in 2001, the Indonesian artist furthered his studies abroad and received a Master's Degree in Fine Art from London's Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in 2005.

Tired of art depicting his home country's political failures, Sunaryo chose non-Indonesian content, such as science fiction and Japanese manga, to fuel his art, resulting in unplanned abstract compositions that question the boundaries of painting and Indonesian identity. The son of celebrated painter Sunaryo Soetono, Sunaryo once tried to learn traditional Indonesian crafts, but decided to dedicate his practice to the utilisation of resin's preservative and gestural qualities in two and three dimensional art.



The Indonesian artist's experimental works have been exhibited in Europe, North America, notably in New York's Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, and across Southeast Asia. In 2015, Prudential Eye Awards nominated him as a finalist for Best Emerging Artist Using Painting. The ROH Projects-represented artist's mastery of resin and venture into sculpture, video and new media are shown in this collaborative exhibition.