



### A SLICE OF THE GODS

#### **BALINESE CALENDAR**

...exact dates of the ceremonies, weddings, house construction, are determined and calculated by Balinese using the Balinese Calendar...

The lives of the Balinese are inseparable from various ceremonial activities. The ceremonies are expression of devotion to the Creator (*Hyang Widhi*) and to the ancestors, and as an expression of thankfulness to the nature and environment. The exact dates of the ceremonies, whether in *pura* (temple) for *Odalan*, weddings, house construction, are determined and calculated by Balinese using the Balinese Calendar. There are 2 systems in the Balinese calendar, i.e. *Pawukon*, where one cycle consists of 210 days, and *Çaka*, where one cycle consists of 354 days.

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### PACKAGE

#### **SPECIAL DEAL**

...This New Year, wish all the joy and happiness in the world!...

To share the happiness of New Year celebration, Komaneka Ubud Bali have made a very special New Year Deal for staying 2 nights at Bisma Suite Room of Komaneka at Bisma, Ubud Bali.

Stay period starting December 30, 2012 until January 1, 2013.

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### KOMANEKA FINE ART GALLERY

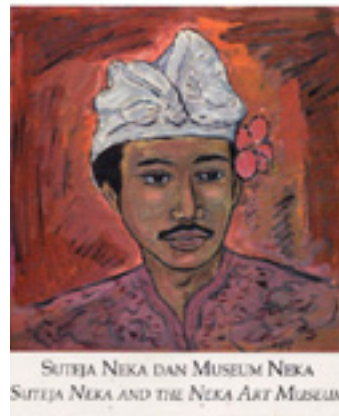
#### **SUJANA SUKLU**

...Suklu positioned arts as part of him, arts is his breath and his pulse...

Arts activities is not only a matter of producing work of arts, arts activities is the life itself. Suklu positioned arts as part of him, arts is his breath and his pulse. All of his facets of life and daily activities are inseparable from arts.

Suklu is convinced that arts activity is one form of meditation in daily lives. Arts as meditation process started to grow in Suklu's consciousness, inspired by Ida Pedanda Made Sidemen, whose walks of life was very meditative.

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### WHAT TO READ

#### **SUTEJA NEKA AND THE NEKA ART MUSEUM**

...Pande Suteja Neka is a figure who we must appreciate for his actions in preserving and developing the paintings in Bali...

Art activities are inseparable from the lives of the Balinese community. Almost all facets of Balinese life are inseparable from a touch of art. In Balinese culture, art activities are materialization of *bakti "ngayah"* (devote oneself to a particular cause or ceremonial activity without any expectation of payment or reciprocity) for the *Hyang Widhi* (God) and the social environment. They make art pieces as tool of worship laden with morality and virtue messages usually based on the ancestors' guidance, e.g. Mahabharata, Ramayana and folklores.

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### A SLICE OF THE GODS



### BALINESE CALENDAR

The lives of the Balinese are inseparable from various ceremonial activities. The ceremonies are expression of devotion to the Creator (*Hyang Widhi*) and to the ancestors, and as an expression of thankfulness to the nature and environment. The exact dates of the ceremonies, whether in *pura* (temple) for *Odalan*, weddings, house construction, are determined and calculated by Balinese using the Balinese Calendar. There are 2 systems in the Balinese calendar, i.e. *Pawukon*, where one cycle consists of 210 days, and *Çaka*, where one cycle consists of 354 days.

One cycle of *Pawukon* calendar consists of 30 *wuku* (week), i.e. *Sinta, Landep, Ukir, Kulantir, Taulu, Gumbreg, Wariga, Warigadian, Julungwangi, Sungsang, Dunggulan, Kuningan, Langkir, Medangsia, Pujut, Pahang, Krulut, Merakih, Tambir, Medangkungan, Matal, Uye, Menail, Perangbokat, Bala, Ugu, Wayang, Kelawu, Dukut, and Watugunung*. One *wuku* consists of 7 days (*Saptawara*), e.g. *Redite* (Sunday), *Soma* (Monday), *Anggara* (Tuesday), *Buda* (Wednesday), *Wraspati* (Thursday), *Sukra* (Friday), dan *Saniscara* (Saturday). One *wuku* may also consist of 5 days, *Pancawara*, where 1 week consists of 5 days, i.e. *Umanis, Pahing, Pon, Wage, and Kliwon*. Besides 5 & 7 days, one *wuku* may also consist of 3 days, *Triwara*, i.e. *Pasah, Beteng, Kajeng*.



