

It no longer serves only as a foundation for artists to lay their paint, ink, or pencils on; but also functions as an independent medium out of which artworks are created.

*ON/OUT OF PAPER* features 5 artists who have developed unconventional techniques in the use of paper as an art media in the creation of their works. There are two categories of works presented in this exhibition as the title suggests; works on paper and works made out of paper.

Iswanto Soerjanto is the only artist in this exhibition whose works fall in the category of works on paper. Having more than 20 years of experience in commercial photography, Iswanto took cyanotype, a traditional photography printing technique, to create abstract images on aquarelle paper. In his pursuit of liberating himself from conventional photography, he omits the very essential tool which is the camera. Retaining the very basic photographic printing process, he creates his images by using light sensitive chemicals. His use of various types of masking techniques to control the amount of light to trigger chemical reactions replaces the function of a camera. In his works, he tries to convey the ambiguity between yes and no, suggesting that everything in life must always be done in moderation, as expressed in the Javanese proverb "ngono yo ngono, ning

*ojo ngono*" ("if you do it, do it, but don't do it").

Four other artists whose works fall under the category of being made out of paper are Ashley Yeo, Irfan Hendrian, Ryan Villamael, and Yudi Sulistyoy.

Ashley Yeo is a Singaporean artist who employs an intricate and very fine traditional paper cutting technique to ornate her mini paper sculptures. She explores geometry, precision, and the spiritual power of simple materials through her works. Her interest in maintaining a relationship with nature has led her to create geometric floral ornaments on the body of her paper sculptures. The beauty and complexity of the ornaments made on very small scale surfaces are the absolute charms of her works.

Ryan Villamael is a Filipino artist who is also known for his intricate paper cut sculptures. In this exhibition, Ryan presents a new work from his series *Behold A City*, which consists of architectural models made out of paper sourced from photographs of built heritage and kitsch iconograph. As curator Leo Abaya wrote in 2015, "Behold A City is a heterotopian proposition that project the summary of love and helplessness, nostalgia and disinterest of history. Conceptualized as miniature city cum film backlot, it reifies the impression, reflection, and

hallucination of the artist in his role as itinerant observer and flaneur of urban landscape."

Irfan Hendrian is a graphic designer and visual artist who was born in Ohio, United States and is currently working in Bandung, Indonesia. In the creation of his artworks, he employs a very unique technique of using paper as his main artistic medium. Although he uses many vibrant colours in some of his works, he has never laid a single drop of paint on them. With his background as a graphic designer and experience in printmaking, his work combines layers of colored papers that are pressed together, glued, and carved, creating shapes and patterns on the surface. In this exhibition, he presents an array of objects mimicking a variety of hyper realistic wood and concrete blocks, creating an alternate reality made entirely out of paper.

Yudi Sulistyoy is a Yogyakarta artist who is also known for his use of different materials to create a false reality. He has created various military-themed modes of transportation made out of thick papers and carton boards, with highly realistic rendering that mimics rustic steel. His artworks are strongly influenced by his imagination and childhood memories. Coming from a poor family, Yudi could not afford to buy toys that he desired when he was little. Just like many boys, he was attracted to

