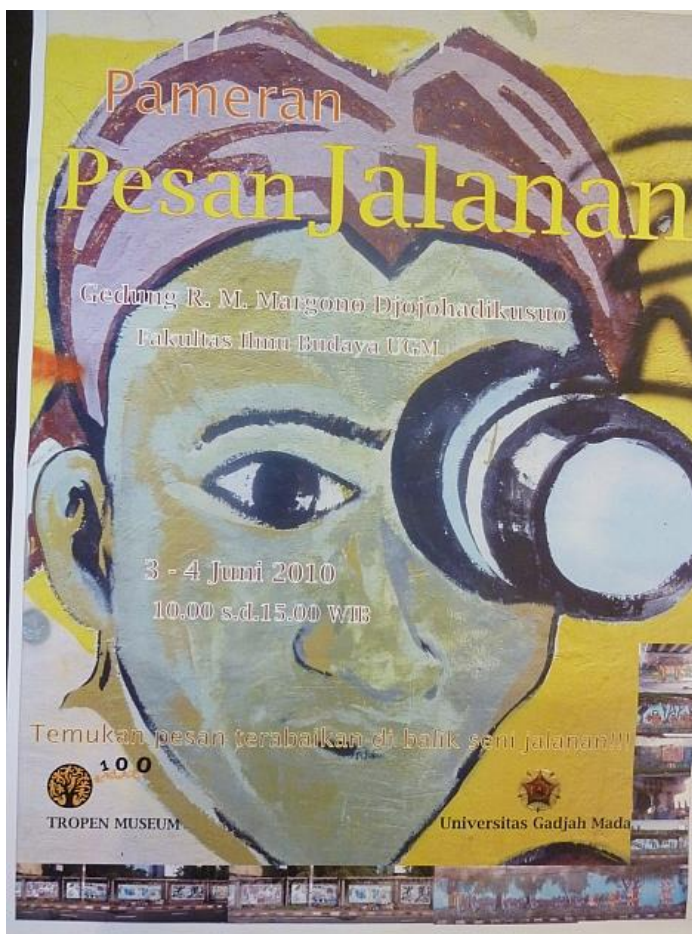


As a result of a cooperation project between the Archeology and History department of the Gaja Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia and the Tropenmuseum in Amsterdam, I was asked to teach a Mastercourse on critical museology there.

I decided to change the formal learning in class setting into a learning by doing approach. After a few introductory sessions, together we decided upon making an exhibition on street art in Yogya and while doing that I would teach, supervise, and let themselves explore what a critical museological approach is.

This brought us –armed with our cameras and note pads- to all corners of the city, by van, motor bike and becak. The learning by doing experience turned out to be the ultimate win-win for all of us. Although a number of students contributed to the exhibition, three students in particular –every one of them already working as a museum professional- were the backbone of the project: Anto Nabrijanto, Ery Sustyani and Rosyid Ridlo, together with my colleague and counterpart dr. pak Daud Tanudirjo.

The final outcome was an exhibition of photos, and films on the social message of/in Yogya street art. It was produced within a week, marketed in two days and presented during a three days in a large room on the university campus. A substantial number of students and university staff visited the exhibition and left their messages and comments on a wall for that purpose as well as in a guest book.



Pesan Jalanan

Pesan Terabaikan Dibalik Seni Jalanan



Selamat datang di Jalanan Yogya !!!
Lihat sekitarmu tidak sebagaimana biasanya

Kita semua menggunakan jalan beberapa kali sehari dengan berbagai kendaraan yang membawa kita dari satu tempat ke tempat lain. Apa yang sebenarnya kita lihat? Apa yang sesungguhnya tertangkap mata kita dan membuat kita berpikir? Tentu, sederetan pesan-pesan iklan agar kita berbelanja 24 jam sehari! Namun, ada pesan-pesan lain juga. Mungkin sedikit tersembunyi, atau bahkan terabaikan. Namun, pesan-pesan sosial itu ada di sana. Kadang tersirat, tidak jarang begitu gamblang. Pesan-pesan itu yang disampaikan dalam "lukisan tangan" karya para seniman, yang ingin berbagi dengan kita penghayatan mereka tentang masyarakat tidak hanya dengan kata-kata. Mereka ingin menggugah kita. Di sana ada pesan moral, pesan filosofis, pesan politik, dan bahkan pesan pemberontakan. Namun, ada pula yang sekedar ingin mengatakan: "Lihat saya! Saya ada!" Dan, semua pesan itu dikemas dengan indah dan orisinal. Apakah itu seni? Tentu! Pesan itu unik, enak dipandang, berakar dari seni tradisional, bahkan juga merujuk pada budaya populer global. Namun, semucunya itu tetap terasa begitu akrab. Seringkali seniman pembuatnya tak diketahui atau menggunakan nama julukan mereka. Harapannya, kami tidak melanggar hak mereka dengan menyajikan karya-karya mereka dalam pameran ini, like memang demikian, kami mohon maaf dan tolong kalaupun kami. Sebaliknya, insiden-jaman adalah menyajikan karya seni ini dengan bebas, dan kadang tidak terduga, selama 24 jam sehari di ruang publik. Mungkin, pameran ini adalah tempat yang paling tak diharapkan sama sekali. Dan, mungkin jalanan tidak akan terlihat sebagaimana biasanya lagi.

So SWE



Welcome to the streets of Yogya!!
Look around as you have probably never done before.

We all use the streets many times a day, using all kinds of transport to bring us from A to B. But what do we actually see? What really meets the eye and makes us think? Of course, the overwhelming amount of commercial messages tell us we have to shop 24 hours a day, but there are other messages too. Maybe more hidden, maybe often repeated but they are there. Social messages, sometimes explicit, sometimes implicit, always in a unique "hand writing", made by artists who want to share their reflections upon society with us in more than just words. They want to wake us up. Sometimes their messages are moral, some are philosophical, some even rebellious, and/or political. Some messages may even be no more than: look at me, I exist! And all of these messages are packed in an original aesthetic way. Is it art? Certainly, it is unique, it is meant to please the eye, it may refer to aesthetic tradition as well as to global popular culture, but it always feels familiar in a way. Often the artist is unknown or uses a street alias. We hope we have not offended them by putting their work on our exhibition. If so, we apologize and ask them to make contact with us. However, showing this work for free in -often unregulated- public spaces 24 hours a day is at the core of street art. Maybe this exhibition is the most unexpected place of all. And maybe, the street will never appear back like before.