



Another breakthrough in cultural preservation; Bali Mandara Nawanatya

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ABSTRACT

Conservation, as well as cultural development activities, are essential to be conducted to maintain the identity of a nation, moreover preserve its existence. When we discuss about culture, Bali, the island of thousand temples, offers whole package of cultural charms; whether in the form of art, religion, civilization, tools and technology, social organization, knowledge, and language system. In order to preserve these cultural aspects, Provincial government of Bali continues to strive various activities. Bali Mandara nawanatya, an activity proclaimed by the government of Bali province as a medium to cultivate the creativity of Balinese artist, is held throughout the year at Taman Budaya, Art Centre Denpasar. The opening parade of this weekend's art activities was

merrily held with theme Tri Buana Kertih or harmony in three layers of the universe. Participants consisting of students from various schools in Bali as well as local arts groups such as Yayasan Penggak Men Mersi, Kisrama Production-Singaraja, Fortuna Management-Singaraja and art activists from neighbourhood province like Banyuwangi Ethno Carnaval attends the opening parade or referred as the cultural parade of 'Bali Art Carnaval'. Albeit its applauding carnival, obviously the exhibition that runs throughout the year seems attract less visitor to enjoy the performances. It may be another challenge that require attention not only for Government, but also for society as social support in preserving as well as motivating their culture development

Keyword: Bali Mandara Nawanatya, Government of Bali, Culture Preservation

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BACKGROUND

Conservation, as well as cultural development activities, are essential to be conducted to maintain the identity of a nation moreover preserve its existence. When we discuss about culture, Bali, the island of thousand temples, offers whole package of cultural charms; whether in the form of art, religion, civilization, tools and technology, social organization, knowledge, and language system. Having cultures in abundance mean it needs extra work from multiple parties to maintain as well as sustain its growth and existence. In order to preserve these cultural aspects, Provincial government of Bali continues to strive various activities, in hope building firm foundation to sustain and maintain it. For instance, in Performing arts, which consisting of music, dance and drama that have been part of Indonesian culture life throughout the archipelago.¹

The Provincial Government of Bali holds Bali Arts Festival activities every year. This annual agenda, which marked on the calendar of event, act as an attraction for tourists both local or international. Recently, the government creates another activity, namely Bali Mandara Nawanatya, which is slowly but sure emerging to the surface, and steal the spotlight. No wonder, communities of contemporary artist as well as art enthusiasts

being thrilled in curiosity. The artist views this new event as media to showcase their masterpiece. On the other hand, for people in general, the question keeps sparking in their minds. What is the event about?

THE EVENT

The main difference of this activity compared to the Balinese art festival lies on its duration. Unlike Balinese art festival that is usually held for about three weeks in the middle of the year, Bali Mandara Nawanatya, an activity proclaimed by the government of Bali province as a medium to cultivate the creativity of Balinese artist, is held throughout the year at Taman Budaya, Art Center Denpasar. Today, the event which firstly launched in 2015 has been entering its third year. While for the purpose, this activity has an equivalent aim to Bali Art Festival, that is focusing on art preservation. Art, as implemented in Balinese life activities contains universal values to form identity, character education, encourage creativity, media of cultural diplomacy and become a bridge of civilization.³ As a media of artistic expression, the event which runs every Wednesday to Sunday throughout the year, is also a strategy to 'map' the art development on the island. In addition, it creates space for the

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Figure 1. The costumes worn by the carnival participants successfully 'steal the attention.' It is made from environmental-friendly materials²

public to perform contemporary art or culture art performances they have designed and developed.⁴

PREPARATIONS

Before the exhibition begin, The Provincial Cultural Office of Bali has widely announced the opportunity to the school. Several months before the D-Day The Government sent the invitation to kindergarten, high school / vocational school, universities, and art communities on the island to participate as performer on Bali Mandara Nawanatya 2018. They implement closed curator system of recruitment; they pointed out prominent figures as well as art expert as curator. Then the curator is responsible to appoint any art community/ studio they may find eligible to perform. In addition, schools and colleges may participate to show their talent at the Art Centre Denpasar. However, in 2018, the system has transformed into open curator system. Therefore people in general, schools or art community may participate.⁵ An open curator system provides a more accessible opportunity to do mapping on the potential of schools and colleges in the arts.

The organizers, the Bali Provincial Cultural Office said, if it turns out the school and art community who register exceeds the quota, to appear in the implementation of the Bali Mandara II program, then the unlucky participants will be drafted as waiting list to appear in the following year's exhibition. Whereas if the amount does not meet the predetermined quota, the closed curator system will be re-enacted.

Moreover, as an effort to coordinate as well as an act to synergize for the activities success, the provincial cultural office of Bali has spread special invitation to potential schools and art groups



Figure 2 Bali Governor Made Mangku Pastika express his satisfaction with the innovations made by the participants for their costumes. The utilization of recycled materials is an effort to inspire yet motivate Balinese artists to utilize recycled materials thus they have economic value⁶

throughout Bali. If they put interest in the event and wish to enroll, they may directly submit the request to the Bali cultural office.

