



ASIAN ART MUSEUM

200 Larkin St • San Francisco • asianart.org • 415-581-3500

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MAKROKOSMA BALI

Asian Art Museum Presents Premiere of a New Multimedia Concert
Featuring a 25-member Gamelan Ensemble from Bali.

Friday, May 13, 8:00pm

Saturday, May 14, 7:00pm & 9:00pm

Sunday, May 15 1:00pm

Tickets at www.asianart.org \$20 for museum members | \$37 general



SAN FRANCISCO, CA, APRIL 13, 2011: In conjunction with its critically acclaimed exhibition *Bali: Art, Ritual, Performance*, the Asian Art Museum will present the world premiere of *Makrokosma Bali*, composer Wayne Vitale's new musical and multimedia work performed by the twenty-five musicians of Sekaa Gong Taruna Mekar, the famed Balinese *gamelan* ensemble, and a team of U.S.-based visual, audio, and software artists. *Makrokosma Bali* is a cross-fertilization of the living culture and ancient Hindu cosmology of Bali with Western regards of the universe, on scales from macro (the cosmos) to micro (a human cell), realized through contemporary video and audio technologies. Four performances are scheduled at the Asian Art Museum: 8:00pm on Friday May 13; 7:00pm and 9:00pm on Saturday, May 14; and 1:00pm on Sunday, May 15, 2011. Tickets are \$20 for museum members, \$37 general, and may be purchased online www.asianart.org. Admission includes access to the exhibition *Bali: Art, Ritual, Performance*.

Makrokosma Bali showcases Sekaa Gong Taruna Mekar, the renowned ensemble from the Balinese village of Tunjuk, who are touring to San Francisco especially for this performance. They will play on two different *gamelan*—orchestras of bronze gongs, metallophones, and drums. The new score, co-composed by Vitale and his long-time collaborator I Made Arnawa, director of the Tunjuk group, explores a variety of textures and musical materials. Performed live, the music will be integrated with ambient soundscapes captured in Bali by Mr. Vitale and delivered by sound engineer Greg Kuhn. The rich sonic canvas will be synchronized with visual projections on three screens by video artist Eric Koziol and lighting designer Allen Willner, utilizing a variety of captured and generated video. Live video processing—including the use of live sound to manipulate video imagery and synchronize it with the live music—will be created by Ian Winters. The result is a spatially complex “hyper-movie,” utilizing

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ABOVE: members of Sekaa Gong Taruna Mekar. Courtesy Wayne Vitale

multiple projectors, exploring the interplay of light and image with live music and digital-audio soundscapes.

Thematically, *Makrokosma Bali* contrasts the cultural values and cosmology of Bali with conceptions of the universe from Western perspectives. The island's Hindu culture, more than a millennium old but living, vibrant, and rapidly evolving, embraces a far-reaching philosophy of the universe and humankind's role within it. Bali's cosmology of balance, interdependence and complementary opposites will be expressed through the dramatic presentation of video imagery of people, landscapes, life, and ceremonies in Bali. This panoply of images, ranging from scenes of ceremonial grandeur to the forging of red-hot bronze by gongsmiths, will be juxtaposed with imagery from the US, spanning the gamut from a drop of water to aspects of industrialized society, and animations of the outer space phenomena.

Makrokosma Bali features:

SEKAA GONG TARUNA MEKAR (Tunjuk, Bali)—*25-member gamelan ensemble*
 WAYNE VITALE—*artistic director and co-composer*
 I MADE ARNAWA—*music director and co-composer*
 ALLEN WILLNER—*lighting and stage designer*
 ERIC KOZIOL—*video designer*
 IAN WINTERS—*video processing*
 GREG KUHN—*audio engineer*

This project received the generous support of: The Creative Work Fund, a program of the Walter and Elise Haas Fund (supported by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and The James Irvine Foundation); The Center for Cultural Innovation, The East Bay Fund for Artists, a program of the East Bay Community Foundation; the Consulate General of Indonesia, San Francisco, and individual donors.

About the Asian Art Museum

The Asian Art Museum is a public institution whose mission is to lead a diverse global audience in discovering the unique material, aesthetic, and intellectual achievements of Asian art and culture. Holding more than 17,000 Asian art treasures spanning 6,000 years of history, the museum is one of the largest museums in the Western world devoted exclusively to Asian art.

- **Information:** (415) 581-3500 or www.asianart.org.
- **Location:** 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.
- **Hours:** Tuesdays through Sundays from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. From February through September, hours are extended on Thursdays until 9:00 pm. Closed Mondays, as well as New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.
- **General Admission:** \$12 for adults, \$8 for seniors (65 and older), \$7 for college students with ID, \$7 for youths 13–17, and FREE for children under 12 and SFUSD students with ID. Admission on Thursdays after 5:00 pm is just \$5 for all visitors (except those under 12, SFUSD students, and members, who are always admitted FREE). The museum offers free general admission on the first Sunday of every month, courtesy of Target Stores. A surcharge for exhibitions may apply.
- **Access:** The Asian Art Museum is wheelchair accessible. For more information regarding access: 415-581-3598; TDD: 415-861-2035.