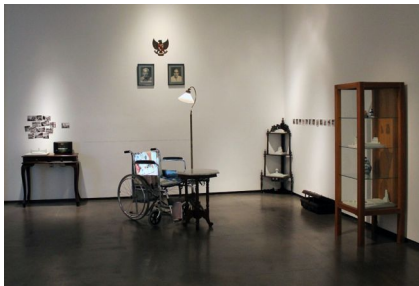


GUIDE TO THE EXHIBITION

FX HARSONO: *THE CHRONICLES OF RESILIENCE*

FX Harsono has been a central figure of the Indonesian art scene for over 40 years, recognized for his experimental, conceptual approach, deep engagement with socio-political issues, and exploration of the role of the artist in society, in particular his relationship to history. *The Chronicles of Resilience* encompasses his efforts over the past five years to document significant events, people, and circumstances surrounding massacres of the artist's own ethnic Chinese community in his native Java from 1947 to 1949, during the tumultuous period leading to Indonesia's independence from the Netherlands in 1949. After years of investigation, and the discovery of many neglected mass grave sites, Harsono has created a series of artworks that seek to give form to what has been buried along with the bodies: not only the stories of individual lives, but the historical memory of a nation. The exhibition centers on two new installations especially conceived for the show: *Memory of the Survivor* and *The Light of Spirit* (2016). These function as monuments of remembrance, commemorating the specificity of personal tragedies alongside the collective loss, and bringing light to a past that had long been consigned to the darkness.

The checklist below lists the works starting from the front right side of the gallery and moving in a counterclockwise direction. Descriptions marked with an asterisk (*) are adapted from Leeza Ahmady's curatorial statement.



Memory of the Survivor

2016

wooden furniture, fused deposition models, standing lamp, ceramics, sound recordings, radio, video projection, batik fabrics
dimensions variable

Found and collected objects and other memorabilia are juxtaposed alongside miniature-scale 3D printed models of some of the mass gravesites within the furniture. It symbolizes the physical, spiritual, and emotional body of a woman survivor interviewed by Harsono in her home last year. Her image is projected onto a wheelchair amidst a number of competing sound recordings inside objects, which are triggered by viewers walking by.* These include: a famous song from the independence struggle; Sukarno's 1945 proclamation of Indonesian independence; a 1949 Dutch radio broadcast ceding independence to Indonesia; and the voice of a woman who survived the 1947-49 massacres, as interviewed by Harsono in 2015.



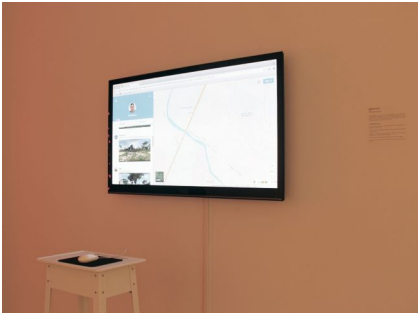
Memorandum of Inhumane Acts

2016

pigment based digital print on acid free paper, graphite, charcoal, watercolor
33 pieces

each 13 ½ x 15 ¾ in. (34.5 x 40 cm); total dimensions 41 x 174 ¾ in. (104.5 x 444 cm)

An official document uncovered by Harsono through his research in the Netherlands, entitled *Memorandum of Inhumane Acts*, is rendered as an installation of 33 individual prints, each replicating the original pages of the document, onto which Harsono has made his own drawings based on his father's photographs from the 1950s documenting exhumations of mass gravesites by family and community members. The official document was subtitled: "Acts of Violence and Inhumanity Perpetrated by Indonesian Bands on Innocent Chinese Before and After the Dutch Police Action Was Enforced on July 21, 1947."*

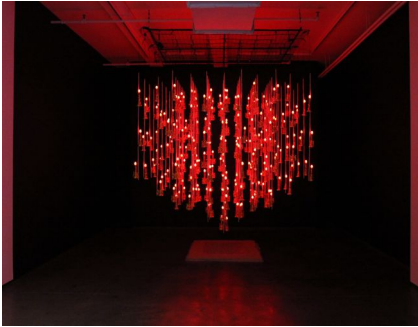


Digital Souls

2016

Google Maps online project

This ongoing online project tracks the actual physical locations of some of the mass gravesites, photographed in detail and uploaded onto Google Maps by the artist – ensuring that viewers can virtually travel to, and interact with, these sites at the click of a mouse in the gallery, while leaving traces of their existence for the future, when perhaps these gravesites might be physically demolished, as some gravesites he discovered a few years ago already have been.*



The Light of Spirit

2016

plastic electric candles, LED bulbs, sand, cast cement, wood
86 ½ x 82 ½ x 118 in. (220 x 210 x 300 cm)

This work replicates a single mass gravesite marker, above which dangles a chandelier of over 200 electric candles. Giving physical shapes and forms to the experiences of the survivors, their families and community, Harsono is honoring a collective that has, for the most part, refused to be violent, angry, or vengeful, but rather patiently focused on persevering to succeed in bettering present and future conditions of its members' lives, and the lives of their offspring.*



Rewriting on the Tomb

2013

series of digital prints on textile
dimensions variable

This series of prints is based on pastel rubbings the artist made, as part of a performance work seen in the accompanying video, of inscriptions on actual mass gravesite markers.



Pilgrimage To History

2013

single channel video
13:40 min.

In this video work, we see Harsono making rubbings of mass grave markers, a process that is at once a personal act of homage, a documentation of history, and a form of national expiation and healing.

IN THE DARK ROOM:

Harsono Timeline

A selected documentation of Harsono's forty-year artistic trajectory in relationship to contemporaneous socio-political, and arts and cultural conditions in Indonesia. Also included is an 8 minute documentary video.