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Artist Raises Visibility and Funds for Victims of Katrina, Tsunami and Merapi

Indonesian Embassy sponsors exhibition of neo-classical art by Indonesian artist, Machyar Gleuenta, to raise additional visibility and funds for victims of Katrina, Merapi and the Tsunami

'Wisdom in the Elements of Devastation'
July 19 – August 23

SPRINGFIELD, VA., June 15, 2006 — The Indonesian Embassy in Washington, D.C., is sponsoring an exhibition of new works by classically trained Indonesian artist Machyar Gleuenta to benefit the victims of Hurricane Katrina, Merapi and the tsunami that devastated Indonesia, from July 19 through August 23. Titled *'Wisdom in the Elements of Devastation,'* the exhibition will showcase approximately thirty of Mr. Gleuenta's new works, including paintings, drawings, etchings and watercolors. All the works were inspired by positive displays of courage and compassion that these tragedies revealed. Selling the works in the exhibition will raise an estimated \$150,000 for charities.

This unique art and humanitarian event grew out of conversations last spring between the former Indonesia ambassador to the U.S., A.R. Ramly, and Machyar Gleuenta. Further discussions with current Indonesia ambassador Sudjudnan Parnohadiningrat made the project a reality.

“Because of the tsunami in our motherland we feel very close to the victims of Katrina and can understand the kind of suffering they are going through,” said former ambassador Ramly. Current ambassador Parnohadiningrat added, “While this event is being held because of similar disasters in the U.S. and Indonesia, it is also a bridge of goodwill and friendship between our two countries and we hope that it can be a silver lining to the storm clouds that caused so much destruction”.

Both ambassadors are pleased to have an artist of Machyar Gleuenta's talent and growing reputation involved in this event. In a recent letter regarding Mr. Gleuenta's talent, Ambassador Parnohadiningrat wrote, “With admiration of your exceptionally artistic talents and vastly growing collection of paintings, it is with great pleasure that I lend my personal support to ensure a successful exhibition”.

Gleuenta bridges the cultural gap between Indonesia and the U.S. on a daily basis and was a natural choice for this event, which brings together the people of Indonesia and the United States. Gleuenta is close to the tsunami victims and can fully appreciate the devastation and difficulties now faced by survivors of Katrina. “I lost 19 relatives and I thank the Almighty for allowing me to

share my life with them before they departed. Some elements in these new works reflect images and situations that my nephew and other survivors told me about”, said Gleuenta. “I want to shine light onto a dark tragedy and bring out a message of positive rebirth and hope for the future with these works. Cultivating a future that will make a better world and searching for *Wisdom in the Elements of Devastation*.

ABOUT MACHYAR GLEUENTA

Machyar Gleuenta is a sought after neo-classical artist whose commissioned portraits include Andrew Young, the former ambassador to the United Nations and mayor of Atlanta as well as international business leaders Surya Paloh and Ir. Fadel Muhammad. While Machyar is best known for his lavish oils, he is comfortable in a wide variety of mediums and his paintings, watercolors, etchings and are all testaments to his exceptional talent.

Machyar was born in 1970 and was raised in Aceh, a northern region of Sumatra, Indonesia. In 1994 he participated in an exhibition at the National Gallery in Jakarta, gaining the attention of art collectors and influential members of the art community. In 1996 Machyar received a full scholarship to the Maine College of Art in Portland, Maine. After completing two years of study in Maine, Machyar received a scholarship to study at the prestigious Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia. The Academy is the oldest school of fine art in the United States and considered one of the finest schools of figurative art in the world.

You can see a full complement of Machyar’s current and commissioned works by visiting him on the web at www.mkfinearts.com.

Opening hours

Wednesday, July 19th — Official opening, Refreshment and Hors d'oeuvre 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Monday (except Friday) through Sunday 10:30 AM to 6:00 PM

Friday: 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Admission to the exhibition is free

The Embassy of Indonesia is located at:

2020 Massachusetts Ave., NW Washington, D.C. 20036

Embassy contact person:

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Public parking on street and in Pay Lots