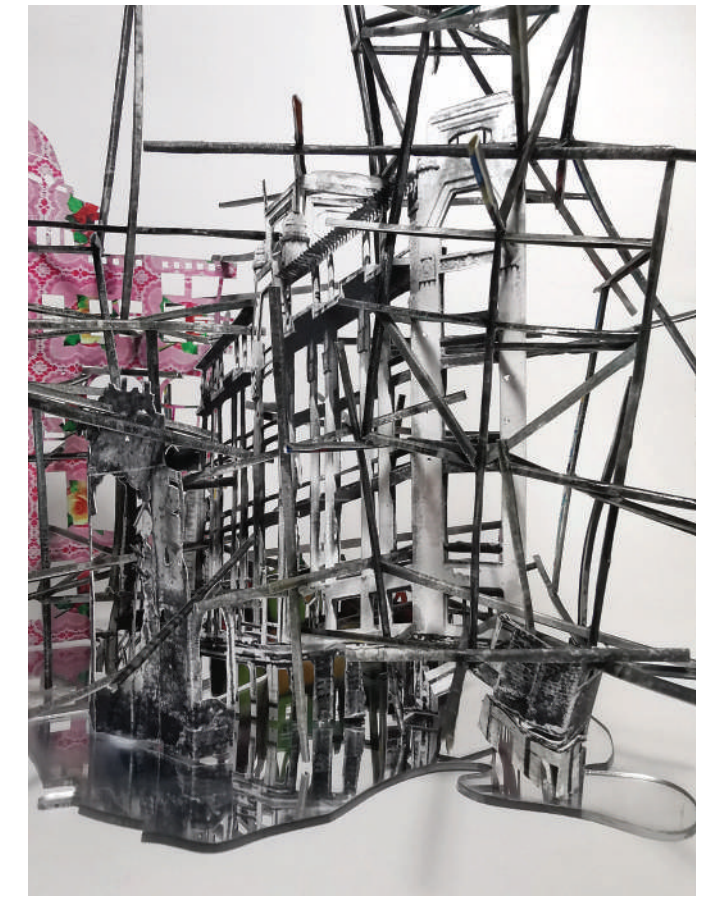
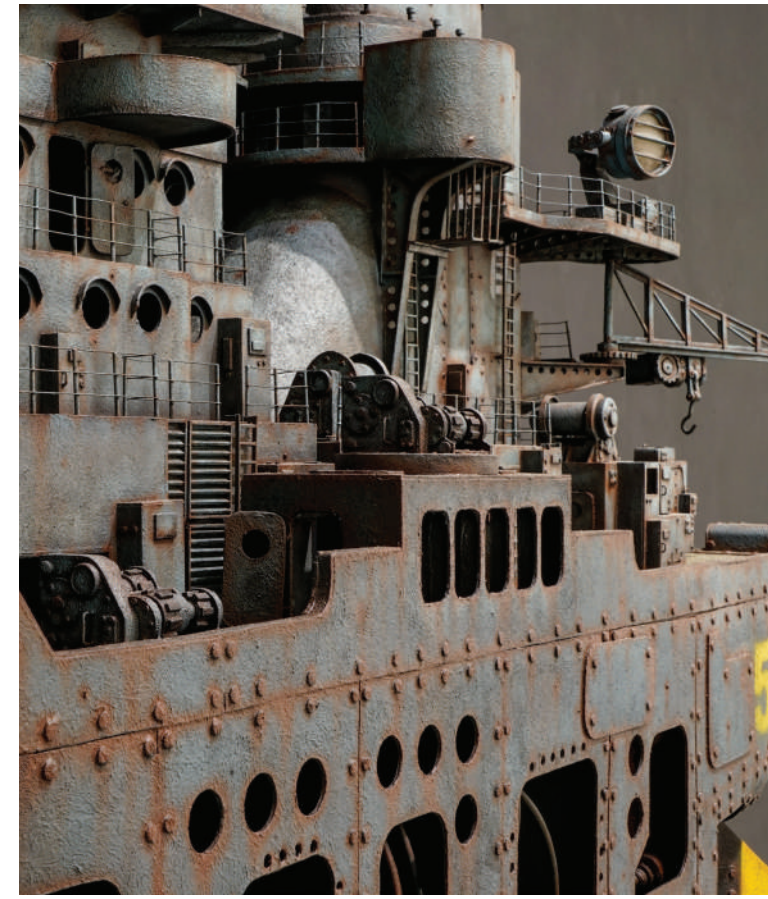
military vehicles such as tanks, aircrafts, ships, and many others. His works now act as a compensation for the toys he was unable to own as a child. Through his works, we could sense a child-like fantasy of heroic robots that appear in animated movies. *Menggapai* (Reaching Out) mimics a military ship with robotic arms, mounted on the wall to represent the ship's ability to fly.

