

EKO NUGROHO
Indonesian artist

EKO NUGROHO is an internationally recognized Indonesian contemporary artist considered as one of the pillars of the Indonesian art scene. His practice ranges from murals and other paintings, drawings, animations, video projections, comics, to embroidery and sculpture. He was part of the generation that became adult during the period of upheavals and reforms following the Asian financial crisis of 1997, the fall of the Suharto regime and the transition to democracy in Indonesia.

The artist

Eko Nugroho is born in 1977 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. He was educated at the High School for Fine Arts (SMSR) Yogyakarta (BFA, 1997). He graduated from of the Painting Department, Indonesian Art Institute, Yogyakarta (MFA, 2006). He lives and works in Yogyakarta.

Artwork

Eko Nugroho's work is rooted in both local traditions and urban and human environment. He has an important background in street art and uses a new visual language where political messages are intimately linked to the aesthetics of street art, graffiti and comics. He is also influenced by traditional batik and different embroidery styles. Through his characters, he presents social satires that are both humorous and disturbing and that attract young Indonesian audiences. He addresses universal topics such as globalization, existence, corruption, the system of values: culture and race. Since recently he has been working on contemporary interpretations of traditional Indonesian "wayang kulit" puppets.

"From the very outset, Nugroho understood that the movement and energy of everyday life — its histories and traditions, its comings and goings — were fundamental to both his process and ethos as an artist. The streets of his hometown Yogyakarta not only offered a site of free and creative expression, but also of communication and exchange [...]," explains Lisa Catt, Assistant Curator, International Art, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Australia.