

ara contemporary Presents Irfan Hendrian's Solo Exhibition CLOSED

Jakarta, 2026 - In its first program of the year, ara contemporary presents *CLOSED*, a solo exhibition by **Irfan Hendrian**. The exhibition presents Hendrian's latest body of work, *Chinatown Window Sample*, in the Main Gallery, accompanied by an Open Studio presentation in the Focus Gallery that foregrounds the artist's ongoing process and research.

For thousands of years, paper has embodied both temporality and permanence. Manuscripts, letters, and documents preserve histories on single sheets that carry layers of latent ambiguity. In an age that increasingly promotes the decline of paper-based culture and printed materials, Irfan Hendrian, by contrast, continues to employ paper as his primary medium—both intensively and extensively. Yet he does not work *with, on, or upon* paper; rather, he looks *into* the medium itself. His processes of crafting, designing, and structuring always originate from the most basic unit: a single sheet. Through the works presented in *CLOSED*, Irfan seeks to reopen the space of memory—an “other side” of form that invites alternative dialogues and reveals dimensions beyond purely aesthetic considerations.

The photographs in the works were first printed in hundreds of copies using risography, which causes each copy to shift slightly. These layers were then sliced and cut by machine before being finally rearranged. In the work's final structure, only traces of ink along the edges of the papers are visible, manifesting history as a delicate, layered artifact. – Irfan Hendrian

Certain recurring forms in Irfan's works, such as window trellises, corrugated metal fences, locks, and keys—are what the artist describes as an architecture of fear. These forms carry specific historical and contextual weight, functioning as a lived reality shaped by Irfan's memories and experiences of the anxieties faced by the *Tionghoa* community in Indonesia. Together, the works operate as objects that establish a broader context, revealing a dimension beyond what is immediately perceived as visual form. *CLOSED* ultimately invites us to look more closely, to confront the shadows within the “scars” that persist in memory.

About the Artist

An artist and printmaker by profession, Irfan Hendrian has consistently explored and pushed paper's formal qualities as well as its sculptural potential. In Hendrian's hands, paper is no longer merely a planar support for representation; it becomes both pigment and canvas, shaped into objects and installations that have grown in intricacy and scale throughout Hendrian's artistic practice.

He has held several solo shows; these include *Incognito*, The Arts House, Singapore (2024); *Incognito* at Art Jakarta, Jakarta, Indonesia (2022); *Constructed _scape* at Sullivan+Strumpf Singapore (2020); *Some Other Matter at Aloft at Hermes*, Singapore (2019); *SANS*, at Sullivan+Strumpf Singapore (2018); and *Terenne* at Jeonbuk Museum of Art, South Korea (2016). Hendrian's works are in the collections of Deutsche Bank, Germany; Jeonbuk Museum of Art, South Korea; Museum MACAN, Indonesia; Singapore Art Museum, Singapore; and Tumurun Museum, Indonesia.

About ara contemporary

Established in 2025, the gallery's name ara comes from the abbreviation of the founders' names: Arlin, Ramadanti, Chandra. Beyond that, the word holds a layered meaning that aligns with the gallery's philosophy. In Sanskrit, ara means a place of shelter, adaptability, and consideration of others. These values are at the heart of ara contemporary, shaping its role in the arts community.

The gallery's focus will center on artists, from emerging to established, whose practices engage with the context of Southeast Asia, exploring the connections between immediacy and global discourse. Founded with the mission to thoughtfully advocate for Southeast Asian artists, ara contemporary aims to serve as a dynamic platform for dialogue and collaboration and to contribute to the burgeoning art scene in the region and beyond.

CLOSED by Irfan Hendrian
31 January - 17 March 2026

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