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The third avant-garde : contemporary art from Southeast Asia recalling tradition

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GLOSSARY

ABBREVIATIONS

Bal.	Balinese
Budd.	Buddhism
Dut.	Dutch
Hind.	Hinduism
Ind.	Indonesia
Jav.	Javanese
Mh.	Mahayana
P.	Pali
SEA	Southeast Asia
Skt.	Sanskrit
Tet.	Tetun
Th.	Theravada
Thai.	Thailand
v.	<i>vide</i>

GLOSSARY

<i>adat</i>	the traditional religious and social village laws and regulations.
Arjuna	middle brother of the five Pandawa brothers, major shadow play character; refined hero of the Mahabharata cycle.
ASEAN	the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.
Astronesia	Austronesia refers to the homeland of the people who speak Austronesian languages. It also means the regions on which the Austronesian languages are spoken.
<i>bangsa</i>	family, group or nation.
Barong	a mythical beast of great magic power; most frequently identified with Raja Banaspati, Lord of the Jungle.
Batara Guru	another name for the god Siwa (Shiva).
batik	a method (originally used in Java) of producing colored designs on textiles by dyeing them, having first applied wax to the parts

	to be left undyed.
Batuan	refers to a village on Bali, Indonesia and simultaneously the painting style that originated there.
<i>blencong</i>	oil lamp or electric light bulb used to illuminate the shadows on the white cotton screen in a shadow play performance.
Brahma	Lord and creator of the universe and of all beings, one of the three main Hindu deities. The religion originating from the worship of Brahma is called Brahmanism.
Brahmana	(Bal.) a member of the priest (Brahmin in India) caste, highest of the aristocracy, the <i>triwangsa</i> .
Bodhisattva	(Skt.) 'enlightened being' For the Th. sect, each being resolved to reach the state of Buddha and all the successive Buddhas up to enlightenment. For the Mh. order, he is a legendary layman of exemplary virtue and compassion who attempts to reach nirvana.
Borobudur	the largest Buddhist structure in the world, Borobudur is located in the surrounding area of Magelang, in Central Java, Indonesia. Older than Prambanan, Borobudur was built by the Shailendra king Samaratunga between 750 and 850 C.E. The original and sacred name Borobudur of the monument was probably bhumisambharabudhara, indicating the many steps the aspirant had to climb to reach Enlightenment. The Borobudur has been identified as a stupa, a sanctuary (or temple) and as a mandala. In fact, it bears all the three definitions within itself.

- Buddhism** one of the world's religions. Its development led to its internal division between Mahayana and Theravada sects.
- Mahayana Buddhism**, or 'Greater Vehicle' (more literally 'Great means of progression') is the name given to the doctrine born of early Buddhism by its adherents who consider it provides the most efficacious path to salvation by according a vital role to the Bodhisattvas and to the transference or sharing of their merits.
- Theravada Buddhism**, or 'Doctrine of the Elders,' is the expression used to refer both to the Buddhist sect whose adherents follow the teaching contained in the Pali canon and to the doctrine expounded in this canon.
- candi** (Indo.) temple, sanctuary-tower or funerary monument of Indo-Javanese style.
- Cirebon** famous court city in West Java.
- Cloisonné** decorative work in which enamel, glass, or gemstones are separated by strips of flattened wire placed edgewise on a metal backing.
- CPLP** Community of Portuguese Language Countries
- dalang** the animator of the puppets and the narrator of the story.
- desa** an independent community; rural areas of Java and Bali.
- dewa** (Bal.) a deity
- dharma** the teaching or religion of the Buddha. One of the fundamental elements of which the world is composed.
- Gamelan** generic name for bronze gong ensemble orchestras and music that accompanies shadow play performances.
- garuda** mythical bird that generally combines the features of a bird, a feline and a human being (SEA); king of the birds.
- Guru** (Skt.) used in Java and Bali for teacher; in Java and Bali may refer to god Batara Guru, the creator.
- halus** (Jav.) refined.
- Inlander** (Dut.) Indies native.
- Kamasan** a village on Bali, Indonesia. It is used interchangeably with the painting style, which for disambiguation purposes has been termed as classic.
- kasar** coarse or rough.
- kebatian** Javanese mysticism.
- keris** Javanese and Balinese dagger. A weapon as much as a ritual object with supernatural powers.
- Kecac** is a form of Balinese dance and music drama that was developed in the 1930s in Bali, Indonesia.
- kidung** Old and Middle Javanese
- Kidung Interaktif** Kidung Interaktif is a development from the traditional practice of *mabebasan*, e.g. the vocalizing and interpreting of traditional Balinese poetry. The interactivity of *kidung* has rescued *mabebasan* from elitist circuits (which would ultimately lead to its extinction) and demonstrates the Balinese desire to revive their long-standing traditions. Carried out in the radio and in television programs, *kidung interaktif* has continually attracted a wide audience, demonstrating the ability of traditional arts to embrace new media.
- kongsi** mutual aid associations created by the Chinese during the colonial period.
- Korawas** collective name of the 100 sons of the blind king Drestarata. They belong to the 'left hand party', i.e. the wicked, in *wayang* plays.
- Kraton** (Jav.) word for a royal palace.