In order to determine the important / good days (*hari baik*) in the *Pawukon* calendar, the three *wukus* (*Triwara*, *Pancawara*, and *Saptawara*) must be in one alignment at one time, e.g. the last day of *Triwara* that meets with *Pancawara*, called *Kajeng Kliwon* (the alignment of *Kajeng* and *Kliwon* . *Kajeng Kliwon* is an important day to offer prayers and conduct ceremonies, however at the same time this is also a dangerous day as negative energies are present everywhere. Therefore every *Kajeng Kliwon* we will find Balinese ladies preparing various offerings on holy sites, in front of doors, on the house yard, and other sites or items considered having magical power.

Another important calculation is the alignment of *Tumpek* (*Pancawara*) with one of the days in *Pancawara* on a certain *wuku*, e.g. *Tumpek Landep* (*Tumpek* that falls on *Saniscara*) *wuku Landep*). On *Tumpek Landep* Balinese will present their offerings and gifts to the tools that helps them do their work, e.g. weapons / *keris*, carpentry tools, farming tools, and also modern tools , e.g. motorcycles, cars and trucks. *Tumpek Wariga* (*Tumpek* that falls on *Saniscara wuku Wariga*) is a day to express thanksgiving and gratefulness to nature, plants / vegetation and trees for the harvest they provided. The calculation for the *Pawukon* calendar system is used very much by the Balinese to determine good / important days as opposed to the bad days to conduct ceremonies, e.g. *Kuningan*, *Galungan*, *Saraswati*, etc.



Besides the *Pawukon*, there is another calendar system known as the *Çaka*. The *Çaka* calendar system consists of 12 *Sasih* (months), i.e. *Kasa*, *Karo*, *Katiga*, *Kapat*, *Kalima*, *Kanem*, *Kapitu*, *Kaulu*, *Kasanga*, *Kadasa*, *Jiyestha*, *Sadha*. On this system, the calculation is based on the appearance of the moon on the sky. *Tilem* (new moon) marks the changing of the months. *Tilem* is also considered a good day to offer prayer and thanksgiving. On *Purnama* (full moon) the Balinese people offer prayer and thanksgiving to *Dewi Ratih*, the goddess of the moon, as this is considered a good day to offer prayer and thanksgiving.

The *Çaka* new year falls on the first day of *Kadasa*, the 10th month, called *Nyepi*. *Nyepi* is a very important day to celebrate. During that day, the Balinese people perform the *catur bratha penyepian*, i.e. no travelling, no fire / light, no amusement / entertainment, and no work. During *Nyepi*, the Island of Bali will rest from all activities. There are no whirr and whoosh from vehicles on the road, the streets are empty and deserted, there are no burning smokes, and we can hear clearly the chirps and twitter of the birds singing the symphony of joy and happiness. The Balinese people put close attention to both calendar systems, the *Pawukon* and the *Çaka*, in order to determine the dates for important occasion, including the dates for religious ceremonies.

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## PACKAGE



### **SPECIAL DEAL**

***This New Year, wish all the joy and happiness in the world.***

To share the happiness of New Year celebration, Komaneke Ubud Bali have made a very special New Year Deal.

This package includes:

- 2-night stay at Bisma Suite of Komaneke at Bisma
- **Once One Way Pick Up Service from The Airport**
- **Once New Year Eve Gala Dinner On December 31, 2012**
- 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 Komaneke 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  
December 30, 2012 until January 1, 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



*Musim Bergeser, 2012, Ink, Acrylic on Canvas, 120 x 200 cm.*

### **SUJANA SUKLU**

Arts activities is not only a matter of producing work of arts, arts activities is the life itself. Suklu positioned arts as part of him, arts is his breath and his pulse. All of his facets of life and daily activities are inseparable from arts.

Suklu is convinced that arts activity is one form of meditation in daily lives. Arts as meditation process started to grow in Suklu's consciousness, inspired by Ida Pedanda Made Sidemen, whose walks of life was very meditative. By using arts activities as a meditation process, Suklu tries to take off his mind, crossing space and time, without any ties to habit and standard method of thinking. He let his imagination play across the limit, until he reach a conviction that a real object has potentials beyond its physical conditions. A stone is not only seen as a stone (material wise). When a stone is placed on top of one leaf, it will create a different definition.

Suklu was born in Klungkung in 1967. In 1987, Suklu finished his schooling in SMSR Denpasar (Fine Arts High School). During those times, Suklu stayed in Ubud and concentrated on traditional paintings, specializing in Ubud style. In 1992, Suklu continued his studies at Painting Department, STSI Denpasar (Indonesian Institute of Arts, now called ISI), graduated in 1997. Suklu was one of the first graduates from the Painting Department. During those academic years, Suklu's talents were sharpened in both his techniques and his outlook on modern and contemporary arts. Until now Suklu dedicated himself to teach at his former campus.

