Timoteus Anggawan Kusno

Focus Asia Booth F10

> 3 - 6 September 2025 COEX Seoul

Frieze Seoul 2025

Djoeroes Kramat

This project probes the fault lines between memory, myth, and manufactured history by using the language of cinema to explore how absence itself can become a narrative force.

Set against the backdrop of Indonesia's turbulent 1960s, a time marked by political rupture, mass censorship, and the violent reordering of cultural memory, the project imagines a film titled Djoeroes Kramat that may never have been released, or maybe never have existed, yet echoes through rumour, gesture, and inherited nostalgia. In doing so, it confronts the historical reality that many cultural artefacts were banned, disappeared, or deliberately erased during the transition from Soekarno's Old Order to Soeharto's New Order. By evoking a "lost" martial arts film from this era (Djoeroes Kramat), this metanarrative experimentation offers a speculative lens through which we can reflect on the films (and stories) that never made it into the official archives.

This project has never aimed to attempt reconstructing a specific film; instead, it inhabits the space of its supposed absence. It explores how collective memory is shaped not only by what is remembered but also by what is rumoured, repressed, or imagined into being. The formal approach, blending reenactments, speculative fragments, and stylised reconstruction, foregrounds the instability of truth within the cinematic medium itself.

At its core, Jurus Kramat poses a deceptively simple question: What happens when we begin to remember something that never existed? In doing so, it speaks to broader questions of state power, cultural erasure, and the fragile line between fiction and history, not just in Indonesia, but in any context where memory is engineered, suppressed, or distorted.



SYNOPSIS

Djoeroes Kramat

"Power, once detached from the people, devours even its bearer." A wandering warrior of the people, hunted by thugs and state mercenaries, disappears into the forest, wounded and dying. In his final breath, he transfers all his knowledge into a single cloth, inscribed with sacred combat spells, to continue a struggle yet unfinished.

Years pass. A poor farmer, toiling under the weight of daily life, stumbles upon the cloth buried beneath the soil. From that moment, the warrior's strength flows through him. At first, he wields it to defend the weak, to stand against injustice. But power has its own logic. Slowly, his intentions shift.

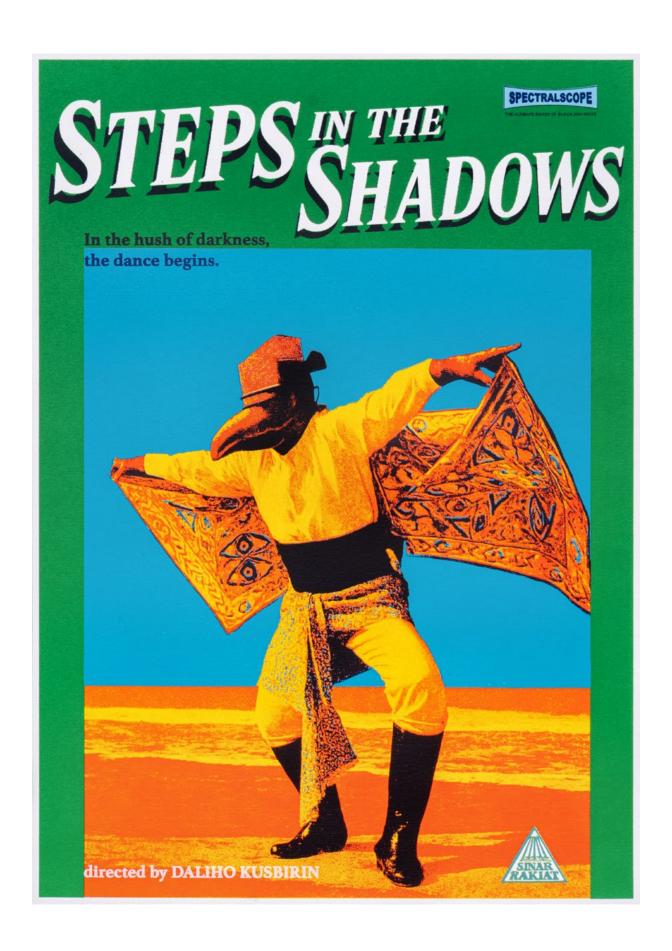
The cloth was never just an object; it carries its own will. As the farmer begins using the power for his own gain, the boundary between tool and master fades.

