



A SLICE OF THE GODS

TOUCHING HEAVEN; UBUD ROYAL CREMATION

...this is the way the Balinese celebrate life. From fire to ashes, death is the end of the journey, and it is celebrated with smiles not tears...

UBUD – BALI Thursday (18/08/2011). When I saw this celebration it immediately reminded me of the work of an artist from Peliatan, Ubud, Pande Ketut Taman, and his work titled "Touching The Sky". Pande created this for the Bali Biennale 2005 and exhibited it at the Komaneka Fine Art Gallery.

It's already past 12 o' clock, that means the procession will soon be ready. Everyone is cheering, as the prince strikes the gong from the top of the ox, while two of his brothers wave a red flag. Instantly the gamelan players get into line, and in a second, the ceremonial procession of the cremation of the late Anak Agung Rai, age 80, begins.

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KOMANEKA FINE ART GALLERY

HANAFI Hanafi's Gift

The first time you pass by it, you may not even notice it. Yes, there was a painting on the wall, of no specially striking color, no particularly outstanding form.

But it was there. You may know it. Simply there, or so you think. But when you pass by the same spot again, and let your eyes glance once more at the painting, only then do you understand: it is not only there, on the wall; you vaguely feel it also belongs here, somewhere inside, in the place you know "you don't know". The earth and grey colors; colors that are not seen as colors; the lines that seem to refuse the descriptive autonomy of lines; the obstinacy of surfaces that refuse either to give birth to finite forms or to affirm themselves as formless. All point to an art of the depths.

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Special Benefits for Our Member

On behalf of Staff and Management of Komaneka, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude to you for becoming our member.

Should you wish to return again in advance from today until 22 December 2011 we would like to offer special benefits for our member who stay at Bisma Suite Room at Komaneka at Bisma and Deluxe Room at Komaneka at Rasa Sayang you will get FREE 1x60 minute massage for 2 pax with minimum of 2 nights stay. Valid for NEW BOOKING only.

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WHAT TO READ

HONEYMOON CHIC: ASIA

"Everybody loves a lover"
- Doris Days song

Honeymooner and romantic holidays come in all shapes and sizes, and what you and your lover end up doing on your getaway depends on what you enjoy together.

There is no denying that some Asian Destinations are particularly made for romance. Bali has it all: chic resorts, secluded beaches, terraced rice fields and lush green highlands with enough mysticism, culture and traditions to impress even the most jaded traveler.

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Ox, black cow replica, which needed to be carried on the shoulders by relays

TOUCHING HEAVEN; UBUD ROYAL CREMATION

UBUD – BALI Thursday (18/08/2011). When I saw this celebration it immediately reminded me of the work of an artist from Peliatan, Ubud, Pande Ketut Taman, and his work titled "Touching The Sky". Pande created this for the Bali Biennale 2005 and exhibited it at the Komaneke Fine Art Gallery. Some people are surprised that Pande Ketut Taman will not sell his artwork at any price. Overseas museums and galleries have asked whether he would make replicas of his work but his art is made deliberately using materials that are fragile and not durable. His sculpture was made with rice powder, bamboo, and rice straw. He replied succinctly: "You carry the message wherever you go after this exhibition. So why would you take the work away with you? This is the essence of Balinese art. All artistic beauty is sacrificed and culminates in nothingness. Others are burnt by fire. They turn into dust and disappear."

It's already past 12 o' clock, that means the procession will soon be ready. Everyone is cheering, as the prince strikes the gong from the top of the ox, while two of his brothers wave a red flag. Instantly the gamelan players get into line, and in a second, the ceremonial procession of the cremation of the late Anak Agung Rai, age 80, begins. Anak Agung Rai is the mother of Gianyar Regent Cokorda Oka Artha Ardana Sukawati. The funeral bier is ready to follow this procession from behind. It looks like a giant tower from the distance. Balinese people believe that the procession will be smooth or disrupted according to the deceased and his or her karma during life.

The Ox symbolizes a vehicle, which drives the spirits of those cremated to 'Sunia Loka', Nirvana or Heaven. The Nandini ox is very sacred in Hindu mythology. It is the vehicle of the god Shiva, melting all that has been created in the universe, while the nine tiered bier mountain symbolizes the peaks on the path to God.

It has taken more than a few months for the villagers to work together to make this most ornate funeral bier and statues involving all the 'banjar'/communities in Ubud. Coming together the people practice their 'suka - duka' - joys and sorrows, a condition of sharing the happiness and sadness of life as one community.

As the ox and tiered bier procession makes it's way to the cemetery in Dalem Puri, electric and telephone wires for 900 meters from the Ubud palace to the grave at Dalem Puri are disconnected for a while. But the public understands this as the 24-meter high tower funeral bier passes through the streets. On the way to the Setra (grave), the procession is accompanied by the gamelan orchestra ensemble and in pageantry, as a tribute to the deceased are her Sutri/grandsons and daughters.

At six pm the fire is lit and it starts to engulf all of the funeral monuments. Black smoke billows from the flames. It seems that all is right, this is the way the Balinese celebrate life. From fire to ashes, death is the end of the journey, and it is celebrated with smiles not tears.

view [Pande Ketut Taman collection](#), entitled "Touching the Sky"



Bade consisting of 9 tiered roof indicates the royal status of the deceased

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PACKAGE



Bisma Suite Komaneke at Bisma



Deluxe Room Komaneke at Rasa Sayang

Special Benefits for Our Member

Dear our valued customer,

Thank you for your email and we believe this email will finds you in good health.

