

Indonesian artists respond to recent bombing and reclaim their streets.

Reclaim: Jakarta

Monday 12 June, 2017: After the most recent terror attacks which occurred in East Jakarta left the community reeling, a group of local artists decided to take action and reclaim Jakarta as city of peace, hope and resilience.

Partnering with global arts initiative Micro Galleries, who are bringing their arts festival to Jakarta in October (6-29 October), Indonesian artists Media Legal. Nur, Robowobo, dan Wacky, and Aryo Dewa Bharata, created eight large-scale artworks to spread the message that Jakarta stands united against acts of terrorism.

As Micro Galleries' global artistic director Kat Roma Greer stated, "we have been working closely with the Indonesian arts community in Jakarta for a while now and we could see how devastated they were another terrorist attack had happened in their city so, we asked them how we could help". Working with the local Micro Galleries team Kat realised that the artists felt compelled to do what they do best and create, and specifically they wanted to create works that spread the message of peace, love, tolerance and resistance near the bomb site. Kat then called on the international art community to help.

The 'Reclaim: Jakarta' project, as it has been called was made possible through a number of international sponsors and a global crowdfunding campaign which raised enough funds, in twelve hours, to commission the artists and pay for materials. Kat believes the concept Reclaim: Jakarta received fast support because the wider arts community saw the importance of making an immediate statement against the extreme intolerance seen recently in Jakarta, a place known throughout the world previously for its religious and social pluralism. "We were overwhelmed by the financial support we received so quickly, but we knew our international community would pull together to help our Indonesian artist friends show the world that Jakarta and its people will not be ruled by fear or extremism".

The artworks have been in place since Thursday, 8 May, and cover walls around the Pejompongan area near Senayan, Underpass Duku Atas, Gembong Market bypass, and Pemuda Street in Rawamangun, near Universitas Nasional Jakarta.

End.

[Image Package](#) / [Video Package](#)

Micro Galleries and participating artists are available for interviews. For more details please contact Dara Hanafi at dara@microgalleries.org

Micro Galleries is a free global arts initiative that reclaims disused and forgotten public spaces and reactivates them as open-air galleries that are free and accessible to the local community, using art as a vehicle for positive change, social enquiry, and engaged disruption.

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