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YUNIZAR'S SCRIBBLE WORKS REACH NEW MATURITY, COMPLEXITY

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from THE JAKARTA POST -- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2007 -- PAGE 23 The work of Indonesian contemporary painter Yunizar is not easy to understand, but it evokes an unusual sense of rhythm and beauty

This is also true of the 19 paintings that make up his solo exhibition *Coretan*, which was jointly organized by the **Gajah Gallery** and the National Universe Museum **Gallery** in Singapore

Yunizar's paintings appear like remnants of an old manuscript or letters stained and made illegible by the passing of time. Smudges and simple childlike drawings going over the text transform the impression of antiquity, infusing it with a sense of today, while light coloring gives his works a poetic appeal

As curators and art experts explore Yunizar's work, they search for the meaning behind the scribbles

But in a telephone interview, Yunizar explained his paintings were spontaneous utterances of emotion, aside from some personal details

In *Text of My Biography* his place and date of birth and address are scrawled across the canvas. Yet, Yunizar calls attention primarily to the paintings' sensory effect

Even the crucifix drawn over the text in *Tanda (Sign)* has no intended meaning for Yunizar. "I just like the way it looks," he said

Many of the works in the exhibition evoke a sense of horizon, as alphabetical characters written in small scale and filling three quarters of the canvas in yellow, take on a larger form in the upper part of the canvas, as seen in *Yellow Text*

The upper part of other canvases is left bare but for one or two childish drawings. Works like *Halus Kasar (Rough Fine)* feature bold lines going over the text, while *Coretan Rasa (Scribbles from Within)* gives the impression of graffiti on a city wall

Born in 1971 in Talawi, West Sumatra, Yunizar went through the National Arts High School in Padang. Inspired by the works of Indonesian masters, he left for Yogya to study art. Once in Yogya however, his interest shifted as he fed off the passion of other artists from West Sumatra who were also studying in Yogya. They formed the *Jendela* group in 1993

While other Yogya artists were on a "funky cartoon and installation spree", or making demanding political works, the paintings of the *Jendela* group were there to be enjoyed

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Their peaceful landscapes provided a welcome contrast to the politically charged canvases of their contemporaries

Yunizar's works, however, have never lacked sophistication with their fine lines indicating mass; texture, indicating the grains of the earth; and scratches through the mass, which give a sense of the wind

The canvases displayed in Coretan, which Yunizar began making in 1990, have reached a new maturity and structural complexity. They may also be the last in the line of his scribble works as Yunizar has hinted he is keen to explore new directions in his studio practice

Coretan Yunizar until Dec.9 National Universe Museum **Gallery** Singapore Carla Bianpoen, Contributor,
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