



# Decades of Collecting Art

Anniversaries indicate milestones in our lives, to celebrate our accomplishments, achievements, and of course time spent with loved ones. Deddy Kusuma is celebrating his 35th anniversary as a collector, and is still going strong.

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During the last decade there has been a rapid and reassuring rise in the development of Asian art. The market has seen an increase of emerging Asian artist from China, Japan and South East Asian leaving a strong impression on the global art scene. From museum shows to auction houses, we see the world's increased emphasis on the importance of Asian art corresponding with the rise in value at international auctions and amongst private collectors.

Deborah Iskandar, a former managing director of both Sotheby and Christie in Indonesia, has often been asked how to best navigate the current evolving market trends of Asian art in particular. Armed with more than 20 years' experience collectively, within the art world, she is an art connoisseur. Through her advisory firm, ISA Art Advisory®, she aims to share her knowledge with collectors in need of her expertise.

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### DECADES OF COLLECTING ART

From the entrance, to the inside and even the garden of the property exhibits contemporary art.



I have been inspired by his house and passion for art for over 20 years, since I arrived in Indonesia. His house exemplifies tropical living, and the saying “living with art” is not a cliché.

Before you enter the driveway, you know that a medley of senses awaits you. Two sculptures by Teguh Ostenrik flank the entrance. Under the beckoning umbrella of massive banyan trees, the open arms of the Buddhist inspired sculpture by the contemporary Chinese artist, Li Chen welcome you. To the left, is a realistic sculpture by Inge Rijanto of children playing “tug-of-war” gives you an indication that the stage is set and the play is about to begin.

The house was designed by the late architect Randy Dalrymple and reflects a southern California lifestyle. You enter the house through a beautifully designed abstract bronzed door by Rita Widagdo (the Bandung based sculpture) and meander down long corridor, which leads to two pavilions. The ceiling is undulating, like the ebb and flow of a wave. At the T-junction you come upon a classical 19<sup>th</sup> century Madonna and child sculpture, acquired at Sotheby's. To the left of the Madonna is private area.





**DECADES OF COLLECTING ART**  
CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT

Agapetus Agus Kristiandana  
Siap Bertugas - 2009  
Emulsion paint on aluminium  
199 x 136 x 183 cm

Yang Shaobin  
Untitled-2005  
Bronze  
90 x 96 x 136 cm

One of the corners at Deddy Kusuma's private gallery.  
In the middle, Agus Suwage's *Luxury Crime* grabs the attention

The corridor is also used for more artworks displays

Inge Rijanto  
Power Struggle - 2008  
Bronze  
Various Dimensions



A crucifix painting by the Philippino artist Manansala hangs gracefully above a credenza. To the right is the gallery and entertainment area. This entrance would lead you to think that the collection will be classical in spirit, but Deddy is a man of many tastes.

When you meet him, you immediately understand the arrangement of the artworks. A tall, dapper man, his dress is a flamboyant as the artwork. An art collection is a reflection of our personality, and you can tell this is a gentleman of fire and passion.

From the entertaining area, you descend the stairs to the painting gallery underneath. It's like being enveloped in a cocoon of art. The most striking architectural feature is the glass wall aquarium linking the swimming pool to the gallery. Even when you are swimming, you can look at art.

The collection encompasses a time capsule of modern Indonesian masters such as Le Mayeur, Hendra, Sudjojono, Affandi and Hendra. As with many collectors, his first painting was a landscape, acquired at Oet's Gallery, one of the first art galleries established in the new regime. The painting was unremarkable, but started him on a quest to search out the best. His next acquisition was by the artist Sudjojono. Deddy sought out Sudjojono and acquired "Silip Dalam Segala Cuaca – Fit Under Any Condition". When he visited Sudjojono, there was a choice of paintings, mostly flowers and landscapes. But, Deddy selected the surrealist work which would have been considered quite a challenging painting in the early 1980s, But, today it is hailed as one of Sudjojono's masterpieces. From that point on, a spark was ignited, and the fire of collecting is still burning.

Deddy is very active in the lives and the careers of





**DECADES OF COLLECTING ART**  
CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT

Chen Wenling  
Cold - 2007  
Bronze, car paint  
Various Dimensions

The courtyard is filled with contemporary artworks from various collectable artists

Li Chen's Avalokitesvara in Bronze welcomes all guests at the main entrance

Entang Wiharso  
Undeclared Text - 2010  
Caste Aluminum cast, Car Paint  
450 x 800 cm

contemporary Indonesian artists such as Masriadi and the Jendela Group. He acquired his first Masriadi at Edwin's Gallery in 1998, and has befriended the artist, and taken him Indonesia to China, Paris and elsewhere to promote Indonesian artists. Deddy has collected Masriadi from every period; even the price appreciation did not stop him from adding to the collection if it was an important work. You can see the monumental work "Aku Yang Dapat" has its place in the center of the gallery. To the left are important works by Handiwirman Saputra, Jumaldi Alfi and Ronald Manullang. His collection is not limited to Indonesian art; he has a substantial collection of contemporary Chinese art as well. On the right are works by Zeng Fanzhi, Yue Minjun, and acclaimed Chinese artists. Deddy has fostered introductions and interactions between Chinese and Indonesian artists for over a decade

Most collectors will stop collecting once their walls are full, but not Deddy. With an





expansive garden, continuing to the golf course it looks like the property is endless. Deddy works directly with the artist to commission works for the garden.

My favorite space is the pool. An exquisite reclining woman by Botero is lazily lounging in the foreground. With the bow in her hair, she adds a bit of whimsy to the pool area. The newest addition to the sculpture collection is colossal stainless wall relief by Entang Wiharso entitled "Untitled Text". Entang is a rising star in the Indonesian art world, having debuted in Venice Biennale, Louis Vuitton art space and other important international shows. The Entang relief is based on traditional Javanese mysticism and ideology. The Entang compliments perfectly the freezing red boys by Chen Wenling. The shivering figures are placed knee-deep in the pool, which gives life to the sculpture, like comic animation.

As you walk through the garden, you encounter 3 sculptural figures by Yani Mariani rising up like the palm trees next to it, to creating a space of calm and reflection.

While the depth of sculpture collection is almost incomprehensible, there is still more to follow: but there is one empty space where Deddy is contemplating his next commission.

Deddy does rotate his collection, to appeal to his visitors. If it is a Chinese museum, most likely the Chinese works will be prominently displayed. If a US or European museum, for sure the Indonesian art will be the focus. Deddy has been the "engineer" and catalyst to encourage Indonesian art to "go international" and he is very generous to share his