



# WONDERS *Of* INDONESIA

**74<sup>TH</sup>**  
SDM UNGGUL  
INDONESIA MAJU



## SYNTHESIS

**INDONESIAN & BULGARIAN  
HERITAGE TEXTILE, ARTEFACTS AND JEWELLERY**  
09.07 - 31.08.2019  
Regional History Museum, Sofia

## Message from Her Excellency



### Sri Astari Rasjid

The Ambassador  
of the Republic of Indonesia  
to the Republic of Bulgaria

In celebration of the 63 years of diplomatic relations between **Indonesia - Bulgaria** and in commemoration of the 74th Anniversary of the Independence day of Indonesia, we proudly present the Indonesian Festival in Bulgaria entitled “**Wonders of Indonesia 2019**”, which includes exhibitions of Art, Heritage Textiles, Jewellery and Artefacts as well as Movie screening, Culinary Festivals, Fashion and Cultural performances throughout 2019.

We have started our **Wonders of Indonesia 2019** celebration with “**Eastern Rhythms**” Indonesia Paper Art exhibition, 3-26 May 2019 at the Triangle Tower Museum of Serdica.

On July 9 until September 1 2019, the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in partnership with the National Gallery: Kvadrat and the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria, presents : “**Synthesis: Indonesian and Bulgarian Contemporary Art**” Exhibition.

At the same time, from 9 July until 31 August 2019, at the Sofia History Museum, we will showcase **Synthesis of our colorful Batik Textiles** from the collection of Mrs. Rerie Lestari Moerdijat. Along with my private collection of **heritage jewellery and artifacts** found from various places in Indonesia, remnants of our ancestral past, which I have collected throughout my life journey, including a display of **old Bulgarian jewellery and traditional costumes** I have found during my mandate in Bulgaria.

At the end of August 2019 we will be participating at the **Love is Folly International Film Festival** in Varna.

Our 74th National Independence Day celebration will be held at the end of September 2019 which also mark the closing of the **Wonders of Indonesia 2019** series of events.

We are of the view that even though Bulgaria and Indonesia are located on different continents in different parts of the world, through several examples we discover common ground in arts.

I believe, by showcasing Exhibition of Paper Arts, Contemporary Arts, Textiles, Artefacts, Jewelry and Film of our Cultural Heritage and Tradition, as well as the Indonesian Culinary at this special celebration, we will provide the Bulgarian audience with an excellent opportunity to better understand the culture id Indonesia. This is a positive step towards realizing the MoU in the field of Culture that was signed by both Indonesian Minister of Culture and the Bulgarian Minister of Culture in March 2016. A significant move required to increase the trade and tourism exchange between the two countries.

My appreciation goes to H.E. Mr Boil Banov, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria, and the Mayor of Sofia, Mrs. Yordanka Fandakova, for their invaluable support, Mrs Yara Bubnova, Director of the National Gallery in Sofia and her team for the cooperation, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veneta Handzhiyska-Yankulova, Director Regional History Museum – Sofia and her team for their kind assistance and support. My special thanks also go to the Indonesian Artists, all the Bulgarian artists, our Indonesian curators Ms. Citra Smara Dewi and Ms. Carla Bianpoen who have participated in the Synthesis: Contemporary Art Exhibition in Sofia.

My heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Rerie Lestari Moerdijat for lending us her unique Storytelling Batik collection.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to our sponsors for their generous contribution to make our event possible. Among others: PT Indofood Sukses Makmur Tbk, especially for Indo Serbia Food and Metro TV as our media partner.

## Message from His Excellency



**Boil Banov**

The Minister of Culture  
of the Republic of Bulgaria

Your Excellency Rasjid,  
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

To me it is a pleasure to greet you on the occasion of the Indonesian and Bulgarian contemporary art exhibition at the “Kvadrat 500” National Gallery. I think that “Synthesis”- the title that has been chosen by the exhibition curators is quite suitable because artists have a particular mission – to cross borders and to unite people, to establish our common values by bonding ideas that are opposite at first sight.

Cultural cooperation between Bulgaria and Indonesia has its traditions built up and as years pass by, they have been filled in with new contents and dynamics. Here we are now, when a part of this wonderful cooperation is the present exhibition, a beautiful accent amidst a whole line of events under the motto “Wonders of Indonesia 2019”.

Being close and distant, equal and different, I believe that the relations between our countries will continue developing more and more actively in the spirit of fruitful cooperation. I'm deeply convinced that this exhibition is still one more proof of the force of culture, predestined to give answers to the complex questions of living, to bring closer, to awake the good, love, and the constructive in human soul, to cause empathy.

