

CITRA SASMITA

Into Eternal Land

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5 February – 14 June 2024

For her first solo UK exhibition, Indonesian artist Citra Sasmita invites viewers on a symbolic journey, exploring ancestral memory, ritual, and migration.

Sasmita draws from the long histories of displacement and migration across the Indonesian archipelago, and takes inspiration from stories of heaven, earth, and hell – from the Hindu epic Mahabharata to Dante’s Inferno.

“Into Eternal Land” unfolds across several acts.

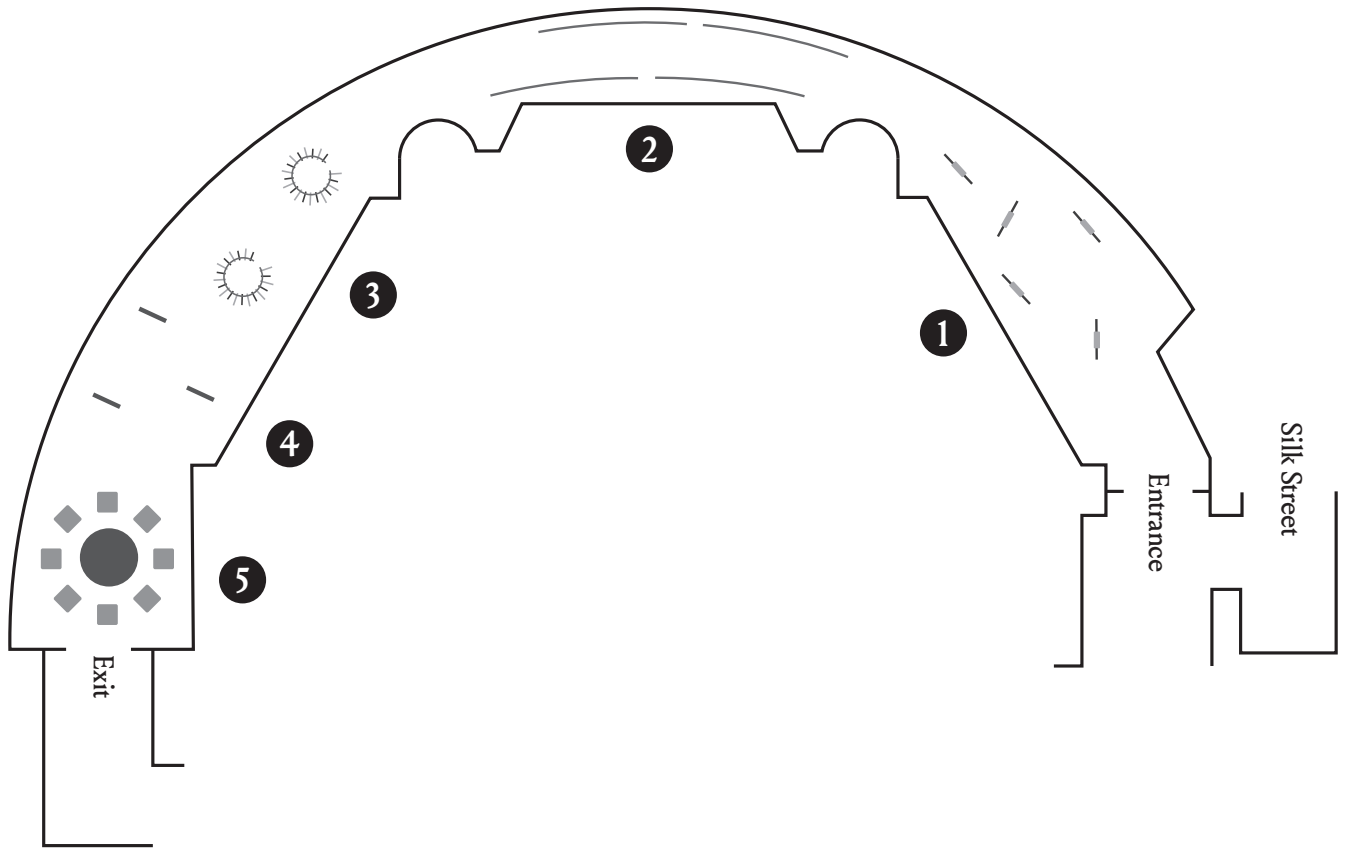
Panoramic scroll paintings reveal women undergoing transformation and rebirth, while embroidered textiles – made in collaboration with women artisans in west Bali – honour the history of women herbalists. At the exhibition’s close, Sasmita offers a space for meditation around a golden mandala of ground turmeric. Feel welcome to take some time to sit and reflect. An ambient soundscape by Indonesian composer Agha Praditya Yogaswara responds to the commission.

