

YOUR NEW ART DESTINATION IN INDONESIA, SOLO!

BY DEBORAH ISKANDAR

Every art lover in Indonesia knows about Jakarta's galleries or the exciting art scene in Jogjakarta, but what about the other cities? With such a rich cultural heritage, the country must have other hidden treasures, right? Solo is considered as one of the epicenters of Javanese culture. It has maintained much of its traditional character preserved through its palaces, temples, back street neighborhoods called kampung, the markets known as pasar, crafts such as batik fabrics as well as through many performing arts. It is a city that prides itself in its artistic tradition of sophisticated beauty, commemorating its once powerful position as the center of power of the Javanese kingdom. Solo's modernization has been modest compared to its 'sister city' Jogjakarta or other cities around Java, but it still boasts a number of contemporary malls and hotels. Now things are rapidly changing! With the opening of the new Tumurun Private Museum earlier this year and prestigious hotels investing increasingly in art, Solo is set to become the new hotspot for art tourism.

The Alila Solo hotel is one of the city's most luxurious accommodations. Conveniently located near the Solo Square, this modern hotel has been designed to be an exceptional fusion of traditional and contemporary design. The owner envisioned the interior of the hotel to express the unique elegance of Solo's artistic culture, which is also brought forward through two stunning artworks, Selendang Sinerat and Kavu Jati Globe. The former is a gigantic 40-meter scarf-looking masterpiece, hand-painted by Solonese artist Sucahyo. Located at the hotel's lobby, the dramatic piece greets guests upon arrival, beautifully incorporating the legends of the gods and goddesses of the Wayang tradition with traditional batik patterns of Java. The Kavu Jati Globe is a wooden sculpture carved from salvaged ancient teak tree roots. It is a contemporary representation of the globe, appropriately placed in the entrance, where the Indonesian and international guests of the Alila can instantly see it. The main intention of these art pieces is



to symbolize the welcoming and sincere services of the Alila hotel, reflecting the hospitable customs of the Solo people.

The architecture of the Alila Solo hotel has also been carefully thought through, as it is Javanese inspired and designed by the acclaimed architect Budiman Hendropurnomo. He incorporates his passion for his Indonesian herit-

was once intended for showcasing the vintage car collection of the Lukminto family. To expand the collection, they decided to also include art pieces to achieve a more creative and artistic ambiance. Tumurun emphasizes modern and contemporary art so that the public and younger generations in particular can understand and appreciate the evolu-

of their missions, the museum seeks to actively engage the public in learning about local and international art.

The Tumurun includes about 200 paintings, many from the family's private collection or sourced from galleries, auctions and exhibitions, each piece carefully chosen to express a unique character. Two artworks are con-

Gunawan, a political prisoner accused of being a communist, and his loyal wife. Their intimate relationship is accentuated by their close embrace in the corner of his cell, while their limited time together is symbolized by the ringing bells, used to indicate the amount of time prison guests had left. Red and White by Mantofani characterizes the complexity and diversity of Indonesian society whether in language, religion or ethnicity. Its unity stemming from diversity is represented by the pixelated and thus indistinguishable line between the red and white. The museum's goal in the future is to include additional space in order to further their dream in encouraging Indonesians to love and understand art.

Although Solo hasn't always been known as the mecca for art, it is now starting to attract the art crowd, with the opening of the new art museum and artists setting their studios in the city. We are soon likely to see more galleries pop up here and there, as the gallerists naturally follow the creators. For Indonesia, this is also great news as the country's art scene is blooming and more international visitors are coming every year. As the Tumurun Private Museum strongly believes, learning to value art is an integral step in the advancement of Indonesia as a nation, particularly in its message to unite diversity through art. So when you plan your next cultural trip, head to Solo! [FL](#)



LEFT: SELENDANG SINERAT (SUCAHYO) — THIS GIGANTIC 40-METER SCARF-LOOKING MASTERPIECE, HAND-PAINTED BY SOLONESE ARTIST SUCAHYO, DRAMATICALLY HUNG ABOVE THE RECEPTION AREA AT THE HOTEL'S LOBBY. THE PIECE DEPICTS THE LEGENDS OF THE GODS AND GODDESSES OF THE WAYANG TRADITION WITH TRADITIONAL BATIK PATTERNS OF JAVA. **ABOVE:** TUMURUN PRIVATE MUSEUM — TUMURUN EMPHASIZES MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART SO THAT THE PUBLIC AND YOUNGER GENERATIONS IN PARTICULAR CAN UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE EVOLUTION OF ART IN INDONESIA.

age into contemporary designs. The hotel's walls are decorated with batik, while the floor is layered with marble, travertine and granite, juxtaposed against the pale wood commonly used in Javanese interior design.

Opened in April earlier this year, the Tumurun Private Museum has quickly become a significant cultural destination in Solo. The museum is home to both international and Indonesian contemporary and modern art, and was initially realized to educate the people of Solo about the value and importance of art. Standing amongst the impressive number of artworks on display, it is hard to believe that the space

tion of art in Indonesia. Every detail matters, therefore the layout of the museum is designed to reflect this differentiation between modern art placed on the second floor and the contemporary art collection displayed on the ground floor. Distinguishing the pieces, their respective histories and style differences is important, and the museum hopes that the guests recognize these particularities after their visit. In fact, the Tumurun Private Museum is so dedicated to properly educating locals and foreigners alike, that they screen their visitors to make sure they do not enter for simply snapping a few photos and leaving. As one

considered particularly important, both in their technique and message: a modern artwork by Hendra Gunawan entitled My Wife and I and a contemporary art piece by Rudi Mantofani entitled Red and White. The former depicts the real-life love story of



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