

# SEMSAR SIAHAAN

b. Medan, Indonesia (1952 – 2005)

## EDUCATION

- 1977            Studied sculpture at the Bandung Institute of Technology
- 1975            Studied Painting at the San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI)

## AWARDS

- 1994            Received the Best in Show award at the Jakarta Biennale IX

## SELECTED BIOGRAPHY

- 1952            Born in Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia.
- 1965-68        Took art lessons in Belgrade, Yugoslavia
- 1975            Graduated high school
- Begun to study painting at the San Francisco Art Institute (SAFI), USA, under the guidance of American painters Bruce McGraw and Ursula Schneider.
- 1977-81        Returned to Indonesia and studied sculpture at the Bandung Institute of Technology, West Java
- 1979-            Held exhibitions in Bandung, Jakarta and Australia.
- Conflicts with Indonesian cultural and political authorities

- Moved to the Netherlands
- Active with Indonesian political dissidents
- Published a bulletin called 'For the Sake of Democracy and Human Rights in Indonesia'
- 1984 Returned to Indonesia
- 1990 Went to Australia for a six-city tour of his exhibition and lecture series
- 1994 Exhibited at the Jakarta Biennale IX
- Organized an alliance of Indonesian NGOs into the Indonesian Pro-Democracy Action
- 1995 Exhibited at the inauguration of the Singapore Art Museum
- Put up shows in Australia and Japan
- 1997 Escaped to Singapore after military squads in Indonesia started kidnapping pro-democracy activists
- 1999 Migrated to Canada
- 1999-2004 Painted and exhibited works in Canada
- Solo shows in Victoria, Canada
- 2005 Solo exhibition at the National Gallery in Jakarta

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 Semsar Siahaan: Art, Liberation, Gajah Gallery, Singapore
- 2016 Semsar Siahaan: Points of View, Gajah Gallery, Indonesia, Indonesia, Yogyakarta

- 2005 The Shade of Northern Lights, National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 1999 Black Orchid, Maltwood Gallery, Victoria, Canada
- 1998 The Eco Seeds Action, Cemeti Gallery, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 1997 Glimpse Into The Future: Some Aspects of Contemporary Southeast Asian Art, Tokyo  
Museum of Contemporary Art and Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 1996 Asia Pacific Triennale, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia
- 1995 Modernity and Beyond, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
- 1994 Jakarta Biennale IX, Taman Ismail Marzuki, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 1986 Jakarta Triennale I, Jakarta, Indonesia  
Exhibition of Contemporary Sculpture Competition Indonesia, Jakarta Cultural Centre, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 1981 Art Happening, Art ITB Bandung, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 1979 Indonesian Exhibition of Young Artists, Jakarta Cultural Centre, Jakarta, Indonesia  
Living Statue Experiment, Art ITB Bandung, Jakarta, Indonesia