In my opinion, paper as a medium is yet to be thoroughly explored and is full of mysteries and surprises. I hope this exhibition will be able to revive our interest in paper as a medium in artmaking.

- Hermanto Soerjanto (Curator)

## HERMANTO SOERJANTO

Hermanto Soerjanto (b. 1970, Indonesia) went to Palin School of Arts & Design in Singapore and Akademi Teknik Desain Interior (ATDI) in Jakarta, Indonesia, before joining Cipta Citra advertising agency in 1994. Since then, he had built his career in the field of advertising and currently holds a position at Pantarei Communications as Chief Creative Officer. As an art collector, Hermanto Soerjanto is familiar with Indonesian artists, having spent much time conversing with them and visiting their studios. In 2008 he established GARIS Artspace, an art gallery in Jakarta showcasing works by contemporary Indonesian artists, where he organizes and curates the exhibitions on regular basis. To date, Hermanto Soerjanto has organized several exhibitions, most notably *Noodle Theory* by Angki Purbandono at GARIS Artspace (2010), *Ethnicity Now*, a group exhibition at Galeri Nasional Indonesia, Jakarta (2010), and *Unveiling Fundamentals in Contemporary Art Through Asia* at OHD Museum, Magelang, Indonesia (2015). Hermanto Soerjanto lives and works in Jakarta, Indonesia, and is one of the co-founders of Rumah Kijang Mizuma alongside Executive Director of Mizuma Galleries, Sueo Mizuma, and artist Angki Purbandono.



Left to right:  
Yudi Sulistyoy  
*Menggapai* (detail)  
2014  
cardboard, wood,  
acrylic, oil paint  
130 x 150 x 51 cm

Ryan Villamael  
*Relic* (detail)  
2019  
paper, acrylic case  
46.8 x 33.2 x 29.4 cm

## ON/OUT OF PAPER

CURATED BY HERMANTO SOERJANTO

ASHLEY YEO, IRFAN HENDRIAN,  
ISWANTO SOERJANTO, RYAN  
VILLAMAEL, YUDI SULISTYO

4 MAY - 2 JUNE 2019

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(*Pyramid*) (detail), 2019, hand-cut paper,  
6.7 x 6.7 x 15 cm (paper), 81 x 35 x 35 cm  
(installation), © Ashley Yeo

Images © Ashley Yeo, Irfan Hendrian, Iswanto  
Soerjanto, Ryan Villamael, and Yudi Sulistyoy,  
courtesy of the artists and Mizuma Gallery

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## MIZUMA GALLERY

Executive Director Sueo Mizuma established  
Mizuma Art Gallery in Tokyo in 1994. Since  
its opening in Gillman Barracks, Singapore  
in 2012, the gallery aims for the promotion  
of East Asian artists in the region as well as  
the introduction of Southeast Asian artists  
to the international art scene. In 2014,  
the artist residency space "Rumah Kijang  
Mizuma" opened in Yogyakarta, Indonesia,  
to create a new platform for dialogue by  
supporting exchanges between East Asian  
and Southeast Asian artists. In 2018, a  
new gallery space, "Mizuma, Kips & Wada  
Art" opened in New York, USA, as a shared  
collaboration between Mizuma Gallery from  
Tokyo and Singapore, Kips Gallery from New  
York, and Wada Garou from Tokyo.