In time, the cloth consumes him entirely.

The farmer, once a son of the soil, becomes a servant to a force that no longer remembers its purpose. A weapon forged for liberation turns into an instrument of domination.









Persona Sacra

2025 Resin, paper, and acrylic paint 15 x 17 x 40 cm



Terra Ardēns

2025 Hand-drawn batik on cotton and iron bar 99.5 x 160 x 39 cm









Grab still 2 Grab still 2 Grab still 3







Grab still 4 Grab still 5 Grab still 6







Grab still 7 Grab still 8 Grab still 9







Grab still 10 Grab still 11 Grab still 12







Grab still 13 Grab still 14 Grab still 15







Grab still 16 Grab still 17 Grab still 18







Grab still 19 Grab still 20 Grab still 21







Grab still 23 Grab still 23 Grab still 24





Memoria Obscura 1 2025

Charcoal on paper 19 x 18 cm

Memoria Obscura 2





Memoria Obscura 3 2025 Charcoal on paper

19 x 18 cm

Memoria Obscura 4 2025 Charcoal on paper 19 x 18 cm





Memoria Obscura 5 2025 Charcoal on paper

19 x 18 cm

Memoria Obscura 6





Memoria Obscura 7 2025 Charcoal on paper 19 x 18 cm

Memoria Obscura 8 2025 Charcoal on paper 19 x 18 cm

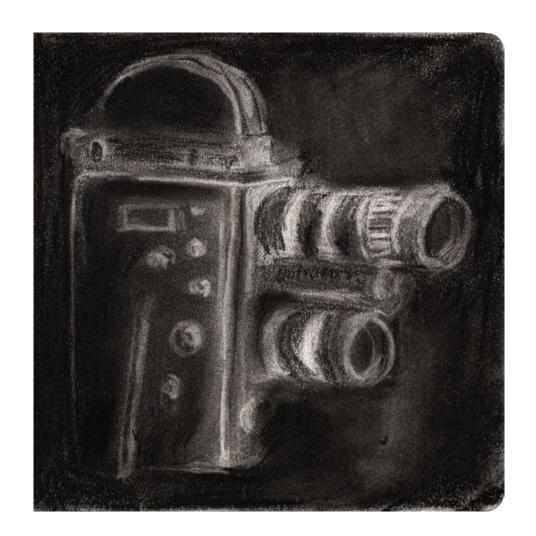




Memoria Obscura 9 2025

Charcoal on paper 19 x 18 cm

Memoria Obscura 10 2025





Memoria Obscura 11 2025

Charcoal on paper 19 x 18 cm

Memoria Obscura 12





Memoria Obscura 13 2025

Charcoal on paper 19 x 18 cm

Memoria Obscura 14



Memoria Obscura 15

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Timoteus Anggawan Kusno

Timoteus Anggawan Kusno is an artist who composes and presents his works in various mediums, including installations, drawings, filmmaking, and institutional interventions. He renders narratives stretching in the liminality of fiction, history, imagination, and memory. Kusno draws questions on the coloniality of power and what remains left unseen. He often uses the (meta)fictional approach to reflect the medium's role in narratology. He reflexively and critically examines the subtle signification of editing and production structure. By this method, he questions "history-making" and its relation to power, ideology, and "ignorance."

