Wimo Ambala Bayang [Foot Step Approach]

Solo Exhibition

27 September — 2 November 2025 Tirtodipuran Link Building A Yogyakarta

Curator: Manshur Zikri

Opening reception:

Friday, 26 September 2025

6.30 PM



Wimo Ambala Bayang, [foot step approach], artist's notebook, 2025

kohesi *Initiatives* is pleased to present **[Foot Step Approach]**, Wimo Ambala Bayang's second solo exhibition with the gallery. Over the past twenty years, Wimo has become a distinctive voice in contemporary Indonesian photography, pushing and interpreting the medium in unexpected ways.

"[Foot Step Approach]"—a phrase laden with enigma—comes from Wimo's personal notebook. A pair of verso-recto pages in that book is almost entirely filled with dense black strokes that coalesce into a thick, dark field. At the bottom of the page, the phrase—bracketed by two square boxes—appears inscribed in a lighter tone. The phrase was deliberately chosen as the exhibition title not only because the drawing on that page is one of the materials Wimo has reinterpreted as a new work, but also because it functions, in significant measure, as a kind of fulcrum for the curatorial reading of the exhibition as a whole.

Within this curatorial framework, footstep becomes a metaphor for three key concepts—trace, movement, and temporality. These three notions bind the works together while also re-polemicizing, from a post-Benjaminian vantage, the antagonistic relation between aura and reproducibility. *Approach*, meanwhile—a term whose semantic doubleness is acknowledged from the outset, oscillating between "approach" as conceptual method (a guide to thinking) and "approaching" as literal action (a mode of doing)—operates as a poetic disposition, even a poetic figuration, in which the metaphor of the "footstep" is grasped both as a way of thinking and a way of acting.

The exhibition marks a pivotal moment in Wimo's artistic journey, as he re-examines his archive and practice, exploring the discourse of the image and its modes of production, encompassing both image-making and image-generating. The constellation of works on view—ranging from photographic series, painting series, and mural interventions to sonic compositions and video—articulates a spectrum of artistic strategies that signal, target, and interrogate the nature of the reflexive understandings available to us with regard to contemporary visual culture, as well as the institutional

mechanisms of contemporary art that at once populate and shape that culture. **[Foot Step Approach]** extends Wimo's long-standing engagement with the politics of images, their circulation, and their cultural significance.

[Foot Step Approach] is open to the public from September 27 to November 2, 2025. The exhibition hours are Tuesday to Friday from 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM (WIB) and Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM (WIB) at Tirtodipuran Link Building A, Yogyakarta. The exhibition catalog is printed in a limited edition and available in the gallery space.

kohesi Initiatives

kohesi Initiatives is a contemporary art gallery based in Indonesia.

The gallery is committed to supporting and presenting the careers of its artists and their works across a variety of media and genres, while encouraging the exploration of their practices in conceptual and contextual interpretations with balanced aesthetic considerations. As an artist-first gallery, kohesi strives to achieve its vision by consistently hosting quality exhibitions and artist-focused projects, while actively seeking opportunities and possibilities to collaborate with institutions globally to enrich and benefit its artists.

Wimo Ambala Bayang

Wimo Ambala Bayang (b. 1976) is a multidisciplinary artist and curator. He graduated from the Photography Department at the Indonesian Institute of the Arts, Yogyakarta. Working across photography, video, objects, text, and performance, Wimo explores cultural perspectives in ways that do not directly criticize, but rather invite us to rethink everyday habits that often feel as if they have 'always been there.' History and fact, both in its major and minor details, plays an important role in Wimo Ambala Bayang's creative process. He is consistently drawn to uncovering hidden perspectives in everyday life, encouraging audiences to rethink and question the small, often overlooked moments that shape our experiences. Over the past decade, Wimo has participated in international artist residencies and exchange programs in China, Australia, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Romania. His recent projects include co-curating the Jimei x Arles International Photo Festival in Xiamen and collaborating with Ruang MES 56 x Foam at the Foam Photography Museum in Amsterdam.

Press Information

Click here for more press information and selected artwork images.

Instagram : <u>@kohesi.initiatives</u>

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For more information and interview, you can contact:

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Gallery Opening Hours

Tirtodipuran Link Building A

Tuesday — Friday : 12:00 – 7:00 p.m Saturday & Sunday : 12:00 – 8:00 p.m