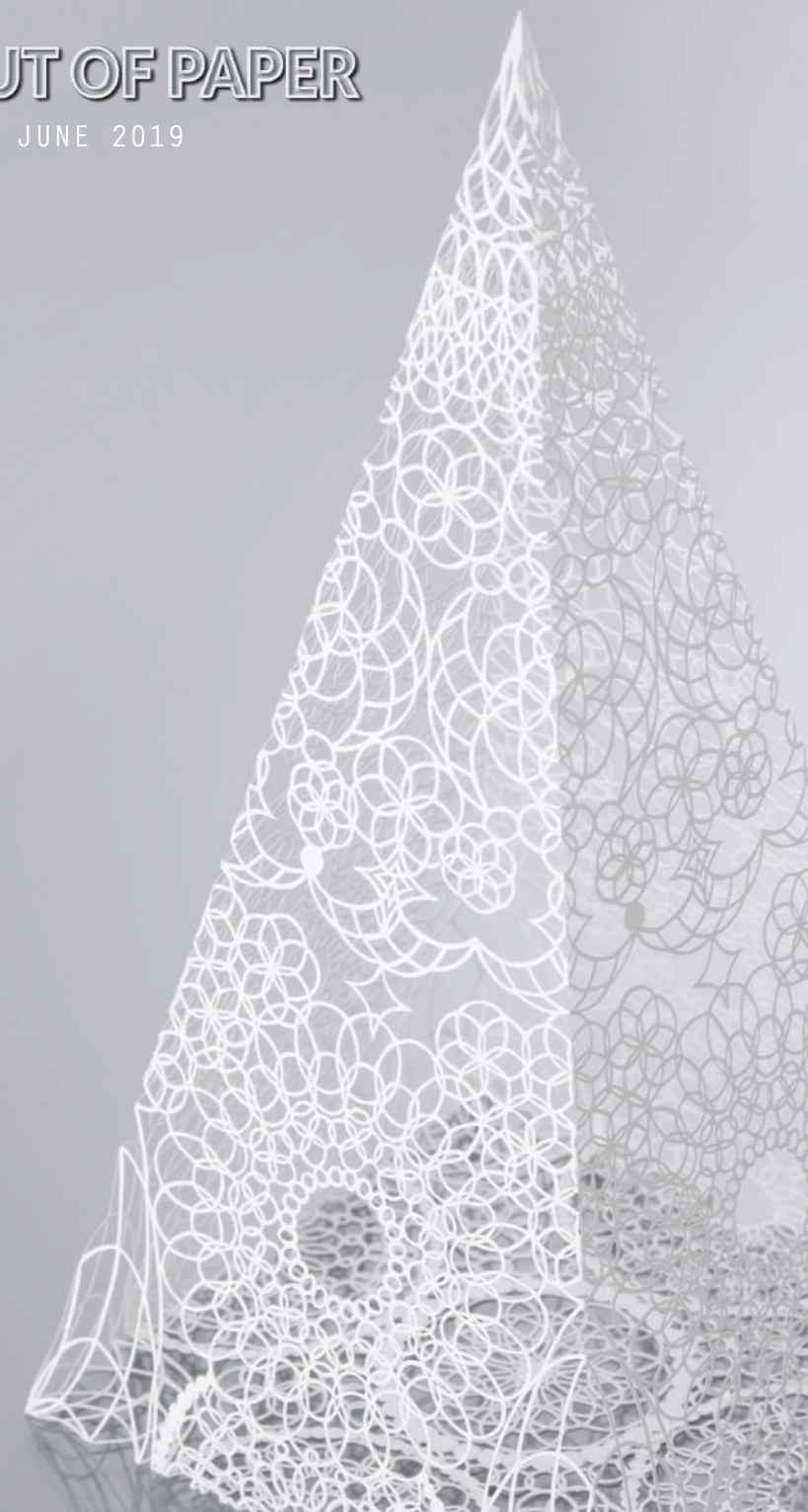
Mizuma Gallery features the works of  
Japanese artists including Aida Makoto,  
Aiko Miyonaga, Amano Yoshitaka, Ikeda  
Manabu, Tenmyouya Hisashi, and Yamaguchi  
Akira. Moreover, it showcases the works of  
renown East Asian artists such as Ai Weiwei,  
Du Kun, Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba, Ken + Julia  
Yonetani, and Zhao Zhao. The gallery also  
features the creations of prominent and  
emerging artists from the region including  
Agan Harahap, Albert Yonathan Setyawan,  
Angki Purbandono, Entang Waharso, Gilang  
Fradika, Heri Dono, indieguerillas, Made  
Wianta, Mark Justiniani, Nasirun, Robert  
Zhao Renhui, and Zen Teh. Mizuma Gallery  
participates annually in international art  
fairs including Art Basel Hong Kong and The  
Armory Show, New York.

