

Never Say No
Entang Wiharso
25 April – 30 May 2015

Opening: Friday 24 April, 6.30 – 8.30pm

Artist walkthrough: Saturday 25 April | Saturday Tours: 2:30pm



Self Portrait, 2015. Screen print, laser cut, acrylic vinyl sleeves. © Entang Wiharso/STPI.

Never Say No presents a very unique and comprehensive body of work by Indonesian artist Entang Wiharso. Produced in collaboration with STPI's creative team, Entang used alternative methods and materials like balloons, yarn, wires and nails in the print and papermaking process. His experimentation resulted in raw and compelling representations of the world, as well as fresh forms never before seen in his artistic oeuvre.

Entang came prepared to explore the numerous possibilities of paper, arriving with a number of molds used in previous metal relief works. *Black Goat vs. Identity Crime and Aesthetic Crime: Comic Book Series* and *Art as Gift: Comic Book Series* are paper-cast reliefs of familiar imagery that has been given new meaning. "This reinvestigation produced works of a different feel. I came to see a resemblance between aluminium and paper, particularly in their 'softness'. Aluminium is the lightest and softest kind of metal, associated with 'domesticity' because of its widespread use in household items. This connects nicely with paper as a humble yet essential material of daily life," says Entang in an interview with Indonesian curator and writer Agung Hujatnikajennong.

At STPI, Entang continued to explore customary themes of love and conflict with works like *Under Protection for 24 Hours*, where the artist and his American wife are depicted bound together by their long braids, with a rifle between them, contained in a room away from the outside world in the background. A commentary on "violence and a heightened state of anxiety", the work is the artist's reflection on his own experiences in Indonesia, where cultural and racial conflict is felt.

His greatest departure would be the four-panel *Self-Portrait* – a composition of hundreds of acrylic tableaus, imprinted with images collected from the Internet. From snapshots of Margaret Thatcher to Iron Maiden, each piece provides a glimpse into moments close to Entang's memory. Resembling iPhones, this 'brick wall' is a projection of the self that, according to Entang, lacks authenticity in the presence of media technology. The idea of the 'brick wall' appears in the *Decoded* series as well – where he etched on thick cast paper, exploring the idea of borders, division and territory.

"The title **Never Say No** is about going against the tide of tradition or an entrenched mindset that controls our perception of what is possible and what exists. In these works, I am interested in the idea of 'pre-ownership' – about the condition of things before they were claimed and 'owned'. This has implications for many aspects of our lives, for example, our religious beliefs, national ideologies, and the canon of Western art history," says Entang.

A recipient of numerous awards and residencies – including a Pollock-Krasner grant, a Copeland Fellowship at Amherst College, and a summer residency at Robert Wilson's Watermill Center – Entang has exhibited throughout the world and represented Indonesia in major international biennials. Recent exhibitions include "Love: The First of the 7 Virtues", Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, Peekskill, New York (2015); Art Stage Singapore (2015, 2014); the 55th and 51st Venice Biennale (2013, 2005); Prague Biennale 6 (2013); "Panorama: Recent Art from Contemporary Asia" at the Singapore Art Museum (2012); and Biennale Jogja XI, Yogyakarta (2011-12). Entang is represented in numerous notable collections, including the Guy and Myriam Ullens Foundation, Switzerland; the Olbricht Collection, Germany; the Indonesian Art Institute, Yogyakarta; the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia; the Rubell Family Collection, Miami, USA; and the Singapore Art Museum. Entang lives and works in Rhode Island, USA, and Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Art Fairs:

Art Basel, Basel

18 June – 21 June 2015

STPI Annual Special Exhibition – 13 June to 5 September

Residencies: Jane Lee (April)

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About STPI

STPI is an internationally renowned space in Singapore with a creative workshop focussing on innovative print and paper techniques. We offer a dynamic residency programme for leading artists from around the world, where they can experiment and push the boundaries of artistic creation with alternative methods and materials. The combination of a critically acclaimed residency programme, gallery and exceptional workshop expertise make STPI one of the most cutting-edge destinations of contemporary arts in Asia.

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