On behalf of Staff and Management of Komaneke, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude to you for becoming our member.

We are very happy to know that you had a good time during your staying with us and it will be a pleasure to welcome you back again in Komaneke, Ubud – Bali. It is our honor to be your home in Bali.

Should you wish to return again in advance from today until 22 December 2011 we would like to offer special benefits for our member who stay at Bisma Suite Room at Komaneke at Bisma and Deluxe Room at Komaneke at Rasa Sayang you will get FREE 1x60 minute massage for 2 pax with minimum of 2 nights stay. Valid for NEW BOOKING only.

Please always feel free to contact us if you need any of assistance for your next forthcoming plan to visit Bali at your convenience.

We thank you very much for your support and we look forward to have the pleasure to assist you in personalize family ambiance of Balinese living - in the future.

Your home address in Ubud...

Komaneke

Contact us for Special Benefits of Bisma Suite at Komaneke at Bisma or Deluxe Room at Komaneke at Rasa Sayang

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KOMANEKA FINE ART GALLERY



Stretching Body of the Other | 134 x 145 cm | Acrylic on Canvas

HANAFI**Hanafi's Gift**

The first time you pass by it, you may not even notice it. Yes, there was a painting on the wall, of no specially striking color, no particularly outstanding form. But it was there. You may know it. Simply there, or so you think. But when you pass by the same spot again, and let your eyes glance once more at the painting, only then do you understand: it is not only there, on the wall; you vaguely feel it also belongs here, somewhere inside, in the place you know "you don't know".

The earth and grey colors; colors that are not seen as colors; the lines that seem to refuse the descriptive autonomy of lines; the obstinacy of surfaces that refuse either to give birth to finite forms or to affirm themselves as formless. All point to an art of the depths.

Must Hanafi's type of painting be classified? Classification can help the uninitiated; provide frames of reference and ready-made clichés around which to harness judgments, but it cannot catch what is irreducible, unique to the artist - in short, the most interesting part. Yet, we can indeed say, "positively", that Hanafi's work is abstract. No initiation is needed to reach that conclusion. The "forms" shown on canvas are not there to evoke, even vaguely, any figurative object. But all other attempts at classification are "negative": Hanafi is not reaching out the "extremity" of figuration before jumping into the "musicality" of the real, like Kandinsky. He is not proposing either a "study" of the visual effects of the geometry of color after the manner of Mondrian, or, closer to us in Indonesia, Mantofani.

He is not an adept of Rayonism like Sonya Delaunay, nor is he making "absurd" Supremalist "white on white" statements like those of Malevitch. Neither is he an abstract expressionist, minimalist, Op-artist, informalist, or lyricist. No! Hanafi belongs nowhere "there". To name his style would be to locate it, whereas it occupies a well-hidden spot in the otherwise well-explored land of abstraction. So much so that claims that everything has been said, that abstraction is "passe"!

Adopted from Saat Usia Limapuluh, Hanafi 2010, Komaneke Fine Art Gallery and Gallery Nasional Indonesia

Hanafi's solo exhibition can be seen at Sin Sin Fine Art Hong Kong, 8 September 2011 - 7 October 2011

[view Hanafi collections at Komaneke Fine Art Gallery](#)

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WHAT TO READ

HONEYMOON CHIC:

ASIA

"Everybody loves a lover"

- Doris Days song

Honeymooner and romantic holidays come in all shapes and sizes, and what you and your lover end up doing on your getaway depends on what you enjoy together – walking along an empty beach, discovering a new city, climbing a mountain, exploring the wilderness, or experiencing a hybrid of several locations and activities. As the old Doris Days song goes, "Everybody loves a lover". You will be amazed to find that no matter where you go, other people often get swept up in your enthusiasm for one another. It is the perfect opportunity to make the most of the romantic vacation possibilities on offer throughout Asia.

There is no denying that some Asian Destinations are particularly made for romance. Bali has it all: chic resorts, secluded beaches, terraced rice fields and lush green highlands with enough mysticism, culture and traditions to impress even the most jaded traveler. The abiding sense of history, beauty, culture and refinement found in ancient places such as Kyoto, Angkor Wat and Luang Prabang put them in a league of their own. Huge cities like Hong Kong, Bangkok, Seoul and Singapore offer an excitement, vibrancy and bustle that are infectious. Moreover, who could deny the appeal of one of the great testaments to love ever built, the Taj Mahal?

Some couples relish traditional romantic activities. Walk hand-in-hand along a deserted beach in the moonlight while sharing your dreams and wishing upon stars. Soak in a bathtub with scented bubble bath, surrounded by the glow of lots and lots candles. Take a sleigh ride through the snowy countryside and then warm up by a roaring fireplace. Active outdoor couples are more likely to dive straight into adrenaline adventures like skydiving, mountain climbing, bungee jumping or snowboarding. Still others choose the glam route: gourmet dinners, all-night dancing and endless shopping offered by big cities.

Honeymoon Chick Photo Cover: Main Swimming Pool, Komaneka at Bisma.

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