- kulit** hide, leather.
- lakons** the story narrated by the *dalang*; these moralizing dramas require one full night for their performance.
- Layty** class of people that serves the monks and the life inside the monastery, enhances his merit status, and cultivates a quality of life characterized by 'giving.' Without laymen, monks and monastery cannot function. Both monks and laymen are on the path of the Buddha.
- lontar** a manuscript, a book written on dried leaves of the lontar palm.
- Macao SAR** Macau Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.
- Mahabharata** a pan-Asian cycle of stories dating back to ca. 400 BCE which tells of the events leading up to and including the Bratayuda War between the five Pandhawa brothers and their cousins, the ninety-nine Korawa, over the rights to the kingdom of Ngastina. The stories are known in countless oral and written tellings throughout South and Southeast Asia.
- Majapahit** East-Javanese empire that colonized the Malay Archipelago during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.
- Mandala** (Skt.) literally means circle, center or 'what surrounds,' implying a sacred place or space. Mandalas formalize space; give it a name and habitation. The mandala principle is of orderly chaos: it is orderly because it comes in a pattern; it is chaos because it is confusing to work in that order. Mandala may also refer to a meditation technique that unites the two orders of nature to produce the best poem imaginable. The conception of phases is determined by the number of concentric circles of the mandala, and these stages correspond to various Buddha—bodies, cycle of seasons, literary modes of production before the final Buddha-image is produced. A mandala is usually represented by a diagram with a central deity, a personification of the basic sanity of Buddha nature. The constructed form of a mandala has as its basic structure a palace with a center and four gates in the cardinal directions.
- mantra** (Skt.) recitation of holy words or syllables for mystical purposes; cabalistic words with magic power.
- Mara** one of the greatest gods in the Domain of Desires and of Death; he is regarded as the Tempter, as Satan.
- Mataram** Shivaite lineage of kings that ruled in Indonesian islands until the first quarter of the tenth century.
- memedeg** (Bal.) the act of organizing a Batuan painting through chromatic gradation. Composition starts being organized at the bottom and working up; this strategy finds its roots in *wayang kulit* performances, especially in the way puppets are layered on top of each other during a performance.
- mudra** (Skt.) mark, seal, a gesture of the hands and fingers to which a mystical significance is attached. The term is used to signify a hand-gesture that is designated as a mark of a specific transcendent Buddha (Mh.).
- Nyepi** (Bal.) a Balinese 'Day of Silence' that is commemorated every Isakawarsa (Saka new year) according to the Balinese calendar.
- ogoh-ogoh** (Bal.) these are ephemeral statues built for the Ngrupuk parade, which takes place on the eve of Nyepi day in Bali, Indonesia. Ogoh-ogoh normally have form of mythological beings, mostly demons.
- Pancasila** the five principles that

