

*In Between Stillness*  
Wedhar Riyadi



## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Wedhar Riyadi is part of a group of Indonesian artists whose work is deeply influenced by a period of transformation marked by the fall of the Suharto regime, the subsequent transition to democracy, and the rising influence of popular culture on local entertainment. Recently, his practice has focused on combining natural and man-made elements within a single composition, exploring both the tension and interconnectedness that arise when these two forces coexist.

Recent solo exhibitions include *Light and Shadow* at Ames Yavuz Gallery, Singapore (2023); and *Slices* at Ames Yavuz Gallery, Singapore (2019). He participated in the 9th, 10th, and 11th edition of ARTJOG (2016, 2017, 2018) and The 7th Asia Pacific Triennale of Contemporary Art (2012). In addition to numerous private collections worldwide, his works are included in the collections of the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Australia; National Gallery of Victoria, Australia; Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, Australia; and Tumurun Museum, Indonesia.



## In Between Stillness

Wedhar Riyadi's latest series, *Tabletop Diaries*, celebrates the overlooked and mundane aspects of human life, emerging from his quiet observations during the isolation of the pandemic. Riyadi painted arrangements of inanimate domestic objects, echoing the tradition of still life paintings, but the objects he depicted were clay replicas. These reproductions are not intended to replicate; they are reduced to monochrome without any labels or characteristics, allowing the objects to reveal their meanings through the viewer by reflecting the spiritual principle that meaning arises in silence and emptiness.

*Tabletop Diaries* continues Riyadi's ongoing exploration of opposing contexts within a single composition, the natural and artificial, where, in his previous series, *Shield*, he depicted man-made attempts to protect against nature. Traditionally, still-life paintings reveal the impermanence of human existence through the ephemerality of objects such as bitten fruit, wilting flowers, and man-made arrangements. Similarly, in Riyadi's works, the trace of human presence is seen through the pinched surfaces of the clay forms. The traces of touch, wear, stains, scratches, and patina become layers of history, markers that these objects once made and used. Clay, or soil, in this case, has long symbolized both the creation and the end of life.

The blinding and unnatural vibrancy of the hues, backgrounds, and lighting introduces a sense of artificiality. This tension between the natural and the artificial, coexisting within the same composition, invites us to consider whether we instinctively privilege the natural over the man-made, or perhaps the reverse.

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*Loro Blonyo*, 2025  
oil on canvas  
150 x 170 cm