I avail of the opportunity, on behalf of the Ministry of Culture, to express special appreciation to the team of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Bulgaria, as well as to all who have contributed to the carrying out of the present exhibition that enriches the cultural calendar of our country. I'm grateful to the authors – for their inspiration and consistency when making this wonderful event happen. I'm convinced that the great geographic distances can't be an obstacle to the permanent dialogue in time and friendly relations for our two countries with rich history of cooperation.

Wishing you pleasant encounters with the sincere Bulgarian audience.



Rerie Lestari Moerdijat

Deputy Chairman of  
Media Group Indonesia

## Batik Storytelling - the story of Indonesian batik

The first thing one needs to know when it comes to batik, is about the creation. That one sheet of garment is entirely made of humans' thoughts, imaginations, even emotions.

Indonesian batik, nonetheless, is very rich in patterns. There are various kinds of patterns in every regions--it is impossible to count it and they are different one another.

Among the diversity of patterns, motifs and styles--there are also batik fabrics deliberately designed with storytelling purpose.

Batik storytelling-is a batik cloth depicting various stories or legends. The fabrics becomes the medium for ones to tell a story.

Various stories such as the story of Wali Songo ( the 9 revered saints of Islam) which is very well-known in Indonesia, traditional puppet stories, war story, legenda, fables , even to famous story from around the globe like the Red riding Hood,Flash Gordon, to Chinese mythology--can be found on Indonesian batik .

Making batik cloth as a medium for telling stories or delivering messages, is one of the things commonly encountered in Indonesia.

Thank you to Your Excellency, Indonesian Ambassador to Bulgaria, Ibu Sri Astari Rasjid, who gave me the opotunity to show some of the collection of Batik Storytelling at the **SYNTHESIS: Indonesia & Bulgaria exhibition - Heritage Textiles, Artefacts and Jewellery.**

I hope the presence of Batik Storytelling at this exhibition could add the knowledge to the people about the wealth of Indonesian batik.

## INDONESIAN HERITAGE TEXTILE COLLECTION



"Wayang", Batik Cirebon



"Chinese Story 100 Children", Batik Pekalongan



"Little Red Riding Hood", Batik Pekalongan



"Flash Gordon", Batik Solo



"Rama Shinta", Batik Cirebon



"Wayang Merah", Batik Cirebon



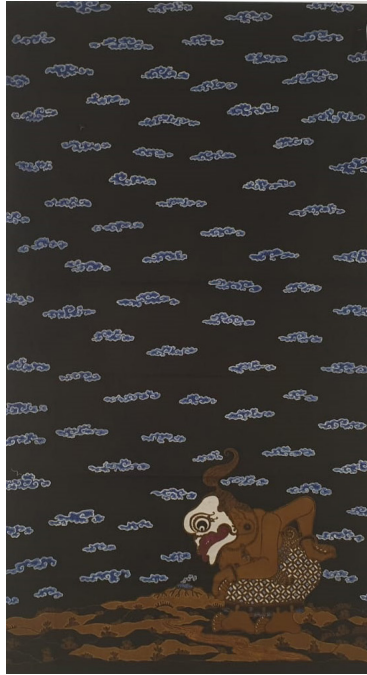
"Cigarettes Producing Process", Batik Kudus



"Batik Process", Batik Cirebon



"Harvest", Batik Cirebon



"Semar", Batik Cirebon



"Little Red Riding Hood",  
Batik Cirebon



Handwritten Batik from Solo



Old Japanese Influence Batik "Hokokai"



"Telur Ayam Emas", Batik Banyumas



"Religions in Colonial Era", Batik Cirebon



"Wayang" Puppets and Handwoven Gold Tapis Cloth from Sumatera (Lampung)



Life-size Golek puppets wearing Indonesian costume of old woven Tapis cloth and matching Top, and old Batik and Kebaya Top

## BULGARIAN TRADITIONAL COSTUMES AND JEWELLERY



Bulgarian Traditional Costumes and Jewellery with Indonesian Batik as backgrounds in the left and right picture

## INDONESIAN ARTEFACTS COLLECTION



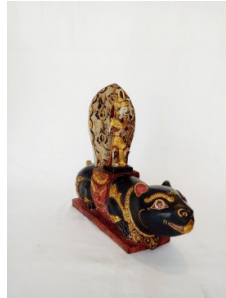
Traditional wooden masks and Traditional vessels to carry the betel potion



Heritage Javanese Circumcision chair, Old Balinese Wedding Dolls and antique heirloom cloth from the Kingdom of Singaraja, Bali



Wooden Balinese Goddess  
riding on a sacred Turtle



Wooden Balinese Goddess  
riding on a sacred Nandi/bull



“Loro Blonyo”, Wooden Balinese  
Couple Sculpture



Wooden Sumateran  
(Palembang) Medicine Box



Circumcision Chair



Beaded Baby Carrier from Dayak  
Tribe, Kalimantan



Palembang painted lacquer from  
South Sumatera



Symbolic Wooden Rooster Stern  
used on the edge of a ship,  
Madura Origin



"Wayang" Puppets and Traditional  
Heritage Textile

Left to right:

**GARENG**, Semar's eldest son and ranks second among the punakawan or clown-like servant of the heroes in the shadow-plays.

