

PRESS RELEASE

9 MARCH 2024

ROH presents ○, Bagus Pandega's solo exhibition

Jakarta, March 2024 – ROH is pleased to present ○, a solo exhibition of Bagus Pandega's (b. 1985, Bandung, Indonesia), for the second time with the gallery since 2016. The exhibition is enriched with an essay written by art critic Harry Burke.

In this exhibition, Pandega explores energy, resources, and biofeedback through a cycle of both new and earlier artworks. In his diverse practice, Pandega disrupts mechanical and industrial systems in order to propose alternative ways of relating to technology. The artist's multimedia installations, which frequently feature light and sound, are characterized by an inquisitive, DIY (do-it-yourself) spirit, which offer nuanced explorations of recycled materials and circular economies. Structured around interconnected concepts, artworks of ○ ranges from illustrating the human interactions in all digital networks, the absurdity of destroying ecosystems to safeguard and optimize commercial metals. Plants, engaging through biofeedback, collaborate in many artworks in ○ as a reflection that nature and technology are interconnected.

Two elements become the central subject in a number of Pandega's newer works for the show, oxygen and nickel. *Hyperpnea Green* (2024), a sculptural installation which transforms air into purified oxygen, hangs from ROH's double-height Gallery Orange. In conversation, *Nio* (2024) displays a video that investigates the process of nickel electroplating. In *Attenuation Coefficient and Exponential Attenuation* (both 2024), a small smelted nickel sculpture and a nugget of nickel ore both rotate on revolving disks, and are 3D scanned to create videos streamed to nearby monitors. *Sansevieria* plants, or snake plants, control the airflow in *Hyperpnea Green*. In a related manner, plants act as switchers in *Ocularflux//1* and *Ocularflux//2* (2024), deciding which out of a cache of five videos appears on each screen. *A Diasporic Mythology* (2021) is a kinetic, musical installation that incorporates a coterie of local tea plants which provides, through biofeedback, electrical signals that generate the improvised scores.

Throughout ○, materials and ideas travel in circular flows. More literally, circuits of information, mostly traveling through custom-made circuit boards, are the basic building blocks of almost every work in ○. The exhibition itself functions almost like one, interconnected installation, with even the gallery's air and lighting systems creatively manipulated by the artist.

"The exhibition's title—which can be pronounced as *lingkaran*, an Indonesian term for "circle"—reinforces this point. Like many of the installations on view, this symbol is circular, and without beginning or end. Similarly, there is no beginning or end to relating. This is the koan, and the provocation, that ○ gifts to us." — Harry Burke.

○ will be open for public from 13 March to 28 April 2024. Follow the gallery's website www.rohprojects.net and Instagram account [@rohprojects](https://www.instagram.com/rohprojects) for updates on operational hours and announcements of public programs. For any inquiry, reach out to info@rohprojects.net.

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BAGUS PANDEGA

BORN 1985, JAKARTA, INDONESIA
LIVES AND WORKS IN BANDUNG, INDONESIA

Working primarily through the medium of installation, Bagus Pandega often challenges pre-conditioned relationships between objects and its viewer. In his works, Pandega assembles various electronic systems as 'modules' and explores objects such as voice recorders, cassette and record players, lamps and electronic circuit boards— among others— to construct his works. Many of his artworks become activated through the interaction of movement, sound and light.

Pandega graduated from Bandung Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Arts (Fine Art) in 2008, majoring in sculpture. Pandega's selected solo exhibitions include *A Pervasive Rhythm* at Yamamoto Gendai, Tokyo, Japan (2018); *Random Black*, ROH Projects, Jakarta, Indonesia (2016); and *A Monument That Tells Anything*, Cemeti Art House, Yogyakarta, Indonesia (2015). Selected group exhibitions include Frieze Seoul with ROH, Seoul, South Korea (2022); *WAGIWAGI* at documenta fifteen, Hübner areal, Kassel, Germany (2022); *Declaring Distance: Bandung — Leiden*, Selasar Sunaryo Art Space, Bandung, Indonesia (2022); ArtJog MMXIX: Common Space, Jogja National Museum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia (2019); Paris Internationale with ROH, Paris, France (2018); all of which feature his collaborative practice with Kei Imazu; Art Basel Hong Kong with ROH, Hong Kong (2023); The 10th Asia Pacific Triennial at QAGOMA, Brisbane, Australia (2021-2022); *Tiger Orchid* presented at Art Basel OVR: Miami Beach (2020); *Condo London* at Project Native Informant, London, UK (2020); *Ripples: Continuity in Indonesian Contemporary Art* at Taipei Dangdai, Taipei, Taiwan (2019); *Distorted Alteration* at Project Fulfill, Taipei, Taiwan (2018); Amsterdam Light Festival, Amsterdam, the Netherlands (2017); and *Clandestine Transgression* at Art Basel Hong Kong: Discoveries with ROH Projects, Hong Kong (2015). After winning third place at Bandung Contemporary Art Awards #2, Pandega completed his first residency at Le Centre Intermondes, La Rochelle, France in 2012. A nominee of the 2016 Sovereign Art Prize, Pandega had also collaborated with Adi Purnomo and Irwan Ahmett in presenting *Freedome*, Indonesia Pavillion at the London Design Biennale: Utopia by Design in 2016.

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ROH is a gallery initiated in 2014 that aims to serve the Indonesian art ecosystem by building a consistent local program, while simultaneously fostering a broader, borderless dialogue. ROH has played a more nomadic role in the previous years while building its new permanent space, exploring unconventional presentations for artists in dynamic temporal settings and situations. In 2022, ROH has moved into its new permanent space in Jalan Surabaya 66, Jakarta, carefully reconsidering a colonial mid-century house into a flexible space for contemporary art.

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For further information, please reach out to info@rohprojects.net.

Wednesday - Friday, 13:00 - 19:00

Saturday - Sunday, 11:00 -19:00

Closed Monday, Tuesday and public holiday

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