OPENING CEREMONY

The opening parade of this weekend's art activities was merrily held. Participants consisting of students from various schools in Bali as well as local art groups such as Penggak Men Mersi foundation, Kisrama Production-Singaraja, Fortuna Management-Singaraja and art activists from outside Bali like Banyuwangi Ethno Carnaval attended the opening parade or well-known as the cultural parade of 'Bali Art Carnaval'. The parade starts at 15.00 Wita on March 3rd 2018. The parade started from Jayasabha Building then move to Surapati street, and finally march towards Cultural Park Art Centre at Nusa Indah Street Denpasar as the venue.⁷

The costumes worn by the carnival participants successfully 'steal the attention.' It is made from environmental-friendly materials. The material, which is used to make the costumes, mostly comes from second-hand goods. Approximately hundreds of artists display various carnival costumes with stunning color as well as magnificent in design. The model implements in this season are Tri Buana Kertih or harmony in three layers of the universe.⁸ Bali Governor Made Mangku Pastika express his satisfaction with the innovations made by the participants for their costumes. The utilization of



Figure 3. The show is open for public until December 8th, 2018¹³

recycled materials is an effort to inspire yet motivate Balinese artists to utilize recycled materials thus they have economic value.⁹

Meanwhile, the head of Bali Cultural Department, Dewa Putu Beratha said that few months before the parade take place, the provincial cultural office of Bali conducted a workshop about the procedure of making carnival costumes. Paper waste, old newspapers, plastics and other recyclable materials become primary materials of the uniforms worn by the participants. Furthermore, workshops on artistic and its management, motion creation, poetry musicals, fruit and flower creations

as well as various competitions including scripts and traditions contests, inventive modern drama script, and contemporary dance masterpieces were presented as well.¹⁰

The opening of Bali Mandara Nawanatya 2018, also enlivened by Comedy show by *Kini Berseri*. They were staging collaborated act with young artists entitled 'Dunia dalam Cerita'. Then on Sunday March 4th 2018, at 19.30 pm at Ksirarnawa Art Center Building was held a contemporary music performance, WYP Art Foundation, Dian Kencana Studio Denpasar, and Cenik Pangus Studio Kesiman.¹¹

OTHER EVENTS

The usage of recycled materials, also introduced in the form of art exhibitions during the Bali Mandara Nawanatya. The show is open for public until December 8th, 2018. It is a gallery of work presented by Art studio from Denpasar, Sanggar Jepun Putih. Presenting countless 'go green' fine arts, the works of Sanggar Jepun Putih are two units of three-dimensional paintings and 30 units of two-dimensional pictures. The work is done by members of the studio ranging from kindergarten members to junior high school.

According to the founder and teacher of Sanggar Jepun Putih, Wayan Adnyana, to animate this exhibition, his students and him had prepared in the last six months before the presentation started. In the beginning, Jepun Putih studio only taught children about basic drawing such as how to color and draw, then as time goes by, the development finally began to aim in environmentally-based work such as processing waste or unused materials into painting. The implementation of newspaper waste in art began in 2013; then they switch to apply plastic waste as materials.¹²

In March, April and May, the event will be featuring works by artists who use plastic waste as painting, emphasizing in the theme of "Trash as Painting Inspiration". While in September, October and November, the organizer are scheduling to show collaborated work of various type of waste as art media.

Besides gallery of paint, Bali Mandara Nawanatya also presents music art performances. The theme of music arts performance in the event of Bali Art Weekend of Mandara Nawanatya III 2018 for the first month of its organizing, is featured by music art community in Bali who wish to show their skills. On the second weekend, three music art communities had the opportunity to entertain the audience. They are Don Biu Denpasar Community, Elephant Ethnic Tabanan, and Ruang Singgah Community.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

The third performance of the musicians on Ksirarnawa stage, Art Centre, Denpasar, on Sunday evening March 11th 2018 was enchanting and well prepared. As the opening act, Don Biu invites the audience sinking through reflection on the dynamism and independence of art. They staged six performances of poetries accompanied by musical instruments which rewarded by high appreciation by the audience.

Then, the Gajah Etnik Arts Community from Tabanan present five performances that are equally spectacular with previous performers. The atmosphere turned into blue when the Ruang Singgah Community displays the art of music entitled 'Secret Prayer.' Albeit impressive performances, the audience seems less to be expected in amount. Only several connoisseurs seemed to attentively watched and appreciate the performances.

According to observer of music art, Dr. I Nyoman Astita MA, he found that seeking an audience that put high interest in art is not an easy task. Although the performance is presented by talented musicians which capable to captivate the audience in attendance, the enthusiasm of citizens to watch the art may be classified low. It is believed due to people's habits and interest mostly to attend massive performances that tend to feature a visual form, for instances *Joged Bumbung* or theatrical performances. He is positive, the audience of those shows will be more packed by bystanders compared to music performances, especially contemporary music performance. He pointed out the reason since he experienced a long struggled in the world of music art and spend his time specifically observed the art of music. He also said Music lovers have their personal music sense. Thus, to find for an audience that does have an interest in music art is challenging.

However, Astita refuses to blame this situation on society. It is due to undoubtedly the art does have its unique characteristics in which only attract several people. Furthermore, Astita honestly expects the case may stimulate the creativity of musical artists, especially local artist to work harder. He believes Musical artists should keep their best work and sharpen their instinct, albeit they have to wait for the real music lovers.¹⁴

CONCLUSIONS

Provincial government of Bali works tirelessly in planning as well as finding a path to maintain culture in Bali. since conservation of culture is

important to be done in order to preserve identity of a nation. in addition, the existence may become a blessing if it is cultivated in correct way. one of the given solution is Bali Mandara Nawanatya, an activity that has been ongoing for three years since 2015. artist from around corner of Bali and Indonesia, find the event as opportunity to showcase their best hard works. Governor of Bali expressed his elation about the opening ceremony, in which implementing Tri Buana Kertih; a harmonious life between three layers of universe as its theme. the theme applied on gorgeous environmental-friendly artwork that captivate bystanders on the street. however, albeit its applauding carnival, obviously the exhibition that runs throughout the year seems attract less visitor to enjoy the performances. it may be another challenge that require attention not only for Government, but also for society as social support in preserving as well as motivating their culture development.

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