

ART IN MOTION

*Exhibition
highlight in 2024*



**Where Dutch and Indonesian Cultures Converge
Through the Universal Language of Art.**

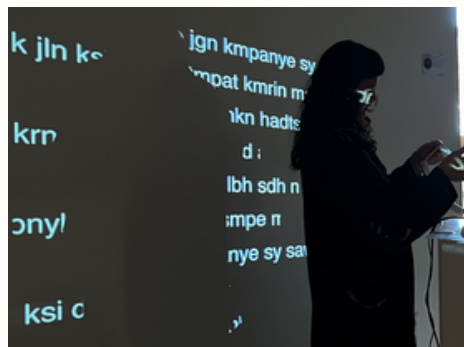
From its grand opening on September 26 to end October, the Art in Motion exhibition has been a remarkable journey of cultural collaboration, bringing together Dutch and Indonesian artists to celebrate creativity through art, music, and poetry. This exhibition bridges histories, sparks dialogue, and inspires a shared vision for the future.



A Celebration of Cultural Collaboration

What began as a simple yet profound idea—"Respecting the Past, Understanding the Future with a Journey of Mutual Growth between Indonesia and The Netherlands"—has grown into a transformative cultural initiative. Initially, Art in Motion connected young Indonesian students with the world of art through collaborative workshops with local institutions. These passionate young artists engaged in creative exchanges, building cultural bridges and gaining invaluable insights. On September 26, 2024, the journey reached a new milestone with the grand opening of the Art in Motion exhibition at the Indonesia House Amsterdam. The event marked the beginning of an extraordinary celebration of cultural collaboration and artistic expression, drawing numerous visitors eager to experience the unique fusion of Dutch and Indonesian artistry. Running until October 30, 2024, the exhibition, in partnership with the Education and Culture Attaché from the Indonesian Embassy in the Netherlands, showcases a collection of artworks created by both Dutch and Indonesian artists, offering a vivid exploration of two cultures intertwined through art.

One of the event's highlights was the mesmerising performance by Annisa Retni, the first winner of the Art in Motion workshop from ISBI Bandung, Indonesia. Like a bridge between past and future, her original composition—born from the soul of Rob Hammink's evocative poem "Masa Depan"—graced the opening with profound emotion. Rob himself breathed life into his words with a heartfelt live reading, weaving a moment of harmony and reflection. Annisa's performance was more than a melody; it was an evidence to Art in Motion's mission—fostering unity, creativity, and the timeless dialogue of cultures through art.

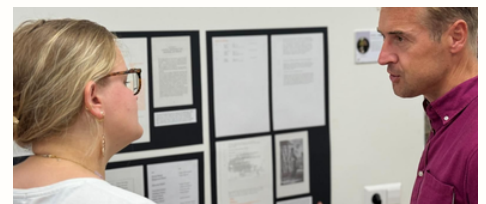


Inge Kengen captivated the audience with her sound installation, "Understanding Language Through Not-Understanding", a thought-provoking project inspired by her personal journey of learning Indonesian. Through this work, Kengen delves into the complexities of cultural identity and language.

The brainstorming wall from Art in Motion's first workshop symbolises the starting point of a vibrant journey, where Indonesian students ignited the spirit of youth-driven collaboration to bridge the cultures of Indonesia and the Netherlands through art.



The Bridge Where East Meets West





In *Red and Pink: Memories and Hopes*, **Elis Kurniati** masterfully weaves Indonesian and Dutch cultural elements into a striking batik artwork, embodying hope and the ever-evolving relationship between the two nations.



Blanket, the Feeling of Not Knowing Where to Belong by **Loïs Brandsen** is a deeply introspective piece that navigates the complexities of cultural identity and belonging. By blending Indonesian and Dutch traditions, Brandsen crafts a poignant exploration of the concept of home, weaving personal history with universal themes of connection and heritage.



A beacon of hope and transformation, *The Dream Catcher* is a striking creation crafted from metal, plaster, and resin, delicately adorned with Indonesian butterflies. This evocative piece reflects **Atha Lens's** personal journey, drawing from childhood memories preserved in video archives. Symbolizing resilience and the power of change, the artwork serves as a metaphorical lighthouse guiding through life's storms.

