

GALLERY4A

181-187 Hay Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
info@4a.com.au
www.4a.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

PERFORMANCE + EXHIBITION DADANG CHRISTANTO: *SURVIVOR* MEDIA PREVIEW: *Saturday 15 August 12-3pm*

Exhibition dates: 18 August - 19 September 2009
Opening: Saturday 15 August 12-3pm

GALLERY 4A PREMIERS A NEW PERFORMANCE WORK BY CONTEMPORARY ASIAN-AUSTRALIAN ARTIST DADANG CHRISTANTO

Survivor is a new performance piece by Dadang Christanto, and is the key work in this new solo exhibition at Gallery 4A. The work illustrates the impact of human disaster, in particular the tragic man-made mud catastrophe in the Sidoarjo region of East Java. Around 100 local volunteers will participate in this performance.



Silently occupying the gallery space, each person will be covered in mud from the neck down and hold photographic portraits of individuals who have gone missing. Previously staged in Jakarta in 2007, this presentation in Sydney will be the Australian premier of this important and powerful project.

Three years ago hot volcanic mud started erupting from the site of a gas exploration well and to date, 11 villages in East Java have been effectively wiped-out. Christanto's interest in this disaster relates to his previous work about his father's disappearance during the Suharto regime in the mid-1960s. In the context of the mud disaster, the unrelenting build up of mud in the region, is making villages slowly vanish. As Gallery 4A's Director, Aaron Seeto explains, "The entire history of a village – its livelihood and future is being buried under the mud. While Christanto's work is politically confronting, it is also a poetic experience that reminds us of human fragility and erasure in the face of disaster."

The performance will be staged once – on Saturday 15 August from 1230-3pm. Afterwards gallery visitors will be able to see documentation and the detritus of the performance, as well as other recent work by Dadang Christanto

MEDIA PREVIEW 12-1230 Saturday 15 August, RSVP- Aaron Seeto info@4a.com.au

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Dadang Christanto was born in 1957 in Tegal, Central Java and studied painting in Yogyakarta. Over the past decade his work has gained recognition across Australia with solo exhibitions at the Art Gallery of New South Wales and Sherman Galleries in Sydney, and at the Museum and Art Gallery Northern Territory. Christanto has been included in two Asia-Pacific Triennials at the Queensland Art Gallery as well he has exhibited in some of the key Contemporary Asian Art museums in the Asian region including Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane; Fukuoka Museum of Modern Art, Fukuoka; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo; Kwangju Biennale (2000) as well as at the Venice Biennale (2003) and the Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney. In 1997, in recognition of his long-term artistic achievement, he has been a recipient of a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant.

Contact Aaron Seeto (02) 9212 0380 or email info@4a.com.au for more program information, hi res images or media interviews.

AVAILABLE IMAGES

Contact Aaron Seeto (02) 9212 0380 or email info@4a.com.au for more program information, hi res images or media interviews. Installation images will be available three days before the exhibition opening.

THIS MEDIA RELEASE IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN CHINESE.



Top: Dadang Christanto: Survivor, Performance Jakarta
bottom left: Dadang Christanto, Try To Fly, 2008, mixed media, clothing