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PRESS RELEASE

ART FAIR | FRIEZE NEW YORK

CITRA SASMITA
Vortex in The Land of Liberation

Focus Section | Booth F04
Fair Dates: May 7-11, 2025



Installation view, Citra Sasmita, *Into Eternal Land*, The Curve, Barbican, 30 January - 21 April 2025
© Citra Sasmita. Photo: Jo Underhill / Barbican.

Yeo Workshop is pleased to present a solo presentation of new works by Balinese artist Citra Sasmita for the gallery's inaugural participation in Frieze New York.

Titled '*Vortex in the Land of Liberation*', Sasmita's installation is centered around a long vertical painting that employs the Kamasan painting technique, depicting tales of divine female figures. Kamasan painting technique dates from the 15th century and is traditionally exclusively practised by men to narrate Hindu epics; Sasmita engages with it as a reclamation of female agency, reimagining narratives drawn from ancient Balinese literature, mythologies and iconography. Inspired by tongues of local folklore spirits to symbolise feminine power, fertility and the primordial, individual pieces of embroidered fabrics encircle a Kamasan painting suspended in the shape of an omega (Ω). Set against a backdrop of



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forest green walls, '*Vortex in the Land of Liberation*' explores the deep essence of living, resisting finality around our understanding of nature, knowledge and the body. Sasmita reflects the complexity between the Anthropocene and post-human while simultaneously repositioning women within the historical canon.

Underpinning her work is a dedication to alternative narratives, particularly the experiences of women who have been fetishised, suppressed or erased. Reinventing inherited mythologies – from indigenous Indonesian histories to Dutch colonial narratives, to our contemporary society now – her protagonists are powerful women who populate a post patriarchal world. '*Vortex in the Land of Liberation*' builds on from and draws parallels to her most recent UK debut solo exhibition 'Into Eternal Land' commissioned by Barbican for The Curve, in London earlier this year (30 January-21 April 2025).

This solo presentation at Frieze Focus marks the artist's first solo presentation in New York and in the USA.



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Installation view, Citra Sasmita, Mae Fah Luang Art & Cultural Park, Thailand Biennale, Chiang Rai 2023: *The Open World*, 9 December 2023–30 April 2024. Courtesy Thailand Biennale Chiang Rai 2023. © Citra Sasmita.



Installation view, Citra Sasmita, *Timur Merah Project XII: Rivers With No End*, as part of *After Rain*, Diriyah Contemporary Art Biennale, 2024. Courtesy of the Diriyah Biennale Foundation.
Photo: Marco Cappelletti © Citra Sasmita.



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Citra Sasmita, *Act One*, (detail) 2024, from *Into Eternal Land*, The Curve, Barbican, 2025.
© Citra Sasmita.



Installation view, Citra Sasmita, *Timur Merah Project XII: Light Speed and Revelation*, 2024, as part of Toronto Biennale of Art, 2024. Photo: Toni Hafkenscheid © Citra Sasmita.



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ARTIST BIOGRAPHY



Citra Sasmita photographed by Toby Coulson for the Financial Times, 2025.

Citra Sasmita (b. 1990, Bali, Indonesia) is a self-taught artist. She studied literature and physics, then worked as a short story illustrator for the Bali Post before she began developing her expanded artistic practice.

Her work has been shown in several notable biennales such as *to carry*, Sharjah Biennial (United Arab Emirates, forthcoming 2025); *Precarious Joys*, Toronto Biennial of Art (Canada, 2024); *After Rain*, Diriyah Contemporary Art Biennale (Saudi Arabia, 2024); *Ten Thousand Suns*, 24th Biennale of Sydney (Australia, 2024); *Choreographies of the Impossible*, 35th São Paulo Biennale (Brazil, 2023); *The Open World*, 3rd Thailand Biennale, Mae Fah Luang Art and Cultural Park, Chiang Rai (Thailand, 2023); *Garden of Ten Seasons*, Savvy Contemporary, Berlin (Germany, 2022); Kathmandu Triennale (Nepal, 2021-2022); *ARTJOG MMXXII*, *Time To Wonder*, Jogja National Museum, Yogyakarta (Indonesia, 2021); and the Biennale Yogyakarta (Indonesia, 2019).

Recent solo exhibitions include *Into Eternal Land*, Barbican The Curve, (London, 2025); *Atlas of Curiosity*, Yeo Workshop (Singapore, 2023); *Ode To The Sun*, Yeo Workshop (Singapore, 2020); and *Tales of Nowhere*, Museum MACAN, Jakarta (Indonesia, 2020).



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ABOUT YEO WORKSHOP

Yeo Workshop is a gallery committed to contemporary art in Singapore. Based in the Gillman Barracks district, it champions a diverse roster of artists whose practices reflect deep engagement with our contemporary socio-cultural landscape, to stimulate dialogue and critical discourse, including several Southeast Asian artists who are producing cutting-edge works. Covering a multi-disciplinary approach and collaborative spirit, the gallery defines itself by its progressive engagements that strive to shape the trajectory of contemporary art in Southeast Asia and beyond.

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ABOUT FRIEZE NEW YORK

Frieze New York is a leading international art fair that launched in 2012. Led by Christine Messineo, Director of Frieze New York and Frieze Los Angeles, Frieze New York brings together the world's leading galleries to showcase ambitious solo, group and themed presentations by pioneering artists and offers the opportunity to not only discover up-and-coming talent but also engage with some of art history's most important figures. The Focus section, curated by Lumi Tan, is dedicated to younger and emerging talent.

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