

Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Nusantara Director Thomas J. Berghuis Steps Down

Museum MACAN Leadership Appoints Two New Curators to Build on Berghuis's Accomplishments

(Jakarta, Indonesia – October 4, 2016) – Mr. Haryanto Adikoesoemo, the president of Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Nusantara's foundation (Yayasan Museum MACAN) announced today that Dr. Thomas J. Berghuis has stepped down from his position as director of Museum MACAN to return to his work as a curator and scholar, and to consult for institutions. Dr. Berghuis had been the director of Museum MACAN since May 2015 and, during his tenure, established the curatorial vision and collaborated with Ms. Fenessa Adikoesoemo, chairwoman of the museum's foundation, on the organizational structure for Indonesia's first museum dedicated to international modern and contemporary art. He will continue to provide counsel to the museum until the new director has been appointed. Museum MACAN is scheduled to open in early 2017.

The museum's foundation has launched an international search for a new director and anticipates making the announcement within the month. The foundation also announced the appointment of two new curators, Charles Esche and Agung Hujatnika, who will build upon the curatorial program set in place by Dr. Berghuis. Chairwoman Fenessa Adikoesoemo will continue in her role as chief operating officer and work closely with the new curators, and the new director, once the appointment has been finalized.

"We are grateful to Dr. Berghuis for helping us lay the groundwork for Museum MACAN," said museum founder and foundation president Haryanto Adikoesoemo. "His contributions have been invaluable to our institution's early development, and will undoubtedly help ensure its success. I understand his desire to focus on his passions of curatorial work and scholarship, and appreciate his willingness to work with us in finding the right moment to make this transition."

"It's been an incredible experience to work with the MACAN team to help realize Haryanto's dream of providing Indonesia with its first world-class contemporary art museum," said Dr. Thomas J. Berghuis. "I will look forward to continuing to work with museum leadership over the next several months, and to seeing all of our hard work culminate in next year's opening. I anticipate that we will be collaborating on important projects in the future."

The two newly appointed curators, Charles Esche and Agung Hujatnika, will build upon Berghuis's accomplishments and work together to carry the inaugural

exhibition forward to the museum's grand opening, which is planned for early 2017. The appointments are effective immediately.

"I am delighted to welcome Charles Esche and Agung Hujatnika to our team," said Haryanto Adikoesoemo. "Both curators have an impressive track record of organizing well-researched and thought-provoking exhibitions of Indonesian and international contemporary art. Their expertise will be a significant asset as we work towards Museum MACAN's grand opening."

About Charles Esche

Charles Esche is an experienced curator and writer. He is the director of the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, where he has made important innovations in museum and collection practice since 2004. His appointment as curator for Museum MACAN will build on this previous experiences with Indonesian art and artists, including his position as head curator of the Jakarta Biennale in 2015.

Esche has been (co)curator for numerous international contemporary art biennales and events, including the 31st São Paulo Biennial, 2014; National Gallery of Kosovo, Prishtinë, 2012; U3 Triennial, Ljubljana, 2011; Riwaq Biennial, Ramallah, Palestine, 2009 and 2007; Istanbul Biennial, 2005; Gwangju Biennial, 2002; and Tate Triennial at Tate Britain, London, 2000. In 2014, Esche was awarded the CCS Bard College Audrey Irmas Award for Curatorial Excellence, and in 2012 he received the European Cultural Foundation's Princess Margriet Award.

Esche is professor of contemporary art at University of the Arts, London, and co-founder of contemporary art press *Afterall Journal and Books*. He lives and works in Eindhoven and Edinburgh, Scotland.

About Agung Hujatnika

Dr. Agung Hujatnika, a.k.a Agung Hujatnikajennong, is one of Indonesia's most prominent independent curators of contemporary art. He has curated many national and international art exhibitions, including *Rethinking HOME* at the Niuew Dakota, Amsterdam, 2016; *Passion Possession* at Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong, 2014; *Concept Context Contestation* at the Bangkok Art and Cultural Centre, Bangkok, Thailand, 2013; *Not a Dead End*, Jogja Biennale – Equator #2, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 2013; *Exquisite Corpse* at the Bandung Pavilion for the Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai, China, 2012; *Fluid Zones*, the Jakarta Biennale ARENA, 2009; and Heri Dono's *Nobody's Land* at the National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia, 2008, among many others.

From 2001 to 2012 Dr. Hujatnika was the chief curator at Selasar Sunaryo Art Space, a nonprofit cultural center in Bandung. He has also served as the curator-in-residence at a number of arts institutions, including at San Art, Ho Chi Minh City,

Vietnam, 2014; Arts Initiative Tokyo, Japan, 2011; Nanjo and Associates, Tokyo, Japan, 2004; the Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia, 2002; and others. In 2014, he was nominated to receive the biannual Independent Vision Curatorial Award from the Independent Curators International (ICI), New York.

Dr. Hujatnika is currently a lecturer in the Visual Art Study Program at the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) in Bandung, Indonesia, and obtained his doctorate from his alma mater in 2012 on the research subject of art curatorship in Indonesia.

About Museum MACAN

The Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Nusantara (Museum MACAN) will be the first institution of its kind in Indonesia when it opens to the public in Jakarta in 2017. Dedicated to supporting interdisciplinary education and cultural exchange, the institution will provide the public with access to a significant and growing collection of modern and contemporary art from Indonesia and across the world, a wide variety of public programs, and a dynamic exhibition program. As part of its mission, the museum will be an important platform for local and international artists to present their work to a global audience, and will commission new works by artists that broaden perspectives on contemporary art in and beyond Indonesia. Museum MACAN will also offer professional development opportunities for artists, curators, and other arts-focused young professionals to help build upon the energy of Indonesia's vibrant arts ecology.

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