

GALLERY4A

ROOMSHEET

DADANG CHRISTANTO

SURVIVOR

18 AUGUST – 19 SEPTEMBER 2009

Ground floor

Try to Fly, 2007/8

Used clothes, PVA glue, coffee, plastic rope

Litsus, 2009

Performance held on 12th August 2009

First floor

Cost of Dreams, 2009

Various steel and wood implements

Survivor, 2009

Performance held on 15th August 2009

Face 3, 2009

Acrylic on linen

Face 7, 2009

Acrylic on linen

Face 10, 2009

Acrylic on linen

Face 8, 2009

Acrylic on linen

Face 5, 2009

Acrylic on linen

Survivor continues Dadang Christanto's interrogation of the impact of human disaster. The major performance work in this solo exhibition, also titled *Survivor*, responds to the catastrophe in the Sidoarjo region of East Java. Three years ago, hot volcanic mud started erupting from the site of a gas exploration well effectively wiping out 11 villages in the region. The unrelenting flow of mud continues to subsume surrounding villages. The performance involved 30 participants silently occupying the gallery space. Covered in mud from the neck down, holding a photographic portrait, they memorialised those lives fractured, lost or displaced as a result of the tragedy. Christanto's interest in this disaster relates to his previous work about his father's disappearance during the Suharto regime in the mid-1960s.

Christanto's work transcends cultural specificity to reflect upon our shared experiences in the face of human struggle. *Try to Fly* is a haunting reminder of the physical and spiritual imprisonment of political oppression. The rusted, bare aggressive forms of *Cost of Dreams* delicately suspended, suggests the sinister implications that underline the performance. In another performance, *Litsus*, Christanto highlights the precarious relationship between justice as a democratic concept for fairness and another political means of control. Evoking absence and loss, and raising questions of responsibility, Christanto's work gives voice to the tragedy of lives perished and the silent suffering of the survivor.

Born in Tegal, Central Java in 1957, Dadang Christanto 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 and he has exhibited in some of the key contemporary Asian art museums in the Asian region including Fukuoka Museum of Modern Art, Fukuoka; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo; the Kwangju Biennale (2000) as well as the Venice Biennale (2003). In 1997 he was the recipient of a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant in recognition of his long-term artistic achievement.

Gallery 4A would like to thank Campbelltown Arts Centre, Urban Poor Consortium in Jakarta, Miguel Valenzuela, Suzan Liu, Garry Trinh, and Heri Dono. The artist would like to thank his family.

181-187 Hay Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Tel: +612 9212 0380
www.4a.com.au