## GILLMAN BARRACKS

Set in a former military barracks dating back to  
1936 and surrounded by lush tropical greenery,  
the Gillman Barracks visual arts cluster was  
launched in September 2012. Jointly developed  
by government agencies, the Singapore Economic  
Development Board (EDB), the National  
Arts Council (NAC) and the JTC Corporation  
(JTC), Gillman Barracks' vision is to be Asia's  
destination for the presentation and discussion of  
international and Southeast Asian art.  
For more information, please visit  
www.gillmanbarracks.com

## ON/OUT OF PAPER

4 MAY - 2 JUNE 2019



## ON/OUT OF PAPER

Works on paper are often understood  
as less valuable and less significant as  
compared to sculptures and works on  
canvas, as they are commonly perceived  
as a study or a sketch for something  
bigger. This view may have been  
influenced by the Western art culture in  
which paper is seen only as a temporary  
medium for artists to organize their  
thoughts or ideas before they create  
their artworks.

Tracing back to thousands of years  
ago, paper was essential to Japanese  
and Chinese scroll paintings. Works  
on paper – whether made with ink,  
watercolour, pencil, or charcoal – have  
their own unique charm that is difficult  
to replicate with other mediums. In  
Chinese paintings, shaping forms  
through the use of ink and water on  
paper is a fluid and often uncontrollable  
process that requires the artist to  
understand the medium very well in  
order to work with it. This process  
attributes to the distinctiveness and the  
unique quality of Chinese ink paintings.  
It is unlike painting on canvas, in which  
the paint and the way the artist controls  
it become the predominant elements of  
the work, whereas the canvas functions

merely as a surface which holds the  
paint.

In this contemporary age, the use of  
mediums and materials for art creation  
has become quite versatile. This has  
unlocked a huge window of opportunity  
for artists to explore alternative  
mediums and unconventional  
techniques. In his works, Chinese artist  
Cai Guo-Qiang ignites gunpowder  
on paper, capturing burn marks left  
by the energy and fumes from the  
explosions. With paper as the sole  
medium, Japanese artist Tomoko  
Shioyasu employs traditional paper-  
cutting technique to form unique pieces  
of artworks. Paper, as a medium, has  
developed beyond ordinary means.

Irfan Hendrian  
*Part of Some Other Things* (detail)  
2019  
sculpted papers  
164 x 119 x 21 cm (total of 25 pieces in  
various dimensions)

