

Museum MACAN and UOB announces Theresia Agustina Sitompul as the latest UOB Museum MACAN Children's Art Space Commission artist

Titled Kembara Biru (Traveling Blues), the exhibition invites children and families to explore the meaning of 'home', to take a pause and a break from their digital screens, and find joy in making things with their hands.



[Theresia Agustina Sitompul: Kembara Biru (Traveling Blues). Image courtesy of Museum MACAN]

Jakarta, 6 April 2022 – Museum MACAN today announced the latest UOB Museum MACAN Children's Art Space Commission, which features senior Indonesian printmaking artist Theresia Agustina Sitompul. She is well known for her exploration of printmaking, drawing, and installation, which carries highly personal ideas and observations of Indonesian society and community. UOB Indonesia is the Museum's major education partner that aims to introduce and engage public especially children with art since 2017.

Opening on 9 April 2022, *Theresia Agustina Sitompul Kembara Biru (Traveling Blues)* corresponds to the shifting activities taking place in our homes, since the emergence of the pandemic. Now our homes serve as domestic spaces and also offices and schools. This multi-functionality reflects Theresia's own numerous roles: as a mother, an educator, and artist.

The exhibition is inspired by the artist's reflection on her experience staying at home during periods of quarantine, transforming kitchen tables and living rooms into playgrounds of the imagination, as children and families interact and learn in a fun environment. Using carbon paper as her main artistic material, with everyday small objects like buttons and bandages, Theresia encourages children to pause and step away from their digital screens, explore their domestic environments, and rediscover the joy in creating things using their own hands. She believes that everyone can make art from the simplest materials.

The exhibition will feature both a physical installation and activities at Museum MACAN, as well as a suite of online activities that can be explored at home and within the classroom. Visitors to the museum will encounter a huge soft sculptural installation made of a mix of light fabric materials. Taking the shape of a cloud-like form, inspired by a shirt with multiple arms and sleeves, it portrays the multiple roles and

possibilities of manual creation. Visitors are able to touch and engage with the fabric installation. Within the space, there will be multiple paper clouds, a recurring theme throughout the installations, that symbolises endless imagination, happy days and well-wishes. These large cloud formations have transparent pockets, in which visitors are invited to attach the artworks created on-site and at school/home, using available paper and carbon paper materials.

Theresia Agustina Sitompul said, “Children’s imaginations are like the blue sky—they are bright, cheerful, and boundless. So why focus on the limitations when we can explore the possibilities? We have two hands that can create a million amazing things. We may be stuck in our own homes, but we can always make good art from the simplest materials. *Kembara Biru (Traveling Blues)* invites us to pause and take a short break from the digital screens that connect us with those afar. This project re-engages us with the little things that are near and dear: our home, our hands, and our creative mind.”

Fenessa Adikoesoemo, Chairwoman of Museum MACAN Foundation, said, “*Theresia Agustina Sitompul: Kembara Biru (Traveling Blues)* is a meaningful project for us, because it is developed for children, families, and schools, which is aligned with Museum MACAN’s mission and vision of art education for children. The work itself is a reflection to our experience where we spend most of the time at home during these times. We invite the audience to reconnect again with each other, experiencing the present moment together by making things with our own hands. By using readily accessible materials from everyday life, we hope this work can encourage children to learn and nurture their creativity. I am grateful that UOB, as our Major Education Partner, has again been very supportive to the Museum in the development of this project. We’re excited to welcome children and their family to experience this new project, inside the museum and also through the workshops that the Education team has prepared with schools across Indonesia.”

As part of *Theresia Agustina Sitompul: Kembara Biru (Traveling Blues)*, the exhibition has also been designed to connect students and classrooms across Indonesia. 12 schools from 10 provinces will receive materials and kits to allow them to take part in a series of online workshops. The workshops have been devised by the artist to encourage children across the country to join in. The schools can choose to send their students’ creations back to the Museum, where they will be included within the installation or encourage them to create their own mini exhibitions and presentations within their classrooms. Through this process the artist reminds us that art can be created everywhere—and the value of sharing our creative endeavours within our communities.

To encourage a groundswell of creative activity and exhibition making at home, these tutorials and workshops will be made publicly accessible on Museum MACAN’s YouTube and social media channels.