How the Youth Enhance Cultural Roots Through Art

Merel Meijer's *The Life We Never Knew She Lived* offers a thought-provoking reinterpretation of Dutch colonial history, bringing to life the forgotten story of her great-great-grandmother in a richly layered narrative of heritage and identity.



Inge Kengen's *Understanding Language through Not-Understanding* invites audiences into a playful yet profound exploration of language and communication. This performative sound installation uses nonsensical translations of Indonesian abbreviations to capture the humor, confusion, and complexity of learning a new language.



Indonesia's youth take center stage in Art in Motion, using art to celebrate culture and inspire progress. From **Bemby Hidayatullah's** hopeful performance *Colors of Unity* to **Rifky Arifin's** poetic *Membara dan Padam*, which reflects reconciliation, and **Annisa Retni and Trinil's** musical fusion *Vice Versa*, each work bridges past and future. **Salsabila Maulida's** *Recycle Runtah* highlights sustainability, while **Nurul Hidayati's** *Maitri Ing Anagata* envisions friendship, and **Ferdinand Michael's** *Airplane Mode* reflects resilience and time's passage. Together, these pieces showcase the creativity and cultural impact of Indonesia's young generation.



Shelly Lapré's body of work invites viewers into a world of nostalgia and heritage, where personal and cultural histories are lovingly preserved and reimagined. In *Heritage Featured*, historical materials are encased in resin, creating a timeless bridge between past, present, and future. *Barusari Satu* transforms family memories into a heartfelt diorama, while *Alima* pays tribute to Lapré's Indonesian great-grandmother and maternal lineage. In *Tong Tong*, a simple prawn cracker tin becomes a radiant 'temple of light,' celebrating the flavors, traditions, and warmth of Indo-European culinary heritage.



The journey began with **Registering**, as visitors were drawn to interactive installations like Shelly Lapré's *Heritage Featured*, which combined old maps with spice patterns. Her *Tong Tong* piece was another sensory delight, inviting guests to open the tin and smell the spices, evoking the essence of Indonesia. For many, this initial engagement stirred nostalgia and a sense of cultural belonging.



Finally, in the **Interpreting phase**, visitors reflected on their experiences and discovered new perspectives. Inge Kengen's *Understanding Language through Not-Understanding* offered a playful challenge: listening to tongue-twisting Indonesian words through headphones. This immersive exploration of language barriers highlighted the complexity of communication and identity in cross-cultural exchanges.

Highlighted Visitors' Experiences

The Art in Motion exhibition at Indonesia House Amsterdam offered a unique opportunity for visitors to connect with art, culture, and history in deeply engaging ways. Going beyond traditional displays, the exhibition embraced interactive elements that allowed visitors to actively participate in the stories being told. Drawing from the transformative learning theory by Pung et al. (2020), the visitor experience unfolded through three phases—Registering, Reacting, and Interpreting—inviting moments of reflection and mindfulness.

In the **Reacting phase**, visitors physically interacted with the art, deepening their emotional connection. Lapré's *Tong Tong* created a warm, personal experience through its tactile and aromatic elements,



while Merel Meijer's *The Life We Never Knew She Lived* allowed audiences to touch and read her book, bringing to life untold colonial narratives. These moments encouraged curiosity and fostered a profound appreciation for the shared histories of Indonesia and the Netherlands.



A special moment during the exhibition was the visit by high school students on an excursion to Indonesia House Amsterdam. These students explored the interactive artworks to deepen their understanding of the shared cultural heritage between Indonesia and the Netherlands. This visit emphasized the exhibition's educational impact, inspiring the next generation to appreciate cultural connections and the value of dialogue through art.

Transformative Learning Through Exhibition



Aligned with Moscardo's (2009) concept of mindfulness in tourism, the exhibition created an environment that encouraged active participation and thoughtful reflection. By engaging visitors' senses and emotions, the artworks transformed their visit into a meaningful cultural journey.



The Art in Motion exhibition wasn't just a showcase of art—it was an invitation for visitors to become part of the story, bridging the gap between past and present, East and West. Through transformative experiences, it succeeded in fostering deeper connections and inspiring a shared vision for the future.