

Hendra “Blankon” Priyadhani  
(Indonesia, b, 1981)

Whimsical and innovative, Indonesian artist Hendra ‘Blankon’ Priyadhani toys with one’s sense of nostalgia with his three-dimensional play of found objects. Wandering through the streets of Yogyakarta, Priyadhani hunts for objects and materials that once had functionality and sentimental values. In turn, he gives these abandoned objects a new life by reassembling them, juxtaposing seemingly incongruous elements into dynamic and surrealistic compositions.

Trained as print maker, Priyadhani graduated from institute Seni Indonesia Yogyakarta (Institute of the Arts, Yogyakarta) in 2010. Priyadhani started his three-dimensional works with two-dimensional technique in mind. Carefully-chosen household objects bearing distinctive cultural and historical nuances are composed in a mindful consideration of a certain pictorial arrangement to create a three-dimensional collage. In *War is Over....* Here, the figurines, plates and porcelain tiles are layered and choreographed to portray various scenes. The cookie tins bearing Dutch and Chinese motifs respectively signifying Indonesia’s colonial past and Chinese settlements in Indonesia are hollowed out to frame the different scenes. These familiar objects have their prior function and meaning obliterated and seemingly enter a time capsule, imbued with colours and dynamic overlays – a cultural palimpsest.

His consciousness of being an Indonesian and Southeast Asian, along with the social, cultural or political symbolism of each of the found objects, are fused together into compositions that critique the world today. With an irresistibly imaginative mind and critical response to both historical and contemporary issues in society, Priyadhani is indeed one of the most original artists of his generation – a true maverick.

Priyadhani is also the founder and lead vocalist of Indonesian SANGKAKALA Rock Band. The artist often coined his style as “fine art rock” – a fusion of fine art and the rock genre. He has participated in various group and solo exhibitions include *Morph* in Art Formosa, Taipei, Taiwan (2018), *Art Bali, Bali, Bali, Indonesia* (2018), *Assemblage: Reflections on ASEAN*, Jakarta, Indonesia (2017). Priyadhani is currently based in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.