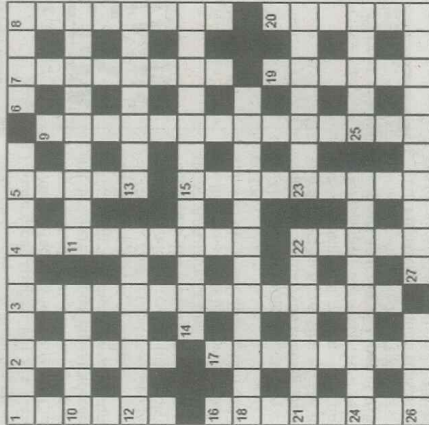


CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Patient wearing undies must get bags (10)
 - 6 Voices disapproval of rainless benefits (4)
 - 10 Not at work - ears oddly tender (5)
 - 11 Awful noise, always ignoring volume - that's criminal (9)
 - 12 Season - time enough possibly (7)
 - 13 Memos about church scores (7)
 - 14 Surprisingly, most earn full amount (5,7)
 - 18 Time for a few words about oneself! (4,8)
 - 21 Measures should incorporate exercises in areas of Russia (7)
 - 23 Good horse getting agitated around quiet rodents (7)
 - 24 Avant-garde artist stormed in drunk (9)
 - 25 Subject of note crossing border (5)
 - 26 Girl getting married has no right to wait (4)
 - 27 Plois succeeded initially with conservative approaches (10)
- Down**
- 1 British student with German bloke getting drunk (6)
 - 2 Arrival of popular fellow with light unit (6)
 - 3 Haters top - form exceptional, mainly (3,3,4)
 - 4 A couple of roads up at home? This causes an increase in blood pressure (9)
 - 5 Vote in European swindle for one who's served his time (2,3)
 - 7 Make repairs to complete catch (8)
 - 8 Put the accent on tense (8)
 - 9 Funding from seat of government supporting undertaking (7,7)
 - 15 Craft of boxer holding on (9)
 - 16 Quiet doctor surrounded by fat people suddenly gathering (5,3)
 - 17 On holiday, finished revealing hurt feelings (8)
 - 19 Put down limits of damage, on average (6)
 - 20 Resources needed by group on board a ship (6)
 - 22 Sun king runs in it to go around (5)
- YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**
- Across:** 1 Drop volley, 6 Opal, 9 Copycat, 10 Growing, 12 Propose a toast, 14 Afraid so, 15 Redeem, 17 Tauff, 19 Cataract, 21 In all fairness, 24 Plays up, 25 Defiant, 26 Rhea, 27 Mainstream.
- Down:** 1 Dice, 2 On paper, 3 Victoria falls, 4 Let loose, 5 Eagle, 7 Primate, 8 Legitimate, 11 On the face of it, 13 Day tripper, 16 Heridan, 18 Real ale, 20 At stake, 22 Alpha, 23 Atom.
- © Telegraph Group Limited, London

Dono explores 'meaning in the madness'

By Emily Ang

IT'S a refrain we often hear: we live in a crazy world. A tanking world economy, politics worthy of reality TV, the emergence of unsettling new technologies, and an ageing population are just some of the disconcerting trends we face in today's world.

Zaman Edan (literally translated as *The Age of Crazyness*) details Indonesian contemporary artist Heri Dono's explorations into the "meaning in the madness", with an eye on materialism, spirituality, ethics, and the changing role of the artist.

This collection of 40 works at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute (STPI) was developed after Dono's yearlong residency stint. It showcases his experiments with various mediums, techniques and styles to create a sometimes disturbing (but more often humorous) satire on human behaviour, power and authority in modern-day life.

