



### A SLICE OF THE GODS

#### Welcoming Rice "Pregnant" Ceremony (*Biyukukung*)

*...This ceremony is a reward and expression of gratefulness from the Bali farmers to nature and the Creator for the godsend received...*

In 2012, UNESCO declared *Subak* as a World Heritage Site. *Subak* is a community organization specializing in organizing rice field irrigation system used in planting paddies in Bali. The *Subak* System is based on the principals of water flow from the top level, with hilly rice field topography and even water distribution in between the farmers cultivating the fields.

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### PACKAGE

#### SPECIAL DEAL

*...Celebrate Idul Fitri ( Eid Al-Fitr ) at Komaneka...*

To celebrate this joyous day of Idul Fitri ( Eid Al-Fitr ), Komaneka have very special deal Idul Fitri Package for staying in between August 1 – 12, 2013 at Bisma Suite of Komaneka at Bisma OR any Pool Villa of Komaneka at Tanggayuda, Ubud Bali.

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### KOMANEKA FINE ART GALLERY

#### HANAFI

*... paintings in Hanafi's hands are no different than the creation of poetry in the hands of a poet: a form of art that tries to dig deeper into the mystery of "life"...*

Hanafi is known as an artist who tends to transform visual elements into abstract and imaginary ones who later produce chambers in various compositions and lighting. Observing Hanafi's paintings, the audience is provided unlimited space to interpret and describe the message within. Hanafi allows the audience's perception to move wildly, to activate the imagination and to ignite creativity. It is therefore not surprising that many says that Hanafi's art pieces have given stimulus on ideas, inspirations and creativity in various fields, e.g. architecture, design, music and literature.

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### WHAT TO READ

#### ISLAND OF THE SPIRITS

*...This spectacular book is quite interesting as reference for all parties intensely related with Balinese culture...*

The Balinese culture is a compilation of the top civilizations that have once set foot in this small island, from animism, dynamism, totemism, Buddhism, Sywaism, until modernism, are all combined in one featuring a culture both festive and complex. The spiritual culture of Bali is rooted in India Hinduism, Buddhist and ancient animism belief, which first originated in East Java. Old-age-century ceremonies with very complex rituals are still alive until this every day.

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## A SLICE OF THE GODS



### Welcoming Rice "Pregnant" Ceremony (*Biyukukung*)

In 2012, UNESCO declared *Subak* as a World Heritage Site. *Subak* is a community organization specializing in organizing rice field irrigation system used in planting paddies in Bali. The *Subak* System is based on the principals of water flow from the top level, with hilly rice field topography and even water distribution in between the farmers cultivating the fields.

*Subak* is not merely an irrigation mechanism, nor just a techno-social tool, but it is the basic understanding of the Balinese farmers that agriculture is one separate entity woven with ecosystem and spirituality. This is seen from the many ceremonies related with traditions done by farmers in *subak* community. There are a total of 27 ceremonies conducted by the farmers, from seeding, weeding, transporting, storing, until drying. One of the compulsory ceremonies is called *Biyukukung*, done when their paddies are about to become "pregnant" or in the early stages of "pregnancy". During the *Biyukukung* ceremony, the farmers pray to the *Bhatara Surya* (God of the Sun) for his blessings and protection.

The preparation for the *Biyukukung* usually starts from home. Before sunrise, the farmer and his family usually depart to the rice field carrying ceremonial instruments with them. Going



through cold and still-dark streets, the family carries *sundih* (torch from coconut leaves) to light their way. The *Biyukukung* ceremony is conducted in the rice field, exactly on the sluice, where the water enters the *cakangan* (each separate field). The *upakara* (ceremonial tools) used in this ceremony is quite unique, e.g. *tipat gantusan* (rice cooked in woven coconut leaves), *rujak manis* (fresh fruits with coconut sugar sauce), *ampo* (snacks made from baked clay), *kungkang* (male & female dolls made from woven young coconut leaves), *sampian kakul* (ceremonial tools made from young coconut leaves), tubers, yellow rice, and legumes. There are also fried banana and other local Balinese delicacies to complement the offering. The family also prepare *banten pengoak* (special type of offering as part of the ceremony), placed on an old palm branch. The top of *banten pengoak* is decorated with young palm leaves, let loose.



Children always await this *Biyukukung* ceremony, especially for the *meogoak-goakan* stage. At this stage, children are given parts as *goak* (raven), birds considered as paddy pests. The children will shout *goaaaak*, *goaaaaaak*, *goaaaaaak*... one after another. Once the ceremony is over, the *banten pengoak*, which contains various delicacies, will be given to the children who donated their voices as *goaks*. If no children are present, then the *banten pengoak* cannot be cleared up. There are also several *bantens* (offerings) that are deliberately floated in *cakangan*, e.g. *kungkang*, *nyah-nyah geringsing*, yellow rice. The tubers will be planted on the rice fields. The intention for the floats in *cakangan* is so that all areas of the rice fields receive the aura from the ceremony.

The *Biyukukung* ceremony is a reward and expression of gratefulness from the Bali farmers to nature and the Creator for the godsend received. Bali farmers respect paddies highly. Paddies as the source of staple food for Balinese (rice) is given a special place within the Balinese tradition. Paddy is considered a manifestation of lambang *Dewi Sri*, a beautiful goddess believed to present prosperity and welfare. The "pregnancy" of paddies is celebrated by organizing the *Biyukukung* ceremony, which is full of meanings and moral messages.