**SEMAR**: He is one of the most supernaturally powerful characters in the shadow puppet repertoire, due to his deep knowledge.

**PETRUK**, Semar's adopted son. He is tall, long nosed punakawan. He has a sweet face with an attractive smile

**BAGONG**, Semar's youngest son. He always appears as a youth, and defers to nobody, whether a warrior, raja, or god.



Left to right:

**BARONG.** He is a panther-like creature and character in the Balinese mythology of Bali, Indonesia. He is the king of the spirits, leader of the hosts of good, and enemy of Rangda, the demon queen and mother of all spirit guarders in the mythological traditions of Bali.

**ARJUNA.** He is a ksatria (member of the warrior/ruler class) of the Bharata period who has no peer, Arjuna is the son of Pandu Dewanata, raja Astina and Dewi Prita/ Dewi Kunti.

**GUNUNGAN,** also known as kayon or kayonan (from kayu, “wood” or “tree”) in Bali, is a figure in the Indonesian theatrical performance of wayang e.g. wayang kulit, wayang klitik, and wayang golek. A gunungan is a symmetrical-shaped figure of translucent parchment made of dried, firm beef skin, whose outline is pointed in Java and more rounded in Bali.

**SUBADRA,** is one of the main characters in the epic Mahabharata. He is the daughter of Prabu Basudewa, king of the Kingdom of Surasena.

**RANGDA,** She is a witch-widow and Queen of Black Magic.



Left to right:

**SANGUT.** He is one of the prominent figures in the Puppet tradition in Bali. Sangut is described has big lips and yellow-skinned. He is the thinnest but has big belly. He often appears with Delem and conducts jokes.

**DALEM.** He has cross eyes, his neck is goiter, and short. He is arrogant, cunning, and big mouth. He was always submissive to the king, but to someone younger he acted arrogant. He is very well known and often appears along with Sangut, having dialogues full of jokes.

**TUALEN.** He is considered to be a clown in contemporary Balinese stories. He is older and more powerful than all the Hindu gods, being really the elder brother of Shiva (Siwa in Balinese). His cognate in Javanese tradition is Semar.

**MERDAH.** He is Tualen's brother, but according to Central Balinese tradition Merdah is one of Tualen's sons. He is often appears with Tualen, doing dialogues full of jokes but full of advice.



Left to right:

**SRIKANDI:** She is a character in the Hindu epic, the Mahabharata. She is the daughter of Drupada. She fought in the Kurukshetra war on the side of the Pandavas, along with his father Drupada and brother Dhristadyumna

**DEWI SHINTA:** Shinta is one of the main characters of the Indian epic "Ramayana", beloved wife of Rama and daughter of king Janaka. Shinta is portrayed as the symbol of female purity and virtue.

**SUMBADRA:** Sister of Krishna and Baladewa, king of Mandura, Sembadra is a gentle and noble character from the Mahabharata epic. She is the first wife of Arjuna and mother of Abimanyu, later one of the first kings of Java.

**DRUPADI:** is the most important female character in the Hindu epic, Mahabharata

## INDONESIAN JEWELLERY COLLECTION



Heritage Gold Jewellery from the Kingdom of Majapahit, Central Java (9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> century)



Old Javanese Gold and Silver Jewellery (13<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> century)



Variety of Heritage Gold and Silver Jewellery from the Island of Sumatera (19th century)



Old Heritage Jewellery from East Indonesia (Nusa Tenggara, Flores, and Sumba),  
19<sup>th</sup> century



Old Balinese Gold and Silver Jewellery, Keris Handle with Gold and Rubies, and Mask (19th century)

## BULGARIAN JEWELLERY COLLECTION



Old Heritage Bulgarian Silver and Gold Plated Jewellery (19<sup>th</sup> century)



Old Heritage Bulgarian Silver and Gold Plated Jewellery (19<sup>th</sup> century)

НАЦИОНАЛНА  
ГАЛЕРИЯ



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**SYNTHESIS**  
INDONESIAN & BULGARIAN

**CONTEMPORARY ART**  
09.07 - 01.09.2019  
National Gallery, Kvadrat 500, Sofia

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