

South East Asian Pictures

A PRIVATE COLLECTION

Singapore, 4 October 1998

Rama IX Art Museum Foundation

CHRISTIE'S



Rama IX Art Museum Foundation

The Collection of a Lifetime

*"Who was this
Hendra, who despite
his near-extinction
from neglect,
continues to touch
so many
individual people's
sensibilities?"*

Astri Wright,
Painting the people.

Assembled in the time of Sukarno's presidency, this gentleman's private collection is an appropriate expression of this era's aestheticism which remains, much to the credit of both the artist and collector, relevant to the audience living in the *fin de siècle*.

Works by R. Basoeki Abdullah (1915-1993), Hendra Gunawan (1918-1983) and Affandi (1907-1990) are seen as treasures by the collector, not only because of the distinctive quality of the works but is also largely attributed to the special relationship between himself and Abdullah, as well as Affandi. These are names which evoke a nostalgia within him: those languid afternoons when he would spend long hours admiring the painted buffalo in his own backyard, where B. Abdullah had rented a studio; the freezing mornings in New York, as well as the late nights, when he and Affandi had to go to Time Square and Wall Street, the artist immersed in frenetic execution of the scenes before them, while he would busy himself on the "look out" for the policemen who had tried to intervene several times as the crowd gathering round them was causing difficulties in downtown New York city .

"I was there with them" as he softly declares, an undertone of lost sentiment mingled with a small dose of pride, "They are my friends." The gentleman remained a faithful friend to the two artists until the very end. In fact, he was one of

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cover

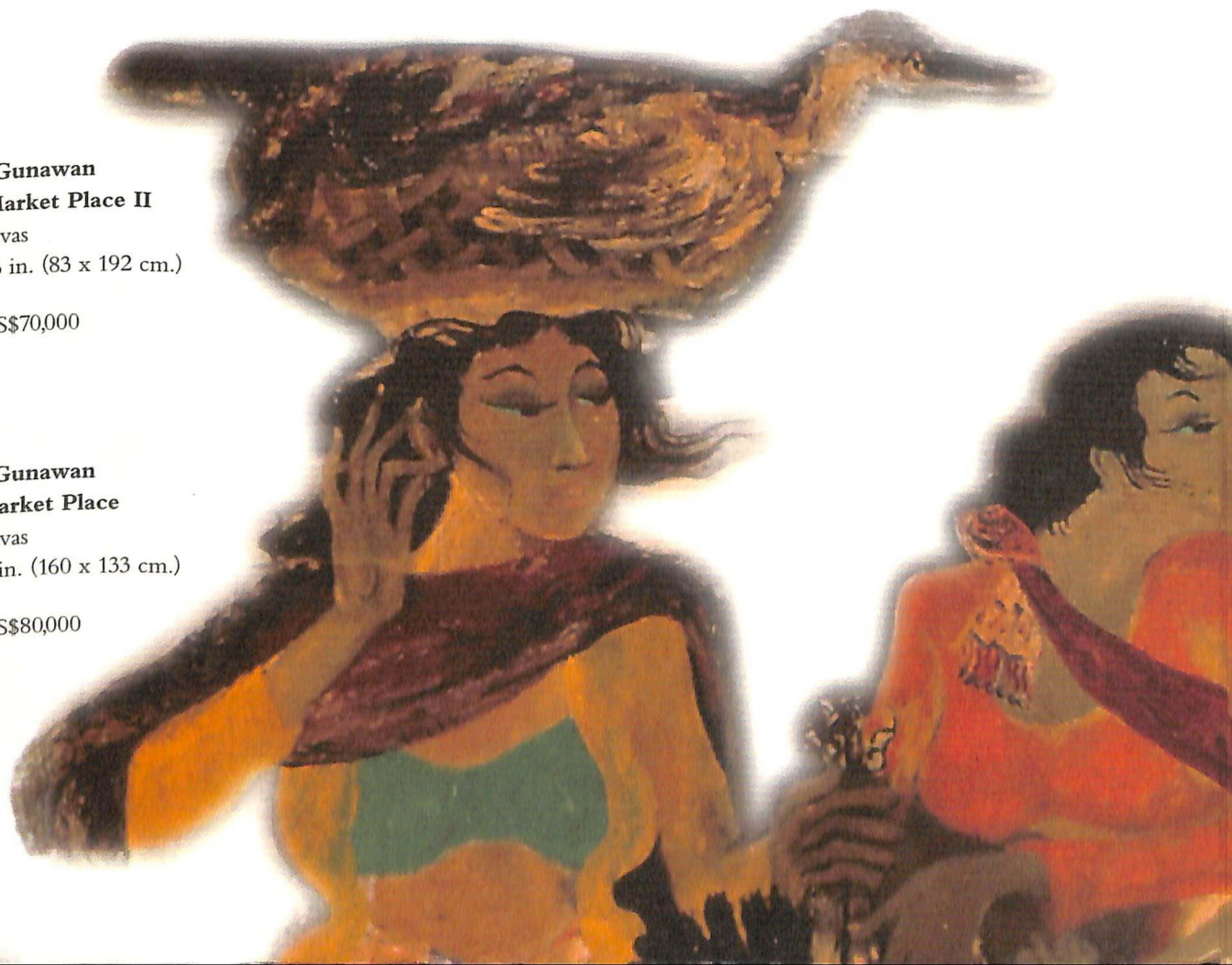
Hendra Gunawan
To the Market Place II
oil on canvas
32.7 x 75.6 in. (83 x 192 cm.)

S\$50,000-S\$70,000

detail

Hendra Gunawan
In the Market Place
oil on canvas
63 x 52.4 in. (160 x 133 cm.)

S\$60,000-S\$80,000





Affandi
Wall Street - New York
oil on canvas
47.6 x 37.8 in. (121 x 96 cm.)

S\$30,000-S\$40,000

the best for which an artist could hope, as he did not require the artists to explain their works and never disputed with the prices when it came to the purchasing of works. He staunchly believes in letting the works speak for themselves and encourages the free interpretation of the beholder who is conditioned by his own set of preferences.

Collection of the Generation

Beginning in 1922 with the advent of the *Taman Siswa* progressive school movement and reaction to the consequences of colonialism and social change, a modern art movement emerged in Indonesia. The principal leader and artist of this movement was Soedjojono. B. Abdullah, Hendra and Affandi with their own uniqueness are all part of this movement. They belong to a generation of artists that had experienced Dutch colonialism, nationalist struggle, the Japanese occupation and finally independence. It is a generation which was constantly confronted with the issue of national identity while at the same time faced with the erosion of traditional values. It is a generation which went further than any of their predecessors in the exploration of aesthetics, subjects and techniques in an attempt to create a distinctive modern art movement within an Indonesian context.

Be it the flamboyant expressionist style of Affandi, the thought-provoking, haunting subjects of Hendra or Abdullah's picturesque Indonesian landscape reminiscent of the *mooie Indie* school, each artist was following their own path in seeking the answer.

To the Painter Affandi

*And hands will stiffen, will no longer write,
troubled by pain troubled by dreams;
give me a place on a lofty tower
where you alone rise over*

*crowds and noise and betrayal,
over easy pretence and make-believe creation,
where you turn away, you pray,
and the close-up darkness opens!*

Chairil Anwar



detail

Affandi

Offering Sadjen

oil on canvas

578 x 31.5 in. (134 x 80 cm)

SG\$25,000-SG\$35,000

VIEWING

2-3 October 1998

VENUE

Hyatt Regency Singapore

AUCTION

4 October 1998

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