

Entang Wiharso Opens New Show in Singapore

by Darryl Wee 05/03/14 9:46 PM EST



Entang Wiharso, *Perfect Mirror*, 2013-2014. From the series: *Geo-Portrait*, Oil color on mirror, aluminum, thread, resin, color pigment, 220 x 330 cm | 86.61 x 129.92 in, Number 1 from an edition of 2 in aluminum + 2 AP (one in aluminum and one in graphite).

(Courtesy the artist and ARNDT)

SINGAPORE — A formidable fixture on the Indonesian contemporary art scene, **Entang Wiharso** returned to present a new series of work at “Trilogy,” an exhibition that opened at [ARNDT Singapore](#) on March 6 whose title hearkens back to the themes explored in three other recent one-man shows — “Love Me or Die” (Indonesian National Gallery, 2010), “Untold Stories” (ARNDT Berlin, 2012), and “Geo-Portrait” (Prima Noctis, Lugano, 2013 and Salihara, Jakarta, 2013).

Although frequently making allusion to the vernacular history and mythology of his home country, Wiharso has expanded the scope of his imaginings at this exhibition, seeking universal resonance in the past history of foreign cultures in order to give the political messages carried by his work additional heft and weight.

“The Perfect Mirror” (2013-14), an aluminum and resin sculptural relief fabricated in the style for which Wiharso is well known, depicts a jumble of vines, tendrils and other rampant vegetation, tangled up with a morass of tongues, tails both human and beast. The thematic echoes of the work, however, come from the reliquary-like portrait embedded in the center of the relief that depicts the figure of Samuel Sewall, a notorious judge who condemned some twenty people to death during the Salem Witch Trials in Massachusetts in 1692.

According to the artist, the reference to Sewall is intended as a cautionary historical lesson about leaders who knowingly commit gaffes without having the public courage and conscience to retract their decisions afterwards — a veiled criticism, perhaps, of similar events currently unfolding in Indonesian politics.

*Entang Wiharso’s “Trilogy” runs at ARNDT Singapore from March 6 through May 4, 2014.*