The UOB Museum MACAN Children’s Art Space commissions are initiated by Museum MACAN to support arts education in Indonesia, and are supported by UOB, the Museum MACAN’s major education partner. Working with leading artists, these specially designed and curated projects open up new ways for young minds and educators to engage with art.

Maya Rizano, Head of Strategic Communications and Brand, UOB Indonesia, said, “As Museum MACAN’s education partner, we are proud to support the latest UOB Museum MACAN Children’s Art Space Commission, *Theresia Sitompul: Kembara Biru (Traveling Blues)*. Enriching lives and strengthening societal bonds are fundamental to our philosophy of supporting progress in the community. We believe that art brings together children and artists to explore and to create innovative art experiences that encourage self-expression and playful exchange. Children in particular will have opportunities to learn new ways of expressing their thoughts, feelings and hopes, while developing their creative senses with the usage of manual tools such as their own hands. This is part of UOB’s mission to champion Southeast Asian Art and our long-term commitment to promote social development through art, children and education. Our appreciation goes to Theresia Agustina Sitompul, who has made a creative universe for children, and to the Museum MACAN, with their innovative initiative in creating Children’s Art Space projects.”

Aaron Seeto, Director of Museum MACAN, said, “Over the last two years, we have all been swept up into the world of the digital for almost every aspect of our social life, now, even education is closely intertwined with the screen. Theresia Sitompul’s Museum MACAN Children Arts Space Commission is decidedly manual and analogue—it reminds us how the imagination can sometimes be connected to the creative use of our hands, and how our domestic spaces can be spaces to inspire creative investigation.

There are a number of exciting innovations with this edition of the Museum MACAN UOB Children's Art Space Commission, we are working with schools across the country who will help Theresia create and complete a major installation in the museum, and through workshops, she will be helping children to create mini exhibitions within their classrooms and homes. I can't wait to see how children will engage with this project, and how they will share their creative endeavors with their friends and communities, with many *Kembara Biru (Traveling Blues)* exhibitions popping up in classrooms across the country!"

Theresia Agustina Sitompul: *Kembara Biru (Traveling Blues)* will be open on 9 April 2022 and runs through until 30 October 2022. Together with the opening of Theresia Agustina Sitompul: *Kembara Biru (Traveling Blues)*, children and families will be able to enjoy the installation alongside the another UOB Museum MACAN Children's Art Space *Tromarama: The Lost Jungle*, which opened in December 2021. Side by side with the more analogous *Kembara Biru (Travelling Blues)*, the immersive digital installation in *The Lost Jungle* will present a different experience for children and families—stimulating their creative senses in many ways. *Tromarama: The Lost Jungle* installation will run until 15 May 2022.

Visitors to the museum are required to observe strict protocols and precautionary measures to ensure the safety and well-being of all.

Kembara Biru (Traveling Blues) is also supported by Mowilex Indonesia as the Museum's Official Paint Partner and Festivo as Virtual Reality Partner.

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Visit www.museummacan.org and follow the Museum's social media channels ([Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)) for latest updates on UOB Museum MACAN Children's Art Space

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About UOB Museum MACAN Children's Art Space Commissions

The Children's Art Space is presented in partnership with Museum MACAN's official Major Education Partner United Overseas Bank (UOB). The partnership strengthens the cross-sector support for art and education, a major pillar in Museum MACAN's mission and programming. Dedicated to children and family, this twice-yearly program aims to introduce and engage children with art through fun interactive education and multi sensory art experiences. Since its launch in 2017, Museum MACAN has commissioned six Indonesian and international artists for the program, including Entang Wiharso: *Floating Garden* (2017); Gatot Indrajati: *The Tinkering Box* (2018); Shooshie Sulaiman: *Rubber Scape* (2019); Mit Jai Inn: *Color in Cave* (2019); Citra Sasmita: *Tales of Nowhere* (2020); and Tromarama: *The Lost Jungle* (2021).

