

Bali style

INSPIRING INTERIORS. STYLE BY DESIGN.

"Sweet, sweet burn of sun and summer wind, and you my friend, my new fun thing, my summer fling."
— K.D. Lang

**THE
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ISSUE**

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PURPA GALLERY:
ART WITH PURPOSE

HEAVENLY WING
AT THE WESTIN

• TRAVEL IN STYLE: HANGING GARDENS UBUD
DECORATE: HOME OFFICE AND KIDS ROOM



Indonesia IDR 55.000 Malaysia MYR 11.9
Singapore SGD 5.90 Australia AUD 6.95

ISSN 1858-0602



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Art with Purpose at Purpa Gallery

Amiable Ari Purpa is the daughter of one of Bali's most eminent gallery owners and art curators, Nyoman Purpa who has owned and run a well-known gallery in Ubud for over 40 years. We caught up with her at

her recently-opened Purpa Gallery in Kerobokan where she hopes to follow in her father's footsteps creating a gallery space filled with works by some of her favourite local and international artists.



This page: Artwork featuring traditional Balinese themes.

Bali Style: How many artists do you currently exhibit at the gallery?

Ari Purpa: There are seven artists. Six of them are from Java. One of them is Rosar, he has an expressionist style I just love the colours. He specialises in four types of Balinese subjects - cockfighting, dancers, Barong and boats. That's all he paints. Another one is Sugita. He's a Balinese painter from Ubud. He's in Switzerland now, doing an exhibition. In two years the prices of his paintings have jumped up by four times. It's crazy now. And we have lots of his paintings in Ubud, but I only brought some of my favourites for this gallery. The great thing is my father allowed me to choose anything I wanted to bring to this gallery. Actually, I wanted to take the most expensive one by Kriyono, one of our maestros, worth Rp150

million, but for that my father said "No, not yet darling!" Muhamad is another one. A lot of people told me not to bring this to the gallery because it's a style that a lot of people copy—but I don't care. He is like my uncle. We don't sell fake ones. If you go to Ubud you will see many in that style, and people will often ask if they are original.

Bali Style: So how long have you had the gallery?

Ari Purpa: Just one month, so far. We are still putting the final touches on. We might change the colour of the walls to a grey colour, or light brown - with some nice lighting to really show the paintings in their best light. We are also aiming to do an exhibition every two months. So we need to be ready for that.



"SOMETIMES, BACKPACKER PEOPLE WALK PAST AND SEE SOMETHING NICE THAT THEY LIKE. BUT MOSTLY THEY'RE INDONESIANS FROM JAKARTA..."

This page (from top): Indonesian art works; Ari Purpa.



Bali Style: *Who are your clients mainly?*

Ari Purpa: In Ubud, mainly Jakarta people from the government and businesses and some tourists as well, those people staying in the hotels in Ubud. Sometimes, backpacker people walk past and see something nice that they like. But mostly they're Indonesians from Jakarta.

Bali Style: *Why did you want to open this gallery?*

Ari Purpa: Because I went to each gallery in Seminyak and I didn't see anything like this. I just saw too many pop art kind of paintings. And I just wondered why they didn't have more Indonesian style paintings and original artworks. So I thought, why not open a gallery with Balinese and Indonesian artists.

Bali Style: *What is your opinion of the art you see in the other Seminyak galleries?*

Ari Purpa: It's different. It's all relative. You can't say it's bad, no. It's mostly for young people. It's more pop. This

is a bit more classic. There's too much pop! I wanted something with a more Indonesian, Balinese flavour.

Bali Style: *What do you think about the art industry in Bali?*

Ari Purpa: It's good. It's growing. It's fresh now. I see more young painters with fresh ideas. It's not all about this traditional classic style. I've met with some young artists and they want something more fresh and simple.

Bali Style: *Will you be having a grand opening?*

Ari Purpa: We're still deciding whether to have it in a couple of months, or wait until August when it's high season. But we will let you know! 🙏

The grand opening of the Purpa Art Gallery is planned for June 2014 with an exhibition by Spanish artist, Mersukado Pazo.

Visit Purpa Art Gallery on Jl Mertasadi 97X, Kerobokan 80361. Phone: (+62) 81 999 408 804, Email: aripurpa@yahoo.com