

pentimento: a speculative trace

Naomi Samara
Ruth Marbun
Salvita Decorte

curated by Sally Texania

17.07 - 19.08.2019



“ *Pentimento: A Speculative Trace* aims to display individual struggles within society, artist with questions on memories and continuous introspection.

Remnants or traces from the preparation stages of conventional artworks are often gradually revised, concealed, or removed during the final stages. In the practice of painting, layers of previous 'failed attempts' are often concealed where some layer can only be seen with special equipment such a trace is called *pentimento* (pl. *pentimenti*), from an Italian root word meaning 'repentance'.

However, in the many discussions concerning western modern art, sketches or *pentimenti* made by the artist contain particular complexity and depth. Francis Bacon would often 'temporarily abandon' his canvases, deform his figures or portraits, and continue to apply changes to his works throughout. These works became some of his strongest or most representative works. Giacometti would refuse

to draw from models, choosing instead to draw in a way that developed alongside his thoughts, creating various figures built up from complex and layered lines.

The decision to assemble and disassemble is a creative method we can find in **Naomi Samara's** creative process. Using anagram as her starting point, Naomi begins her process with creative fiction, then dividing the sentences within the narration into snippets of words weaved together to form new sentences. She also applies a similar method to manifest her interest in the human body and the possibilities of constructing meaning from human physical deformations. She begins this process by first photographing her body, then dividing the images into fragments which she rearranges on the computer. This process is her preliminary step, before she uses paint and paper to quickly create images, all made from memory.

Writing and painting, as an attempt to string together memories, is an approach seen

in **Salvita Decorte's** creative process. Memories of watching her father paint and of her own childhood experiences while living in Bali have both prompted her to consistently draw faces or portraits of the people she meets at the movie sets. Her works tend to evolve gradually, created across different moments. She tends to walk away from her works for a time, only to later return to them and apply a different construction on them.

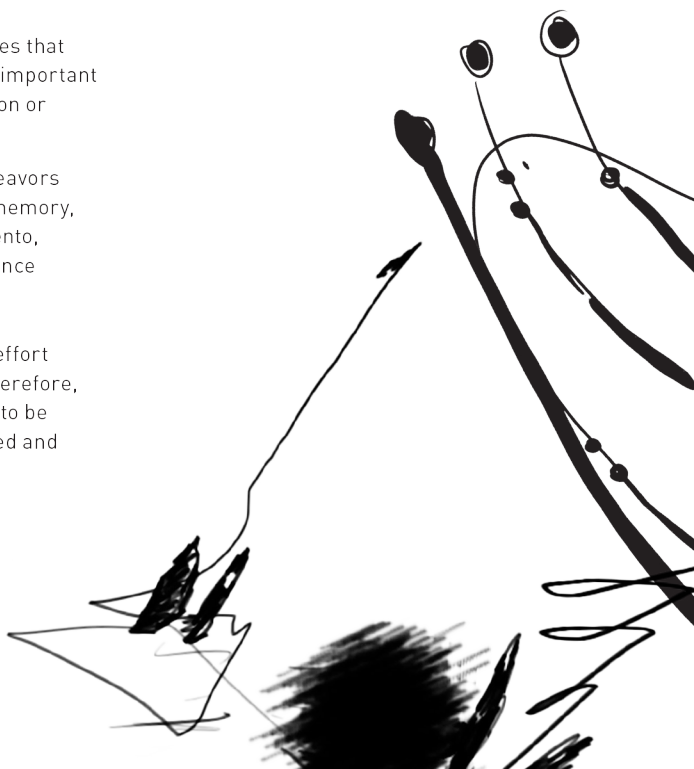
Finding a 'final' definition is something that **Ruth Marbun** ponders about often during her creative process. As she tends to work with and across different medias, she has developed an interest in various unpredictable aspect that come out of a creative process. The stitching on fabric or the transparent brushstrokes of paint that are often considered part of an artwork's preparation are further explored and often overlapping with one another. Rather than considering stitching or brushstrokes as mere technical elements in artwork creation,

Ruth finds that they represent impulses that highlight an emotional element more important than the effort to build a representation or a definitive answer.

Taking cues from their individual endeavors in society, the questions concerning memory, and consistent introspection, *pentimento*, do not remain merely a physical evidence but also a conceptual decision. The consideration to execute a stroke, to erase, to add lines is a continuous effort to reinterpret diverse phenomena. Therefore, the interpretation of their work tends to be speculative as it is driven by scrambled and non-linear narratives.

Sally Texania
exhibition curator

#PentimentoExhibition



Salvita Decorte

Salvita Decorte @salvistudio works in performing arts and visual arts. She has painted since childhood and exhibited her work in Bali before moving to Jakarta to explore her acting and modeling career. Her paintings often travel with her, which she continuously modifies for long terms. Lines, colors and compositions are not only the practice of creating her works but also her approach to writing a diary. Salvita often illustrates fashion publications both locally and internationally. She has exhibited her works in Indonesia and the United States.



<
paris 2018
acrylic and chalk on paper
14.6 x 21 cm
2018



>
untitled
acrylic on thin paper
74.6 x 54.7 cm
2018



^
no one in particular
acrylic ink on paper
13.5 x 19.3 cm
2019



>
dog like papas
ink on paper
13.5 x 19.3 cm
2019



<
sleeping tigs
acrylic on paper
14.7 x 20.9 cm
2017



^
us two
acrylic on paper
20.8 x 29.8 cm
2017



<
the experiment
acrylic, pen and pencil on thin paper
20.8 x 29.8 cm
2017

Naomi Samara

Naomi Samara is a cross cutting artist with various medias in arts and design. She established and managed Ghostbird + Swoon, an artspace that combines a curated retail store and art exhibition space. She has curated several art exhibitions that focuses on the development of contemporary art practice in Bali. Her work tends to develop from personal narration through visualization of the human body that is deconstructed with paint or strong graphical strokes. She views the human body as a media to show or conceal meanings that it become the main muse throughout her works.



<
form 10
acrylic on paper
23 x 30.5 cm
2019



>
form 25
acrylic on paper
23 x 30.5 cm
2019



>
seam 3
acrylic on paper
21 x 29.6 cm
2019



<
form 14
acrylic on paper
23 x 30.5 cm
2019



<
form 6
acrylic on paper
21 x 29.6 cm
2019



>
form 21
acrylic on paper
21 x 29.6 cm
2019

Ruth Marbun

Ruth Marbun studied fashion design in U.K and Singapore. She once worked as a designer in Singapore before starting her visual art practice in Jakarta. She is interested in exploring the imperfections during an effort of creating beauty. She tends to visualize the human body through brushes of paint, layers of fabric and various sewing techniques. She has exhibited her work through exhibitions in Indonesia, Australia and Japan. “Termasuk” at Darren Knight Gallery, Australia and her solo exhibition in Art Jakarta together with Clear Gallery, Tokyo are a few of her notable exhibitions. She is also one of the artist chosen for “Exist”, a yearly program at Dia. Lo.Gue that exhibit the latest practices of young artist in Jakarta.



^
Boiling Point
hand embroidery and acrylic marker
on hand-dyed textile
70 x 76 cm
2019



>
Convert the Anger
acrylic on paper
23 x 30.5 cm
2019



<
Estimated Coincidence
acrylic marker, watercolor,
and pen on fabric
76 x 73 cm
2019



>
Salted Ambush
acrylic, permanent marker,
and pen on textile
51 x 58 cm
2019



^
Silent Mode
acrylic, watercolor, permanent
marker, and pen on textile
87 x 67 cm
2019