- undergird the constitution of the Indonesian state.
- pasemon** allusion; type of shadow play where events in everyday life or court intrigues.
- pasisir** the north coast areas of Java.
- Pali** the 'sacred language' of Theravada tradition.
- Panji** Panji was a legendary prince in East Java, Indonesia. His life formed the basis of a cycle of Javanese stories, that, along with the Ramayana and Mahabharata, are the basis of various poems and a genre of wayang (shadow puppetry) known in East Java as *wayang gedog*. The hero of *wayang gedog*. Panji tales have been the inspiration of Indonesian traditional dances, most notably the *topeng* (mask) dances of Cirebon and Malang.
- Pedanda** (Bal.) a high priest, generally of the Brahmana caste.
- Pendawas** Pendawas are the five acknowledged sons of Pandu who are the famous five hero brothers—Yudistira, Bima, Arjuna and the twins Nakula and Sadewa.
- Peranakan** Other terms used for identifying sectors of the community include *peranakan* and *totok*. The former, traditionally used to describe those born locally, is derived from the root Indonesian word *anak* ("child") and thus means "child of the land". The latter is derived from Javanese, meaning "new" or "pure", and is used to describe the foreign born and new immigrants.
- Pita Maha** was an important art organization founded in 1936 in Ubud. Lasting until 1942, it was probably the major impulse to the creation of a local art market for artists from the Ubud area. Formed in response to gallerist protests complaining about works' sales in the recently opened Bali Museum in Denpasar, Pita Maha was formed by Prince Cokorda Gde Agung Sukawati and the artists I Nyoman Lempad, Walter Spies and Rudolf Bonnet. It acted as intermediary, selling the paintings through exhibitions in major cities of Java, the Netherlands and the United States. Few Batuan works from the 1930s remained in Bali. Pita Maha lasted until 1942, when the Dutch Indies was invaded by Japanese troops. Recognition in Pita Maha provided artists a regular income, which may have contributed to artists' resuming to sign their works. This individualization (caused by Pita Maha) was unknown to Balinese culture: Spies and Bonnet supplied watercolors and crayons with which the artists started adding color to their black and white compositions. The first colored paintings can be traced to their influence; both Spies and Bonnet believed colored works sold better than the predominantly black and white ones. Eventually, Pita Maha developed into a kind of artistic school, and as such played a role in forming a new style—the 'Ubud style' of painting. Meanwhile, Batuan artists worked in relative isolation.
- Pura** (Bal.) temple.
- Prajñaparamita** (Skt.) 'Perfection of Wisdom,' a Bodhisattva of female appearance sometimes looked upon as the spiritual Mother of all the Buddhas (Mh.)
- Priyayi** Javanese bureaucratic class who often worked with the Dutch in colonial times; white-collar class in postcolonial Java.
- puputan** (Bal.) term that refers to a mass ritual suicide in preference to facing the humiliation of surrender. Notable puputans occurred in 1906 and 1908 when the Balinese were being subjugated by the Dutch.
- puri** the palace of a prince.
- Purwa** literally means 'past' as well as 'beginning' or 'origin', thus the term *wayang purwa* could be translated as 'shadows of the

- past'; late tenth-century prose texts of Mahabharata and Ramayana stories in Old Javanese, interspersed with Sanskrit sloka (the metric of the epic verses).
- Qi** (Chin.) vital energy; the circulating life force whose existence and properties are the basis of much Chinese philosophy and medicine.
- Ramayana** a pan-Asian story cycle dating from to ca. 200 BCE, about the noble prince Rama whose wife Sita is abducted by the demon king Rawana. The stories are known in countless oral and written tellings throughout South and Southeast Asia.
- ramè** (Bal.) boisterous, crowded, lively, animated and busy. Geertz identifies it as copiousness and suggests it can be translated as plenitude or as busy, crowded sociability or excitement and fun.
- sakti** (Bal.) mystical power; can be described as 'sorcery'. Capacity to join in combat the competing forces of the universe to secure an envelope of safety around oneself and those near one.
- Samadhi** (Skt., P.) concentration, religious meditation; together with a perfect way of life, this is indispensable for attaining the highest wisdom.
- Sanskrit** Indian literary language used frequently for religious, poetic, and dramatic texts. Language of ancient inscriptions in South and Southeast Asia. Sacred language of the Buddhist Mahayana tradition.
- sanggar** (Ind.) informal learning environments, these fluid collectives are composed of ad hoc groups whose membership shift and changes. Present in Java, Bali and Timor-Leste.
- Sangha** the monastic order of Theravada Buddhism in Thailand. Traditionally, the monks live an ascetic ideal.
- sawah** (Ind.) a rice field.
- Shailendra** a Buddhist dynasty that ruled in Indonesian islands between the 8th and the 9th centuries CE, and ruled Shrivijaya during the 8th and 13th centuries CE.
- Semar** clown servant to Pandawa heroes; in reality, the god Ismaya, older brother of Batara Guru.
- Sidoarjo** town in East Java
- Solo** famous court city in Central Java—also known as Surakarta.
- stupa** (Skt.) quintessential Buddhist monument; the original meaning being 'remains of a burial mound.' This traditional solid structure takes on different forms in the regions where Buddhism has been practiced. They can be domed, cylindrical or pyramidal. The pagodas in China and Japan are an extension of these ideas.
- Sukarno** nationalist leader during the colonial period and independent Indonesia's first president (1945-1966).
- Suharto** Indonesian general, second president of the Indonesian state who ruled under the Orde Baru (New Order) between 1967 and 1998.
- Surakarta** famous court city in Central Java, founded in 1744 AD—also known as Solo.
- Tais** (Tet.) also designated as *ikat*, this weaving technique is present in most of the Indonesian archipelago, and especially in East Nusa Tenggara, where Timor is located. It is nevertheless a global form of textile decoration, and probably one of the oldest in the entire world. One of its characteristics is the apparent 'blurriness' of the design. *Tais* is a woven textile, which is part of Timor-Leste's classified intangible heritage. Spread everywhere in the country, each locale has its own variations. It has been used in cultural ceremonies