He has been commissioned and shown his work internationally in several cultural institutions and biennales, including the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, the Netherlands; the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA) Seoul, South Korea; Mumbai City Museum, India; the Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA) Taipei Taiwan; Center for Fine Art Brussels, Belgium; Biennale Jogja XIV Equator #4: Indonesia-Brazil, 13th Gwangju Biennale, South Korea, and Videonale 19, Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany, among others. His artworks are also part of the museum collection at MMCA Seoul, Korea, and MoCA Taipei, Taiwan. In 2021, Kusno was honored with the Video Production Award from the Han Nefkens Foundation - Loop Barcelona, collaborating with the Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona; Inside-Out Art Museum, Beijing; MoCA Taipei; ILHAM Gallery, Kuala Lumpur; Centre d'Art Contemporain, Genève and Art Hub Copenhagen. Along with his artistic practice, since 2013, he has also been developing the Centre for Tanah Runcuk Studies. This (fictional) institution project conducts experimental studies on a (lost) territory in the Dutch East Indies called Tanah Runcuk, involving historians, ethnographers, fellow artists, curators, and writers. He lives and works between Amsterdam (NL) and Yogyakarta (ID).

CV

EDUCATION

ongoing

Ph.D. Candidate, Universiteit van Amsterdam, the Netherlands

2018

Master's degree, Cultural Studies, Sanata Dharma University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

2012

Bachelor's degree, Communication Studies, Faculty of Social and Political Science, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

ART RESIDENCIES

2024

Locarno Residency, Locarno Film Festival, Locarno, Switzerland

2023

VISIO – European Programme on Artists' Moving Images, Florence, Italy

2021

Padepokan Bagong Kussudiardja, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

2019

ACC guest resident artist, Rijksakademie, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

2018

Asia Culture Center, Gwangju, South Korea

2017

Fundação Oriente Museu, Museum of the Orient, Lisbon, Portugal

2016

Kerjasama, Artback NT, Alice Springs, Australia

2016

Cemeti Art House, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

2015

ARCUS Project, Moriya, Ibaraki, Japan

AWARDS & GRANTS

2025

Hubert Bals Fund, 54th International Film Festival Rotterdam, the Netherland

2024

Mondriaan Funds for Artist Project, the Netherlands

2023

VISIO – European Programme on Artists' Moving Images, Lo schermo dell'arte in partnership with Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci, Italy

2022

Young Artist Award, ArtJog, Indonesia

2021

Han Nefkens Foundation – Loop Barcelona in collaboration with Fundació Joan Miró Video Production Award

2019

The Prince Claus Fund & Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) Mobility Fund, the Netherlands

2018

Asia Culture Institute, South Korea

2017

Ministry of Education and Culture, Republic of Indonesia

2016

Asialink, Australia

COMMISSIONED WORKS

2022

Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

2020

13th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, South Korea

Frieze Seoul 2025

2017

Europalia Arts Festival Indonesia, Brussels, Belgium Galeri Gejayan, Library of Sanata Dharma University, Indonesia

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS & PROJECTS

2025

Timoteus Anggawan Kusno: Phantoms Trilogy, TATE Modern, London, UK

Focus: Timoteus Anggawan Kusno, International Film Festival Rotterdam, the Netherlands

2024

Fever Dream, kohesi Initiatives, Tirtodipuran Link Building A, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

幻殤 (Phantoms), Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei, Taiwan

2023

Phantoms, Ilham Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Phantoms, Centre d' Art Contemporain Geneva, Switzerland

2022

Luka dan Bisa Kubawa Berlari, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Ghost Light, Composite: Moving Image Agency & Media Bank, Melbourne, Australia

2021

Ghost Light, Cemeti Institute for Art and Society, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

2020

Death of the Tiger, The Columns Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

2018

Forgetful Happy Land, The Columns Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

2017

Hacking the Memory of You: 75 Years After Japanesse Ocupation, Galeri Gejayan, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

2014

Memoar Tanah Runcuk: Ethnography Exhibition by Centre for Tanah Runcuk Studies, Kedai Kebun Forum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

DUO EXHIBITIONS

2025

Musquiqui Chihying and Timoteus Anggawan Kusno, Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona, Spain