Sasmita’s practice challenges traditional narratives and rejects reductive Dutch colonial conceptions of Bali. She reinvents the motifs and materials of Indonesian

Kamasan painting, which dates from the fifteenth century and depicts Hindu epics and Indonesian mythologies. Historically practiced exclusively by men, in these paintings women were either sexualised, reduced to the sole purpose of reproduction, or cast as evil. Reclaiming this tradition, Sasmita's protagonists are powerful women inhabiting a post-patriarchal world.

“Into Eternal Land” speaks to universal and urgent concerns: connecting with ancestral traditions, grappling with the precarity of the natural world, and proposing the possibility of feminist resistance.

Please do not touch the artworks. If you would like to feel the textures of the materials used in the works, ask a member of staff, who will share a sample with you.



1

Citra Sasmita, "Prologue", 2024

Beaded cow hides hung on antique wooden pillars with aluminium saddles, dimensions variable

2

Citra Sasmita, "Act One", 2024

Acrylic on Kamasan canvas, 75.5 x 829.5 cm

Acrylic on Kamasan canvas, 75.5 x 817 cm

Acrylic on Kamasan canvas, 75.5 x 801.5 cm

Acrylic on Kamasan canvas, 75.5 x 799 cm

3 Citra Sasmita, "Act Two", 2024

Acrylic on python skin, artificial hair and found wooden carved mask, dimensions variable

4

Citra Sasmita, "Act Three", 2024

Embroidery on canvas,

each 300 x 150 cm

5

Citra Sasmita, "Epilogue", 2024

Acrylic on Kamasan canvas, ribbon from Sumba Island,

turmeric and cushions, dimensions variable

All works courtesy of the artist and Yeo Workshop

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The Curve, Barbican

Curator

Lotte Johnson

Assistant Curator

Amber Li

Exhibition Organiser

Kate Fanning

Head Of Visual Arts

Shanay Jhaveri

Citra Sasmita's Collaborators

Research: Dwi S Wibowo, Mira MM Astra

Studio Assistants: Sakde Oka, Yunika Dewi, Yosep Arizal

Embroidery: Jero Mangku Istri Rini

Kamasan Painter: Ni Wayan Sukartini

Sound: Agha Praditya Yogaswara

3D Design: studiodikubu

Graphic Design

Cecilia Serafini

Exhibition Fabricators

Raskl. Art + Architectural

Gallery Production

Maarten van den Bos, David Corbett, Dan Gunning,
Christopher Spear and the Barbican Art Gallery
Technicians

Gallery Management

Chinenye Ezeuko, Ian Fowles, Jacob Harrison, Adam
Holdway, Priya Saujani and Barbican Art Gallery
Invigilators

Communications And Marketing

Lily Booth, Hannah Carr, Georgia Greenburgh,
Georgia Holmes, Isobel Parrish and Rachel Schnapp

Special Thanks

Matthew Barrington, Amy Cranston, Katrina Crookall,
Blair Davis, Susanna Davies-Crook, David Farnsworth,
Sharon Kent, Alice Lobb, Freda Pouflis, and Devyani
Saltzman.

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