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## PACKAGE



Premiere Valley Pool Villa of Komaneka at Tanggayuda

### **SPECIAL DEAL** **CELEBRATE IDUL FITRI (EID AL-FITR) AT KOMANEKA** **UBUD - BALI**

2 Nights stay at Bisma Suite  
Komaneka at Bisma

OR

2 Nights stay at any Pool Villa  
Komaneka at Tanggayuda

This package includes:

- 2-night stay at Bisma Suite of Komaneka at Bisma OR any Pool Villa Komaneka at Tanggayuda
- **1 x 60-minute Balinese Massage**
- **Once Set Dinner**
- Welcome drink and refreshing towel upon arrival
- Daily tasteful breakfast with various of choices
- Daily afternoon tea with assorted Balinese cakes
- Daily cookies, fruits and flowers in room
- Daily cultural visit to the Neka Art Museum including return transfer and entrance ticket
- Free 4 bottles of mineral water every day
- Special gift of Komaneka amenities upon departure
- Free 24 hours limited speed wireless internet connection in the entire resort area
- Free 24 hours movie and music on demand in room (Apple TV)
- Free scheduled guest activities : making offering, dance lesson, wood carving
- Free usage of gym facilities
- Free shuttle service to/from Ubud central

Terms & Condition :

- Valid for 2 (two) persons per room within period of stay August 1 - 12, 2013
- Inclusion is not redeemable for cash
- Reservations to this special package are subject to room availability

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## KOMANEKA FINE ART GALLERY



*Kolam Pagi Hari*, acrylic on canvas, 125 x 285 cm, 2007

### HANAFI

Hanafi is known as an artist who tends to transform visual elements into abstract and imaginary ones who later produce chambers in various compositions and lighting. Observing Hanafi's paintings, the audience is provided unlimited space to interpret and describe the message within. Hanafi allows the audience's perception to move wildly, to activate the imagination and to ignite creativity. It is therefore not surprising that many says that Hanafi's art pieces have given stimulus on ideas, inspirations and creativity in various fields, e.g. architecture, design, music and literature.

Hanafi was born from a common family, from the couple Muhtarom and Umi Hani, both already deceased. Born and grew up in his village in Baledono, Purworejo, Central Java, nearby a river, Hanafi confessed that his life does flow like a river, without plans. This resembles his paintings which tend to be spontaneous without any drafted design. Hanafi started his journey in the art realm by entering Indonesian Art Institute (*Sekolah Seni Rupa Indonesia, SRRI*, now called *Institut Seni Indonesia, ISI*) in Yogyakarta. He went to Jakarta after finishing his art education. Before becoming a billboard painter, Hanafi was a public area worker at Hotel President, Jakarta. In 1990, Hanafi established himself as a painter. All those stages, according to Hanafi, feel like they happen out of coincidence, nothing was planned.

Observing deeper into his works, the absence of design does appear everywhere, especially on the elements of art which have been processed and used effectively without disowning its basic functions: the presence of lines are not meant to define or to limit things; colors arise not as

tools for specific emotions; and composition was compiled without any intention to imply any esthetic objectives; art images that appear are not meant as archetype and the likes. We will be pulled into a colorful and odd vortex; which fluctuates from time to time. This is more of reflection on "psychological situation", which are unnamed feelings, a flow of senses that are not yet fully felt, reflecting everything that appears from the deepest emotion.

The objective of creation is to widen the possibilities, deepen the depth of senses and emotions, in order to reach a much deeper inner trough. Therefore paintings in Hanafi's hands are no different than the creation of poetry in the hands of a poet: a form of art that tries to dig deeper into the mystery of "life", one's bottom of the heart and the substance of mankind in its total understanding.



**Lubang Langit**, Acrylic on canvas, 165X165cm, 2010

*View HANAFI art works at Komaneka Fine Art Gallery*

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## WHAT TO READ

### **Island Of The Spirits**

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The Balinese culture is a compilation of the top civilizations that have once set foot in this small island, from animism, dynamism, totemism, Buddhism, Sywaism, until modernism, are all combined in one featuring a culture both festive and complex. The spiritual culture of Bali is rooted in India Hinduism, Buddhist and ancient animism belief, which first originated in East Java. Old-age-century ceremonies with very complex rituals are still alive until this every day. In the middle of machine roars and the very swift globalization beat, the aroma of incense and the chanting of the holy mantra still can be heard although it becomes more subtle.

Delivering the *yadnya* (holy offering) is an obligation from time to time. *Canang sari*, an offering tool in the form of woven palm leaves filled with colorful flowers, cannot be separated from the daily lives of the Balinese people. We could find them easily in front of the house entrance, the family prayer venue, in the big tree with *poleng* skirt and other special places. Balinese really believe in the presence of *niskala* (unseen energy / unseen forces) which also determine the sustainability of lives on this island. Maintaining harmony with the *niskala* world, delivering offering (flowers, fruit and water) are believed to bring in goodness for the Balinese community. Almost in all corners we can see these offering tools. Trees, temples, mountains, rocks, water are all considered holy for Balinese, and Balinese believe all of those can become gateways to the other world from their ancestors, the gods / goddesses and the ruler of the underworld. These matters show us that this is as if the spirit or the energy exists everywhere.

John Stanmeyer spent 5 years living in Bali. Through his lens shots, he made quite a complete reportage on the lives of the Balinese community. His photos captured events from the last decade. The bodies featured in this book strongly emphasize the historical (aspects) of spiritual lives in Bali. We could understand some of it as they are explained fully, however tracing deeper into the book the description features layered imagery. This spectacular book is quite interesting as reference for all parties intensely related with Balinese culture. The visual black and white language displayed in the book is very captivating, luring the imagination and emotions of the readers to join in in the ambience and events presented in the book. Simple yet thrilling...

ISLAND OF THE SPIRITS by John Stanmeyer,  
Texts by Wade Davis and Anastasia Stanmeyer,  
Afterhours 2010 edition,  
ISBN 978-602-97507-1-3,  
80 pages

*This book could be found at Komaneka Fine Art Gallery.*

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