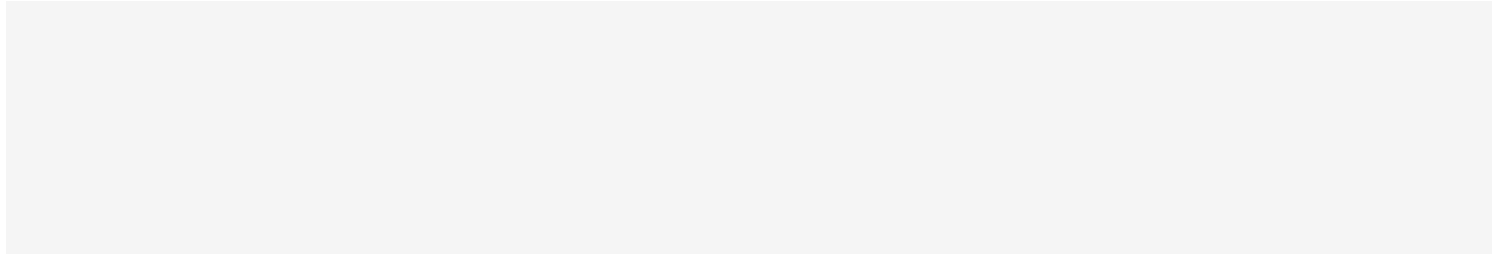


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## Heri Dono's "Voyage - Trokomod" at the Venice Biennale

BY DARRYL WEE | APRIL 22, 2015





Heri Dono, Voyage-Trokomod 2015, Collection of the Artist  
(Photo Fendi Siregar. Courtesy of Bumi Purnati Indonesia (6))

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Veteran artist [Heri Dono](#) will represent Indonesia at this year's Venice Biennale with a site-specific solo presentation titled "Voyage – Trokomod."

The work centers on the fictional figure of the Trokomod, a cross between a Trojan horse and a Komodo dragon — or, in the artist's own words, "an ancient animal made futuristic. It comes out of the part of the world that is like a blank spot in the world of fine arts."

Dono's presentation is designed to resonate with the notion of open-ended diversity, demonstrated by the aspirations and visions of

the staggering plurality of contemporary global society. The presentation aims to advance the dialogue surrounding the biennale's theme, "All the World's Futures."

Indonesian pavilion artistic advisor Carla Bianpoen commends Dono's work for the way in which it turns the tables on the colonialist, a somewhat condescending view of Asian cultures that still persists today, showing how an equivalent mythologizing of "the West" still operates in Indonesian culture.

"Unlike an ethnographic museum which traditionally displays 'exotic' cultures from a Western point of view, Dono switches roles showing Western icons as we perceive them," Bianpoen said.

Born in Jakarta in 1960 and now based in Jogjakarta, Dono was one of the first Indonesian contemporary artists to break onto the global art circuit in the early 1990s. Known for his omnivorous cultural imagination that melds references to traditional Javanese wayang puppet theater, cartoons and animation, and trenchant political commentary, Dono arguably sets the tone for the socially conscious practices of today's younger generation of Indonesian artists, such as I Nyoman Masriadi, Entang Wiharso, Eko Nugroho, and Tromarama.

*Dono's "Voyage – Trokomod" runs at the Pavilion of the Republic of Indonesia , Arsenale, Tese delle Vergini, from May 9 – November 22, 2015.*



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