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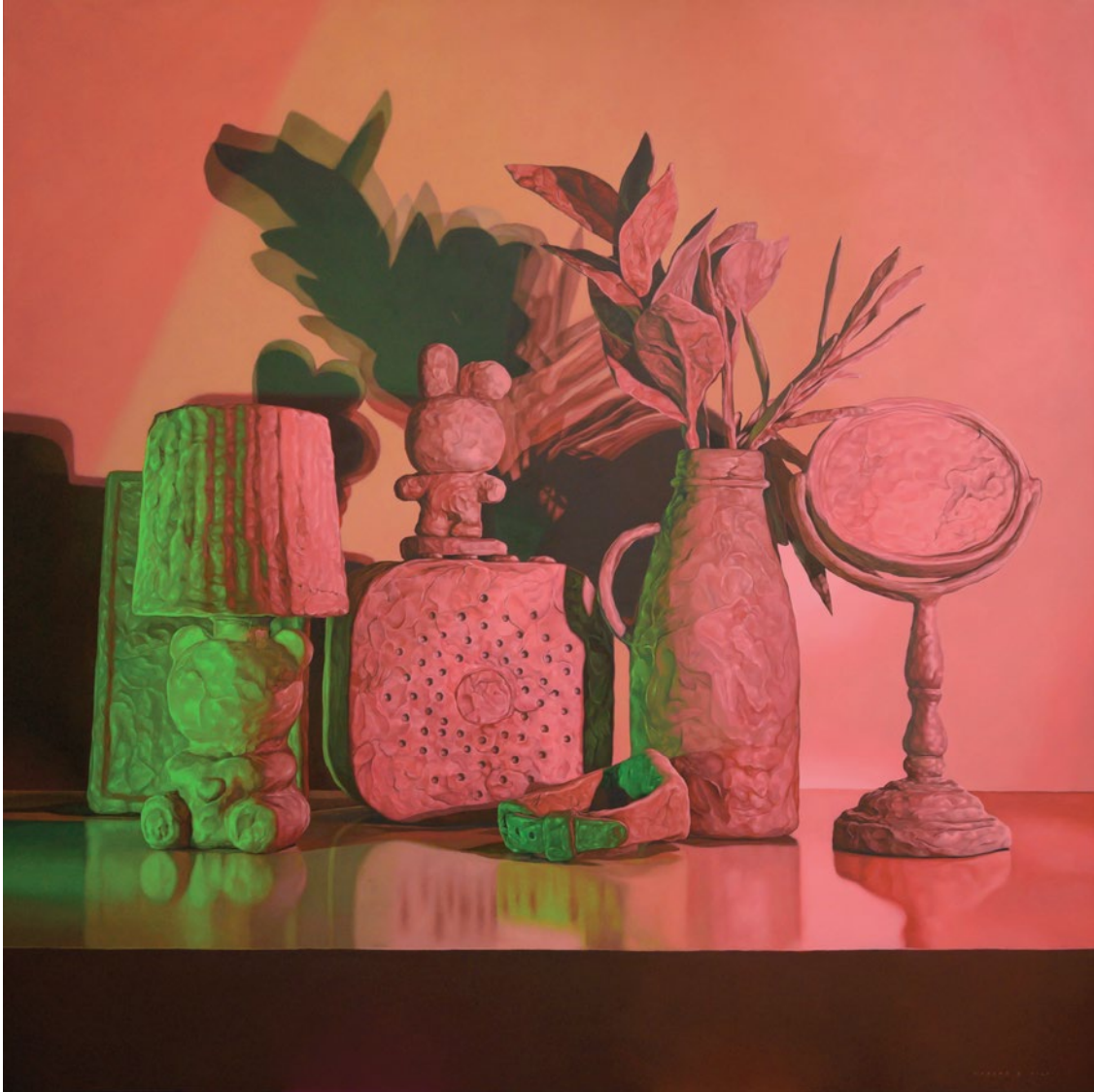
*Recess*, 2025  
oil on canvas  
150 x 150 cm

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*Hollow Inside*, 2025  
oil on canvas  
150 x 150 cm

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*Another Light*, 2025  
oil on canvas  
150 x 150 cm

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*The Light that Remains, 2025*  
oil on canvas  
150 x 200 cm

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*Amber Grid, 2025*  
oil on canvas  
120 x 90 cm

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*Versus #1*, 2025  
oil on canvas  
60 x 50 cm

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*Versus #2, 2025*  
oil on canvas  
60 x 50 cm

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*Containers #2*, 2024  
oil on canvas  
60 x 50 cm

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*Pale Pilea*, 2024  
oil on canvas  
40 x 30 cm

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*The Party's Over*, 2024  
oil on canvas  
40 x 30 cm

WEDHAR RIYADI  
CV

b. 1980

Lives and works in Yogyakarta, Indonesia

#### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023 *Light & Shadow*, Yavuz Gallery, Singapore

2019 *Slices*, Yavuz Gallery, Singapore

2014 *Bones After Bones: Echo*, Yavuz Fine Art, Singapore

2013 *Bones After Bones: Shadow*, Arndt Gallery, Berlin, Germany

2011 *Daging & Pedang*, Kagaduhan di Negeri Yang Subur, Ark Galerie, Jakarta, Indonesia

2008 *Expression of Desire*, Ark Galerie, Jakarta, Indonesia

#### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 *ARTSUBS: Material Ways*, Balai Pemuda, Surabaya, Indonesia

*ARTJOG 2025: Amalan* (in collaboration with Devfto Printmaking Institute), Jogja National Museum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