About Theresia Agustina Sitompul

Theresia Agustina Sitompul is a senior printmaking artist and lecturer based in Yogyakarta. Drawing inspiration from daily experience and her multiple roles as a woman, a mother, an artist, and an educator, her works deal with personal memory and identities as an attempt to present intimate perspectives in a larger social and historical context. She is the co-founder and only female member of Grafis Minggiran, a printmaking collective established in 2001. Theresia has participated in national and

international exhibitions, including the 16 Albermarle Australia (2020), National Gallery of Indonesia (2019), Art Jog (2014, 2016, 2018). She was the winner of Young Artist Award in ArtJog 2013 and finalist of Sovereign Asian Art Prize 2013.

About Museum MACAN

The Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Nusantara (Museum MACAN) is an art museum in Jakarta, Indonesia. It provides public access to a significant and growing collection of modern and contemporary art from Indonesia and around the world. The Museum has an active program of exhibitions and events in a 7,100 square meter facility.

About PT Mowilex Indonesia

PT Mowilex Indonesia is the subsidiary company of Asia Coatings Enterprises, Pte. Ltd, a leading manufacturer in premium paint and coating. Since its launch the water-based paint made in Indonesia in 1970, the company that prioritizes safety in their products, extends their commitment towards environmental ethics, equality, and innovation. Mowilex is the first manufacturing company with Neutral Carbon Certificate, producing zero and low VOC paint with modern colours. Mowilex have won several awards towards their corporate social responsibility initiative and sustainability efforts.

About Festivo

Established in 2014, Festivo is one of the pioneering studios in Indonesia to provide Virtual Reality and 360° videos. Founded by four alumni of the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) and an alumnus of Bina Nusantara University, Jakarta, Festivo believes that VR (Virtual Reality) and AR (Augmented Reality) applications should not only be immersive, easy, and fun, but also meaningful. Their belief is in line with the vision that technology has a purpose to “humanize humans”.

About UOB and Art

At United Overseas Bank (UOB), we believe that art transcends language, culture, geographies and time. Its history gives people a sense of identity and perspective, it informs the present and it creates a future for the imagination. Art builds relationships and unites people. As such and given our longstanding presence in the region, we have been behind Southeast Asian art for more than four decades.

Driven by a passion to encourage talented artists in their creative pursuits, UOB started the Painting of the Year competition in Singapore in 1982 and introduced it in Indonesia in 2011. Today, the annual art competition is the longest-running in Singapore and one of the most prestigious in Southeast Asia. 2021 marks the 40th anniversary of the Bank’s flagship regional art competition.

About UOB Indonesia

UOB Indonesia is a subsidiary of UOB, a leading bank in Asia with a global network of around 500 offices in 19 countries and territories in Asia Pacific, Europe and North America. Established in 1956 through PT Bank Buana Indonesia, PT Bank UOB Indonesia was formed after a merger with PT Bank UOB Buana, which marked the existence of UOB Indonesia for more than a decade in Indonesia. UOB Indonesia’s service network comprises 41 branch offices, 107 sub-branch offices and 150 ATMs across 30 cities in 18 provinces in Indonesia. UOB Indonesia’s banking services are accessible through its regional ATM network, the ATM Prima and Bersama networks and the Visa network.

UOB Indonesia is committed to providing quality products and excellent customer service. The Bank offers various banking products and services categorised into digital bank, personal financial services, business banking, commercial banking, corporate banking, global markets and investment management. UOB Indonesia is rated AAA (idn) by Fitch Ratings.

The Bank has a strong retail customer base through its wide range of saving products, mortgage services and credit cards. UOB Indonesia’s banking services are also accessible in Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand through hundreds of UOB ATMs.

UOB’s award-winning digital bank, TMRW, serves Indonesia’s generation of enterprising and digitally-savvy customers by providing a better, personalised banking experience through the use of data and customer feedback. Through TMRW, the Bank is committed to helping customers meet their financial goals as they build a better tomorrow.

UOB Indonesia also offers a full suite of corporate/commercial products, including a range of treasury and cash management products and services. UOB Indonesia is also focused on helping companies with their expansion plans and has supported many enterprises from industries such as construction, mining, real estate and the services sector in their expansion into Indonesia.

UOB Indonesia believes in being a responsible financial services provider and it is committed to making a difference in the lives of its stakeholders and in the communities in which it operates. Just as the Bank is dedicated to helping customers manage their finances wisely and to grow their businesses, UOB Indonesia is steadfast in its support of social development, particularly in the areas of art, children and education.

For further details on UOB Indonesia, please visit www.uob.co.id

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