2022

Analogous, Jompet Kuswidananto & Timoteus Anggawan Kusno, Duo Exhibition, ISA Art Gallery x Omah Budoyo, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Spectre, Heri Dono & Timoteus Anggawan Kusno, Duo Exhibition, The Columns Gallery, Singapore

2017

Tony Albert & Timoteus Anggawan Kusno, Duo Exhibition, Sullivan+Strumpf, Gillman Barrack, Singapore

2016

Timoteus Anggawan Kusno & Tony Albert: 125 in 110 zone, Watchthisspace, Alice Springs, Australia

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2025

FRIEZE Seoul, kohesi Initiatives, COEX, Seoul, South Korea International Film Festival Rotterdam - Curated by Eva Langerak, de Doelen, Rotterdam, the Netherlands Villanueva Pavilion at the Royal Botanical Garden, Madrid, Spain

2024

Art Jakarta, kohesi Initiatives, JIEXpo Kemayoran, Jakarta, Indonesia

In Stranger Lands: Cocoa's Journey to Asia, curated by Caroline Ha Thuc, Nguyen Art Foundation, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

ART SG, Kohesi Initiatives, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore

2023

Decolonial Dialogues, VoC Zaal, Oost-Indisch Huis, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Netherlands De Grote Indonesia, De Niuewe Kerk Museum, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Meaning, curated by Rory Guan, Beijing Inside-Out Art Museum, China

Art Jakarta, kohesi Initiatives, JCC Senayan, Jakarta, Indonesia

Intermission, kohesi Initiatives, Galeri R.J. Katamsi, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

CPH:DOX, Kunsthalle Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Denmark

Videonale 19, Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany

2022

Art Jog MMXXII: Arts in Common - Expanding Awareness, Jogja National Museum, Indonesia

2021

Kebun Sejarah/Garden of History: in collaboration with Kevin van Braak, het Glazen Huis, Amstelpark, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Minds Rising, Spirits Tuning, The 13th Gwangju Biennale, curated by Defne Ayas & Natasha Ginwala, Gwangju Biennale Hall, Gwangju, South Korea

2020

Akar Hening di Tengah Bising, FKY 2020, curated by Lisistrata, Museum Sonobudoyo, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

2019

Mindful Circulations, curated by Kerstin Winking, Mumbai City Museum, India

Stories We Tell To Scare Ourselves With, curated by Jason Wee, Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA), Taipei, Taiwan Between Stripes and Scratches 爪牙皮毛, curated by Jens Cheung, Galeri Lorong, Yogyakarta, Indonesia South East Asia Focus: Timoteus Anggawan Kusno, The Columns Gallery, Gillman Barracks, Singapore

2018

Asia Project: How Little You Know About Me, curated by Joowon Park, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA) Seoul, South Korea

3 ½ Tahun Bekerja: Seni dan Propaganda Pendudukan Jepang, 1942–1945, curated by Antariksa, Teater Kecil, Taman Ismail Marzuki (TIM), Jakarta, Indonesia A Tale of Two Cities: Narrative Archive of Memories, curated by Sunyoung Oh, Project Sevenandahalf, Yunseul Art Museum, Gimhae, South Korea

Pressing Matters, in collaboration—curated by Kevin van Braak, Framer Framed, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2017

Power and Other Things: Indonesia & Art (1835-now), curated by Charles Esche & Riksa Afiaty, Centre for Fine Arts (BOZAR), Brussels, Belgium

Stage of Hopelessness, Equator #4 Indonesia-Brazil, Biennale Jogja XIV, curated by Pius Sigit, Jogja National Museum (JNM), Yogyakarta, Indonesia

A Tale of Two Cities: Narrative Archive of Memories, curated by Sunyoung Oh, Arko Art Center, Seoul, South Korea

SELECTED FESTIVALS & SPECIAL SCREENINGS

2025

Asian Avant-Garde Film Festival, M+, Hong Kong

DokuFest, Prizren, Kosovo Berlinale International Film Festival, Berlin, Germany Locarno Film Festival, Locarno, Switzerland 54th International Film Festival Rotterdam, the Netherlands