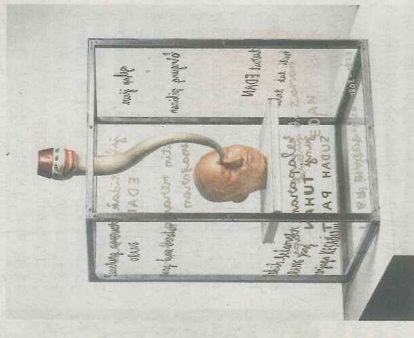
The exhibition title of *Zaman Edan* was inspired by 19th-century Javanese poet Ronggowarsito's famous literary text *Serat Kalalidha* and *Madness and Civilization* by the French philosopher Michel Foucault (two forward-looking critiques of social conduct and identity). From performance, kinetic sculpture to printmaking, Dono experiments with new techniques, concepts and playful imagery while staying true to Indonesian artistic traditions such as *wayang kulit* (puppet shadow theatre).

The only madness apparent in this exhibition is how Dono skilfully combines a remarkable number of artmaking techniques in each work to express life's truths through humour.

The relationship between creation and material is often relative. "This residency was a trigger to explore and give awareness to the process of creation. Very often, artists express themselves in the same medium. But to really create innovative and developed artwork, the key is exploration. It often leads to the most inventive work," Dono explains.

And there is certainly lots to see: mythical flying beasts made of compressed paper pulp that bear military caps; grotesque shadow puppets whose large silhouettes demonstrate the absurdity of small beings in positions of power and authority; and Batman or Superman on screenprint - a modern-day superhero or villain plagued by the complexities of life (depending on which side of the fence you're on).

One wonders why the sudden departure in style and technique was necessary, particularly since Dono's work is already well loved by collectors and institutions



(Clockwise from above left) Indonesian contemporary artist Heri Dono and his *Kuda Binal* (Wild Horse); Dono's *Ronggowarsito Perspective*, which took a year to complete; and his *Wayang Zaman Edan* installation.



A team of in-studio artisans then put an actual cast around a human head, half at a time, before combining both halves into one perfect plaster head. Artisans then cast paper around the plaster, covering it in paper mache, then coated the head in wax to ensure it lasts.

Other elements such as the book and trunk-like periscope were then hand-sculpted - the periscope looks as though it broke out of the acrylic box. Phrases such as *meritaga kesadaran* (preserving consciousness), *hati orang* (a person's heart), *turut merajadi gila* (becoming crazy too) and *zaman edan* (age of madness) were scribbled across the box's surfaces. This took almost a year to complete.

Some might say the combination of several art-making techniques in a single work is sheer insanity. But, on the flip side, it also demonstrates how experimentation and usage of different materials and concepts can actually result in a (relatively) sane outcome.

It comes as no surprise that Dono himself subscribes to this notion of insanity in his personal life. "When I was 17 years old, I decided to become an artist. I enjoyed the

feeling of independence," he recalls. Much to his parents' horror, "I dropped out of art school three months before graduation on purpose, because I wanted to study but didn't want the title of an artist".

He worked hard to prove himself, holding his first solo exhibition in 1997 and giving half of his earnings to his parents. He spent hours meeting heavyweight artists like Afandi to get survival tips as an artist; it worked. "You don't need to cut your hair, you can be an artist, it's your decision," he says. After dropping out of art school, he studied with the legendary Sukasman, who inspired him with his dedication to the finer points of Javanese *wayang kulit*.

Dono encourages young artists to experiment and push the boundaries of artistic creation with alternative narratives, methods and materials. "It's good for them to find inner strength and to be able to weather critique in a world sometimes filled with hopelessness."

Judging from sales on opening night, experimentation indeed pays off. Dono is pleasantly surprised at the sight of red dots placed on labels of several pieces, the art world's equivalent of declaring a piece never stop learning. "A cure for modern-day malady perhaps? Akira Kurosawa, the famous Japanese filmmaker, was right. "In a mad world, only the mad are sane."

Heri Dono: *Zaman Edan* (The Age of Crazyness) is showing until June 25 at STPI, 41 Robertson Quay. Admission is free