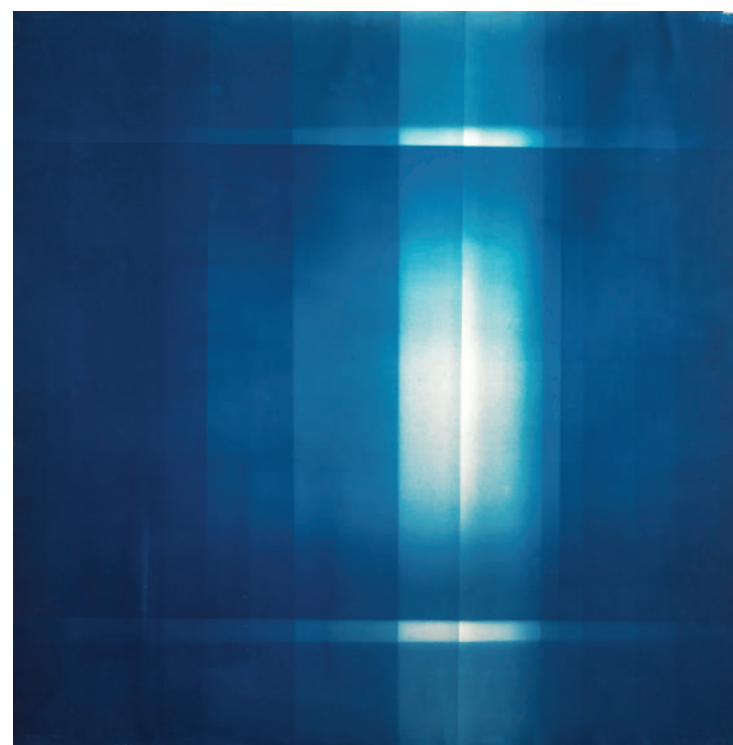
4 MAY -  
2 JUNE 2019



## IRFAN HENDRIAN

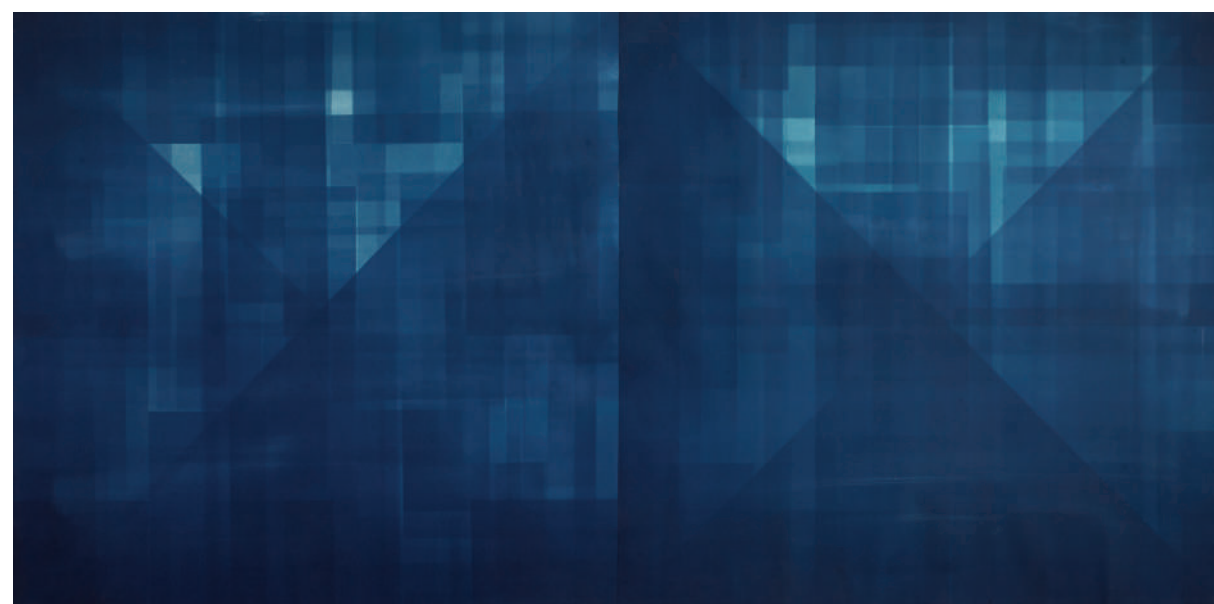
Irfan Hendrian (b. 1987, Ohio, United States) graduated with a Master's Degree in Fine Arts from the Institute of Technology of Bandung, Bandung, Indonesia in 2016 and a Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Design from the Whanganui School of Design, Whanganui, New Zealand in 2008. His solo exhibitions to date include the recent *SANS* at Sullivan + Strumpf, Singapore (2018); *Logical Aesthetic* at ViaVia, Yogyakarta, Indonesia (2012); and his first solo exhibition *Secular World* at Asbestos Art Space, Bandung, Indonesia (2011). He has participated in numerous group exhibitions in Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, China, and New Zealand. His works are in the collection of Jeonbuk Museum of Art, Jeonju, South Korea. Irfan Hendrian lives and works in Bandung, Indonesia.

