# A GING IGH

Born in Banda Aceh, 1960.

### MAHDI ABDULLAH BIOGRAPHY



Born in Banda Aceh in 1960, Mahdi Abdullah is one of Indonesia's most significant painters. He graduated from Faculty of Architecture in Banda Aceh (1988) before earning his master degree at Indonesian Art Institute Yogyakarta in 2012. His works use realism to depict his anxieties about the social reality that he has witnessed while focusing on the life of common people from his hometown. At first, the images might look calm and peaceful but there's dualism existing in each work. "It is an introspection, an inventory of his thoughts and feelings that he found inside.

Sometimes they're dreamy, poetic, sometimes mirroring fears and terror, leaving the plane of realism and opening almost surrealist dimensions,"-quoted from art writer Anton Larenz about Mahdi's realist approach.

He has several exhibitions locally and internationally, with his works pres- ent in various collections from museums, galleries and private collectors abroad.

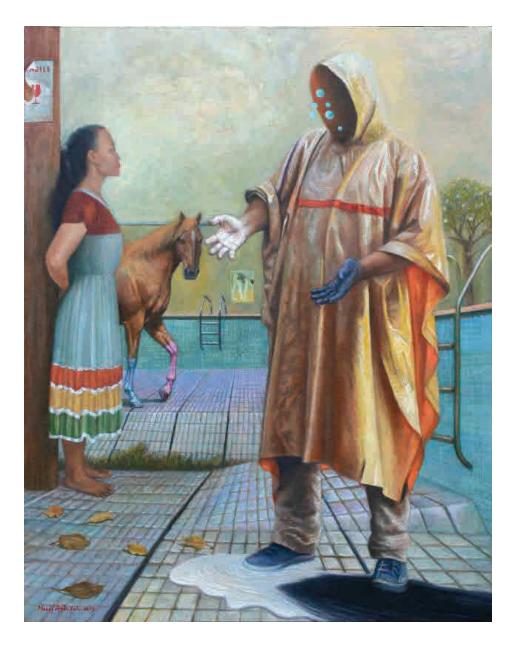


### MAHDI ABDULLAH STATEMENT

Mahdi Abdullah starts a journey through his inner life and his memories with his new paintings, but looking inwards and outwards, too. His observances of the past and his views of his present result in a detailed picture of his surroundings and his current conditions. With his excellent realist technique he paints pictures of a tremendous persuasive power which touches the viewer immediately. It is an introspection, an inventory of his thoughts and feelings that he found inside. Sometimes dreamy, poetic, sometimes mirroring fears and terror, leaving the plane of realism and opening almost surrealist dimensions. His paintings show his clear view of reality (history included) and give way for the wish of another, hopefully better future.

Mahdi Abdullah has come to the conclusion that there is some fundamental dualism implied in human life, an all-pervading dual structure which underlies all human activities, but often escaping from our consciousness. Dark and light, high and low, good and evil, heaven and hell – belonging together, not possible to have one without the other. It is like the two sides of a medal, we can see only one side, for seeing the other side we have to turn it around.





Option, Black or White Oil on canvas 100cm x 80cm 2023

# MAHDI ABDULLAH SELECTED ARTWORKS





Meeting Oil on canvas 100cm x 80cm 2019

## MAHDI ABDULLAH SELECTED ARTWORKS





The Window of Malayan Partitions (triptych) Oil on canvas 200cm x 240cm 2023

# Mahdi Abdullah

Born in Banda Aceh, 1960.

# Education

1988Graduated from Faculty of Architecture in Banda Aceh2012Indonesian Art Institute Yogyakarta

### Exhibition

2023	Art Jakarta, Vin Gallery booth, Jakarta - Indonesia.
2022	Memory Transformed, Arte Maha Studio (Jogja Art Weeks), Yogyakarta. Art Jakarta, Vin Gallery booth, Jakarta - Indonesia.
2019	Conjoint Existence, Galerie Grand Siècle, Taipei.
2018	Two Sides of the Medal in Kaoh Siung, Taiwan.
	Two Sides of the Medal at Sangkring Art Project, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
2016	Transmemorabilia: The World of Mahdi Abdullah,
	Mada Gallery, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.
2012	Transmemorabilia, Tujuh Bintang Art Space, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
2009	Zwischenzeiten, Galerie Kulturmodell, Passau, Germany.
2008	History (critic) sisme, the Episentrum Uleekareng, Banda Aceh, Indonesia.
2007	Exhibition of Paintings and Black & White Drawings in Swiss-Belhotel
	Banda Aceh, Indonesia.
2006	Message from Aceh, the Hyogo International Plaza to commemorate
	the 11th Earthquake in Kobe City, Hyogo, Japan.
2005	Aceh in the Caricature at Indonesia Culture Plaza, Tokyo, Japan.
	Aceh Tsunami in Indonesia Culture Plaza, Tokyo, Japan.
	Message from Aceh, Sangyo University, Kyoto, Japan.
	Message from Aceh, Shizuoka University of Art and Culture - Hamamatsu,
	Shizuoka, Japan.
	Aceh Tsunami, Hokkaido International Foundation, Hakodate, Hokkaido.
	Tsunami Painting Exhibition, Taman Budaya, Banda Aceh, Indonesia.
2002	Nyawong Aceh, di Indonesia Culture Plaza, Tokyo, Jepang.
	Nyawong Aceh, di Nagoya Institute of Technology Nagoya, Jepang.
2000	Pesan dari Tanah Rencong, di Graha Medco, Sudirman, Jakarta.

### Honors

- 2009 Art Meukuta Alam from The Provincial Government of Aceh.
- Fine Art of The Provincial Aceh Departemant of Culture and Tourism.
- 2000 The best painting as Sumatra in Jambi.
- 1985 1st Winner Poster Competition Environmental Hygiene in Banda Aceh.
- 1981 First prize in calligraphy art competitions Akprin Yogyakarta.
- 1977 79 Talent and Achievement Scholarship from Dept. Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan Indonesia.

# GALLERY INFORMATION

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