2024

Videoex, International Experimental Film & Video Festival, Zurich, Switzerland
International Film Festival Rotterdam, the Netherlands
Living Another Future, MAIIAM Contemporary Art Museum,
Chiang Mai, Thailand
Between Art and Documentary, Sàn Art, Ho Chi Minh City,

Vietnam

Joyland Fest, Cinerillaz curated by JAFF, Nusa Dua, Bali,

Joyland Fest, Cinerillaz curated by JAFF, Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia

Norient Festival, Bern, Switzerland

2023

Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival, Yogyakarta, Indonesia Festival Film Dokumenter, Yogyakarta, Indoesia Arkipel International Documentary And Experimental Film Festival, Jakarta, Indonesia Lo schermo dell'arte, Florence, Italy CPH:DOX, Copenhagen, Denmark

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY & REVIEWS

Duong, H. (2024). Boiling point: On the art of Ade Darmawan and Timoteus Anggawan Kusno. Artforum, 63(3). Harsono, F.X. FX Harsono on Timoteus Anggawan Kusno.

New York: ArtAsiaPacific. 2017

Ha Thuc, Caroline. "Research-Based Art Practices: Context and Framework." Research-Based Art Practices in Southeast Asia. Switzerland: Springer International Publishing AG. 2022.7-42

Hongfeng, Tang. "Archive, Mediation, and Reflections on Colonization in Modern Asia." China & Asia: a journal in historical studies 2.1. 2020. 97–133

Janse, Tessel. "Tijgers, koloniale amnesie en postkoloniale kwelgeesten: Timoteus Anggawan Kusno in Revolusi!" Metropolis M. 2022

Kusno, Timoteus Anggawan. "Panggung Poskolonial Indonesia dalam Narasi "Memoar Tanah Runcuk"". Retorik: Jurnal Ilmu Humaniora. 4 (2): 233–253. 2017
Kusno, Timoteus Anggawan. "Working with Colonial Objects in the Rijksmuseum." Inside Indonesia, Edition 155,

Objects in the Rijksmuseum." Inside Indones

Jan-Mar 2024

SELECTED TALKS & GUEST LECTURES

2025

 ${\it Masterclass}, {\it Hessen\,Film\,and\,Media\,Academy}, {\it Berlin}, \\ {\it Germany}$

Visio: Moving Images in Europe since 2010, Centre for

Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany

European Film Market: Archive Market, Berlinale 2025,

Berlin, Germany

Tiger Talk, International Film Festival Rotterdam 2025,

Rotterdam, the Netherlands

2024

Artistic Research and Interventions, Critical Studies Lecture Series, Willem de Kooning Academy, Rotterdam, the Netherlands

2023

Reframing the Past, Confronting Colonial Legacies, Critical Studies Lecture Series, Willem de Kooning Academy, Rotterdam, the Netherlands Do We Still Trust in Art? Panel Discussion, Videonale 19, Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany Artistes et métiers de l'exposition, Beaux-Arts de Paris, France

2022

Processing Archive and Historical Approach in Art Making, Production of Non-Fiction Film, School of Arts, Peking University, Beijing, China

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kohesi Initiatives

kohesi *I*nitiatives is an Indonesian-based contemporary art gallery.

The gallery is committed to supporting and presenting the career of its artists and their works in a diverse range of media and genres, while also encouraging exploration of their practice in both conceptual and contextual interpretation with a balanced aesthetic consideration.

As an artist-first gallery, kohesi strives to achieve its vision by consistently holding quality exhibitions and artist-focused projects, while actively seeking the opportunity and possibility of working together with institutions globally to enrich and benefit its artists.

kohesi Initiatives

Inquiries:

Benedicto Audi Jericho +62 812 8640 0839 benedicto.srisasanti@gmail.com

Press and Opportunities:

Georgius Christian Amadeo +62 878 2309 1999 amadeo.srisasanti@gmail.com

Website & Social Media