- like weddings or funerals, but also it has served as a gift to personalities that visit the country. Historically, the *tais* depicted the narrative that the weaver must tell, which has originated several ornaments and colors.
- transmigrasi** (Ind.) transmigration policies that were enforced and stimulated during the New Order.
- Trimuti** Hindu trinity; constituted by lord Brahma (the creator), Vishnu (the preserver) and Shiva (the destroyer/transformer).
- Totok** A term used for identifying sectors of the community deriving from Javanese, meaning 'new' or 'pure,' and is used to describe the foreign born and new immigrants.
- Ubud** Ubud is a town on the Indonesian island of Bali in Ubud District, of the Gianyar regency. One of Bali's major arts and culture centers, it has developed a large tourism industry.
- UNESCO** an agency of the United Nations set up in 1945 to promote the exchange of information, ideas, and culture.
- Wayang** (Jav.) Literally means shadow. Javanese marker of dramatic genres. The term came to also mean puppet, even when the puppets are not used.
—*wayang batu*: stone *wayang*; same as *wayang* style. Defined by Claire Holt, It consists on the temple reliefs that decorate the facades of sanctuaries in East Java from the tenth to the fifteenth centuries.
—*wayang beber*: a form of *wayang*; a long scroll of cotton in which the episodes are painted. *Wayang beber* comes from the Javanese word *ambeber*, which means 'to open by spreading.'
—*wayang gedog*: a type of *wayang kulit*; the meaning of the word *gedog* is not clear. *Wayang gedog kulit* represents characters from the cycle of Panji stories.
—*wayang golek*: a form of wooden puppet, which is tridimensional, the clothing being of cotton batik.
—*wayang kulit*: shadow puppet theater.
—*wayang orang*: Indonesian language term for the Javanese theatrical tradition modeled after the shadow puppet theater but using human actors.
—*wayang purwa kulit*: the performance representing the cycle of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata stories.
—*wayang* style: stone *wayang*; same as *wayang batu*. Defined by Claire Holt, It consists on the temple reliefs that decorate the facades of sanctuaries in East Java from the tenth to the fifteenth centuries.
—*wayang topeng*: a form of *wayang* performed by actors wearing masks.
—*wayang wong*: theatrical tradition nurtured in the courts of Solo and Yogya modeled after the shadow puppet theatre but using human actors.
- Yantra** Magic diagrams that serve as Buddhist talismans in the form of a piece of cloth bearing sacred symbols and inscriptions. They draw on the power of Pali language, of cabalistic configurations of syllables and mysterious geometries of power.
- Yogyakarta** famous court city in Central Java—also known as Yogya and Jogja.
- Zen** a Buddhist sect which was introduced into Japan from China in the middle of the 12th century. It exerted a considerable influence on Japanese art.