Irfan Hendrian  
*Part of Some Other Things*  
2019  
sculpted paper  
164 x 119 x 21 cm (total of 25 pieces in various dimensions)



## ISWANTO SOERJANTO

Iswanto Soerjanto (b. 1967, Jakarta, Indonesia) graduated from the Brooks Institute of Photography, Santa Barbara, California, United States, with a major in Illustration and Advertising Photography in 1988. He had his first solo exhibition *Re-Definition* at Selasar Sunaryo Art Space, Bandung, Indonesia (2018). He has also been part of various group exhibitions, such as *From the Archives* at Mizuma Gallery, Singapore (2018); *Art On Paper Amsterdam* at Gallery Lukisan, Amsterdam, Netherlands (2018); *Beyond Photography* at Ciputra Artpreneur Centre, Jakarta, Indonesia (2011); and at Garis Art Space in both Jakarta (2008) and Bali (2004), Indonesia. Iswanto Soerjanto lives and works in Jakarta, Indonesia.

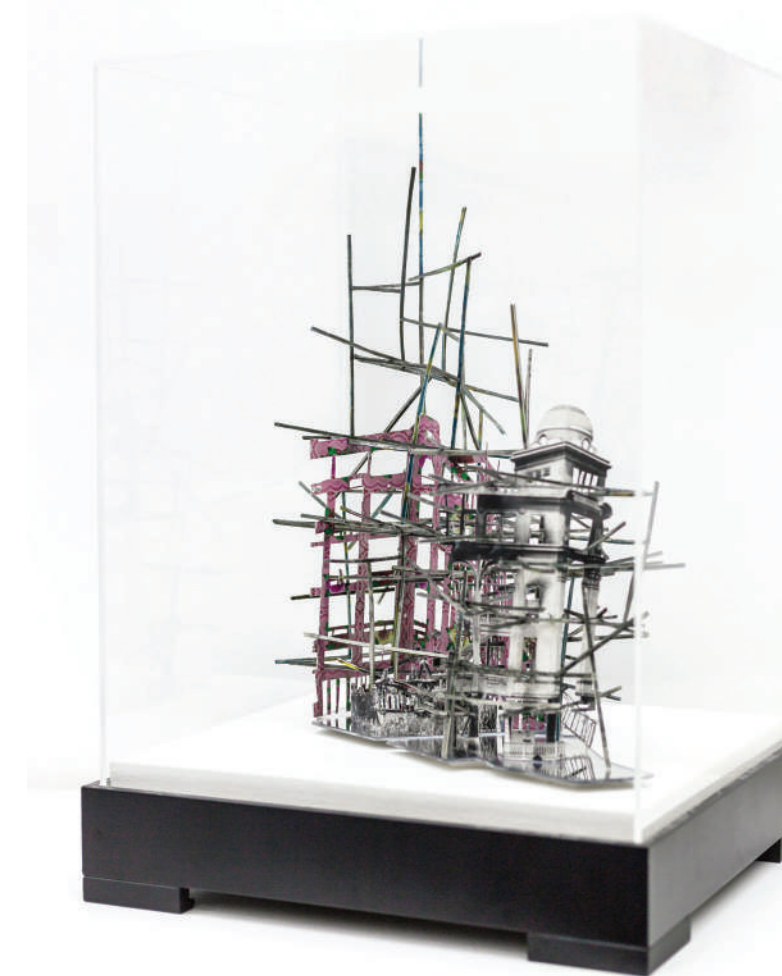


Top:  
Iswanto Soerjanto  
*Stripes*  
2019  
cyanotype on Arches paper  
114 x 114 cm (unframed)  
119 x 119 x 6 cm (framed)

Bottom:  
Iswanto Soerjanto  
*Ngono Yo Ngono, Ning Ojo Ngono #1*  
2019  
cyanotype on Arches paper  
110 x 222 cm (unframed)  
115 x 228.3 x 6.3 cm (framed)