*We Begin with Everything*, ara contemporary, Jakarta, Indonesia

2024 *Sumbangsih Dermawan Seni Berhadiah*, Festival Seni Cetak Grafis, Galeri R.J. Katamsi Indonesian Institute of the Arts, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

*Beyond The Surface: New Poetics in Still Life*, Ruang Dini, Bandung, Indonesia

*Backscatter*, Chili Art Project, London, UK

*Surakusuma - Mangkunegaran Art Garden*, Pracima Tuin, Pura Mangkunegaran Surakarta, Solo, Indonesia

*Salon et Cetera*, Ace House Collective, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

*Head in the Clouds*, Plan X Gallery, Milan, Italy

*Noughties by Nature*, Gajah Gallery Yogyakarta, Indonesia & Singapore

*Crossing Boundaries: Contemporary Figurative Perspective*, Tang Contemporary, Hong Kong

*Objecting Reality*, Woaw Gallery, Hong Kong

*Seeing Things*, Kohesi initiatives, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

2023 *Indonesian Painting I: Vita Activa*, Nadi Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia

*Broken White Project #18: Incipit Tragoedia Incipit Parodia*, Ace House Collective, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

2021 *Falling*, Tang Contemporary Art, Beijing, China

2020 *Closer Than They Appear*, Yavuz Gallery, Singapore

*ARTJOG: RESILIENCE*, Jogja National Museum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

- 2019 *Ripples: Indonesian Contemporary Art*, Taipei Dangdai, ROH Projects  
Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2018 *Bangkit/Arise: An International Arts Exchange & Residency*, San  
Francisco, California, USA  
*Manifesto 6: Multipolar*, Seni Rupa Setelah 20 Tahun Reformasi,  
National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia  
*The Primacy of Seeing*, Semarang Gallery, Semarang, Indonesia
- 2017 *ARTJOG 10: Changing Perspective*, Jogja National Museum, Yogyakarta,  
Indonesia
- 2016 *ARTJOG 9: Universal Influence*, Jogja National Museum, Yogyakarta,  
Indonesia
- 2015 *Belum Ada Judul*, Sangkring Art Space, Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
*Polychromatic*, Greenhost Hotel Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
*Awang-awangan*, Langgeng Art Foundation, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2014 *Mooi Indie, Beautiful Indies Indonesian Art Now*, Anne & Gordon  
Samstag Museum of Art, Adelaide, Australia
- 2013 Asian Art Biennial, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Art, Taichung,  
Taiwan  
*Sip! Indonesian Art Today*, Arndt Gallery Berlin, Berlin, Germany
- 2012 Asia Pasific Triennale 7, Queensland Art Galeri/Galeri of Modern Art,  
Brisbane, Australia  
*Jogja Agro Pop*, Taman Budaya Yogyakarta, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- 2011 Jogja Biennale XI, Jogja National Museum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
*Finding Me*, Semarang Gallery, Semarang, Middle Java, Indonesia  
*Indonesian Eye*, Ciputra Artpreneur Centre, Jakarta & Saatchi Gallery,  
London
- 2010 *Digit(all)*, Umah Seni Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2009 *Jogja Jamming*, Jogja Biennale X, Taman Budaya Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
*Kado*, Nadi Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Utan Kayu Literary Biennale 2009*, Galeri Salihara, Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Topology of Flatness*, Edwin Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Next Wave*, Avanthay Contemporary, Zurich, Swiss  
*Tales From Wounded Land*, Tyler Rollins Gallery, New York, USA

## COLLECTIONS

Tumurun Private Museum, Solo, Indonesia  
Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), Brisbane,  
Queensland, Australia  
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia  
Akili Museum of Art, Jakarta, Indonesia

The background is a painting of a still life. On the left, a plant with long, pointed leaves sits on a light-colored, textured surface. In the foreground, a shallow, wide bowl with a textured, light-colored exterior and a dark interior sits on a similar surface. The background is a solid, deep red color with some faint, darker red shapes that suggest a window or a shadow.

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contemporary

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