The concept of art activities as a meditation process is glued in Suklu's mind during those campus years, and as a result materialized in his works, especially in his sketches. Suklu is one of those artists that likes to produce sketches regardless of time, place, tools and medium. This is because he believes that sketching, and other walks of arts, is part of meditation process. Through the lines and strokes in his many sketches, Suklu developed his inner soul in the walks of meditation. It doesn't matter what the final result of his sketches are, because what matters is the process, not the final results. In this case, Suklu really rely on his intuition and imagination.



*Sepasang Masa Lalu, 2012, Charcoal, Acrylic on Canvas, 120x120 cm.*

Within his works, meditation process is much related with repetition in order to achieve clarity, both for the mind and the soul. For Suklu, repetition is a method, where others can also be involved and feel the process themselves. Just like the chimes of the prayer bells, producing repeated sounds, bringing forth the peace of the inner soul, flowing with the imagination. In Bali, the chimes of the prayer bells always accompany every prayer ritual at the temples.

The choice of colors is also conducted with meditate awareness. The color at the beginning of those repeated arches will be ended or locked with the same color at the beginning. His philosophy is the beginning and the end is no different, the same, emptiness, silence. "The key to the repetitive method is the centering of the mind, which lead to a meditative condition. This is, once again, a method, not the final result," Suklu says.

Through his newest work of art, it seems that Suklu reinforced himself as an "independent artist" who is not overwhelmed in inscribing his imagination, open to form relations and collaborations with all kinds of people with various backgrounds, and also attempt to bring his works closer to the audience. Enjoying Suklu's art work is fishing for unexpected perception. Let's go for a holiday, freeing up the imagination, and see Suklu's newest art works in the exhibition titled THE UNSEEN THINGS SUKLU at Komaneka Gallery, from December 9, 2012 until January 9, 2013.

*View Suklu's newest art works in the exhibition titled THE UNSEEN THINGS at Komaneka Fine Art Gallery*

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SUTEJA NEKA DAN MUSEUM NEKA  
SUTEJA NEKA AND THE NEKA ART MUSEUM

## WHAT TO READ

### **SUTEJA NEKA AND THE NEKA ART MUSEUM**

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Art activities are inseparable from the lives of the Balinese community. Almost all facets of Balinese life are inseparable from a touch of art. In Balinese culture, art activities are materialization of *bakti "ngayah"* (devote oneself to a particular cause or ceremonial activity without any expectation of payment or reciprocity) for the *Hyang Widhi* (God) and the social environment. They make art pieces as tool of worship laden with morality and virtue messages usually based on the ancestors' guidance, e.g. Mahabharata, Ramayana and folklores. Since they were little, Balinese are accustomed to arts activities; their creativity is sharpened since a very young age to produce amazing work of arts. This factor makes this island so charmingly "*taksu*" (spiritual power, the indescribable essence of spirit), and famous all over the world.

The charm or *taksu* in which the island glows with have attracted many visitors, many of them come in search of inspirations. The beauty of nature and the richness in culture on this island have become the water spring that produces fresh ideas for artists. Millions of artists have been inspired by the uniqueness of Bali. History has recorded Walter Spies, Rudolf Bonnet until Arie Smit and many more artists who claimed that they found their passion of arts in Bali. The high quality masterpieces were also born on this island of the gods.

In line with the speeding development of tourism, in which this little island has received more visitors now, there is an increase in the demand of typical Balinese artwork or paintings by foreign collectors. Many say that the best art pieces of Balinese artists are kept in museums or galleries outside Bali. There is lack of attention to arts here. Let us hope that the younger generation of Bali who wish to study about the art development of their ancestors will not need to go abroad.

Pande Suteja Neka is a figure who we must appreciate for his actions in preserving and developing the paintings in Bali. Born and raised within an artist family, Suteja Neka grew up into someone who has high level of sensitivity towards the works of arts. This book, entitled



Suteja Neka dan Museum Neka, elaborates about his journey in pioneering the preservations of Balinese fine arts. Suteja Neka is inseparable from the Neka Museum, the Neka Museum is the heart and soul of Suteja Neka.

Suteja Neka confessed that his father, I Wayan Neka, is his life inspiration. Together with his wife, Ni Gusti Made Sarimin, who faithfully accompanies his adventure, Suteja Neka started with a small shop in Ubud. Seeing the increase in the displacement of Balinese work of arts, in line with the development of tourism, made Suteja Neka aware of the importance of preservation in works of arts in sustainable manner. Through the Neka Museum, built in Ubud in 1975, Suteja Neka presents an inspiration house for those with high regards for the value and majesty of Indonesian work of arts. This is a valuable donation in preservation and documentation of Indonesian work of arts, especially Balinese paintings.

This book by Garret Kam presented a story behind the big name of Suteja Neka dan Museum Neka, and also feature the journey of the development of Balinese fine arts through the photos from the Neka Museum collection. This book is very inspiring, a recommended reading for Balinese young generation and art lovers.

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

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