## RYAN VILLAMAE

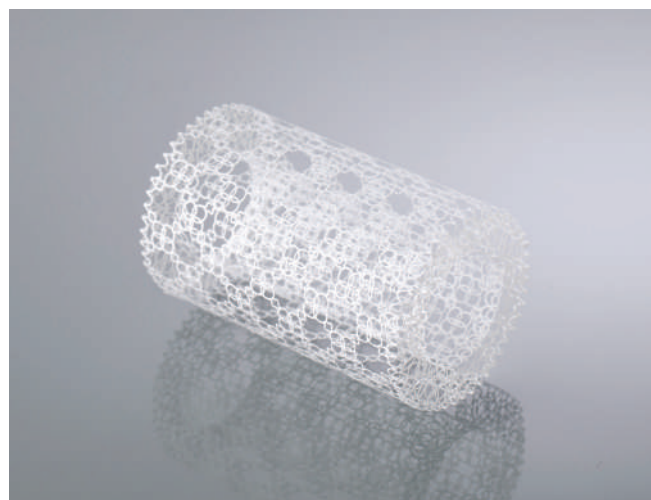
Ryan Villamael (b. 1987, Laguna, Philippines) graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Painting from the University of the Philippines, Quezon City, Philippines in 2009. He had his first solo exhibition *Cut Felt* at Silverlens, Manila, Philippines (2011) and since then has mounted numerous solo exhibitions such as the recent *A Paradise Lost* at Silverlens, Manila, Philippines (2019) and *Locus Amoenus* at Ateneo Art Gallery, Manila, Philippines (2018). He has participated in numerous group exhibitions in Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, France, and Australia; including the 2018 Biwako Biennale in Japan and the 2016 Singapore Biennale. He is the recipient of the Ateneo Art Award in 2015. Ryan Villamael lives and works in Quezon City, Philippines.



Ryan Villamael  
*Relic*  
2019  
paper, acrylic case  
46.8 x 33.2 x 29.4 cm



Ashley Yeo  
*Presence (Internal)*  
2019  
hand-cut paper  
3.5 x 3.5 x 3.5 cm (paper)  
126 x 28 x 28 cm (installation)



Top to bottom:  
Ashley Yeo  
*Presence (External)*  
2019  
hand-cut paper  
6 x 6 x 9.7 cm (paper)  
126 x 28 x 28 cm (installation)

*Drop of light (Tubular)*  
2019  
hand-cut paper  
9.7 x 5.5 x 5.5 cm (paper)  
23 x 23 x 26 cm (installation)

## ASHLEY YEO

Ashley Yeo (b. 1990, Singapore) graduated with a Master's Degree in Fine Arts from the University of Arts London, Chelsea College of Arts, London, United Kingdom in 2012 and a B.A. in Fine Arts from the LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore in 2011. She has held two solo exhibitions to date; *The haze in their eyes* at Becky Art Space, Jeonju, South Korea (2016) and *You must imagine Sisyphus happy* at FOST Gallery, Singapore (2015). She has participated in numerous group exhibitions in Singapore, Japan, South Korea, United Kingdom, and United States. She was the first Singaporean artist to be shortlisted for the LOEWE Craft Prize, London, United Kingdom (2018). Ashley Yeo lives and works in Singapore.



## YUDI SULISTYO

Yudi Sulistyio (b. 1972, Yogyakarta, Indonesia) graduated from the Indonesia Institute of Arts, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, with a Degree in Design and Visual Communication in 1994. He had his first solo exhibition *Metal Drama* at Art:1 New Museum, Jakarta, Indonesia (2017). He has participated in numerous group exhibitions, such as *PLUGGED* at Pearl Lam Galleries, Singapore (2016); *After Utopia* at Singapore Art Museum, Singapore (2015); *Shout! Indonesian Contemporary Art* at Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome, Rome, Italy (2014); and *Close The Gap: Indonesia Art Today* at Melbourne International Fine Art Gallery, Melbourne, Australia (2011). Yudi Sulistyio lives and works in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Yudi Sulistyio  
*Menggapai*  
2014  
cardboard, wood,  
acrylic, oil paint  
130 x 150 x 51 cm