

MERAH GALLERY

Yanal Desmond Zendrato

Indonesian Artists



Yanal Desmond Zendrato

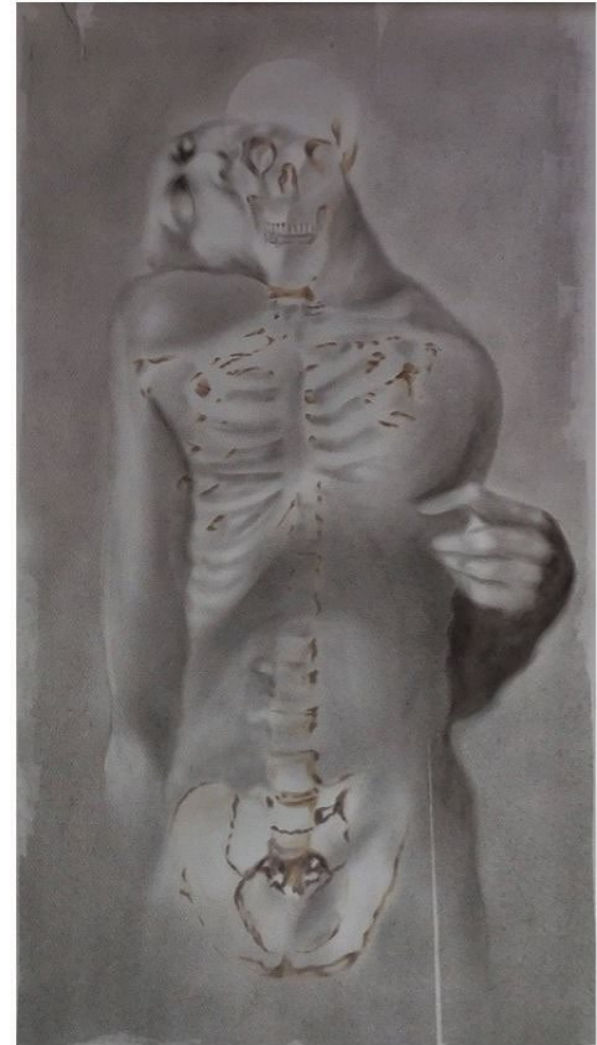
Yanal Desmond Zendrato is a contemporary Indonesian visual artist whose practice is shaped by the dialogue between two formative geographies, the industrial port city of Belawan in North Sumatra where he was born and raised, and Yogyakarta, the cultural capital where he has built his artistic life. He pursued his higher education at Universitas Negeri Medan (UNIMED) beginning in 2004, majoring in painting, and completed his fine art education degree in 2011. This grounding in academic painting forms the technical foundation of a practice that has since expanded into printmaking and cross-medium experimentation.

His early professional formation took place within the Sumatran art ecosystem before his decisive move west. Prior to completing his degree, he was associated with Galeri TONDI in Medan, founded by the Jakarta-based artist Grace Siregar, and in 2011 he taught for six months at Komiko Art School Medan. In 2012 he relocated to Yogyakarta to commit fully to his studio practice, joining the artist collective Kost Kandang Ayam, drawn to the city for what he describes as its strong magnetic field for the visual arts and its high level of artistic engagement.

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Yanal's practice operates within the contemporary Indonesian tradition of figurative and conceptual enquiry, with works that engage themes of testimony, balance, and grief. Recurring titles within his oeuvre, including Lamentation, Kesaksian, and Balance, point to a sustained meditation on the human condition under pressure, rendered through a personal visual vocabulary developed across painting and printmaking. His commitment to graphic media is reflected in his collaborations with leading Indonesian print platforms, including the Tarung Grafis project alongside Devfto Printmaking Institute and TERAS Print Studio (MIRACLE Prints).

He is an active participant in Yogyakarta's contemporary exhibition circuit, both nationally and internationally. Since settling in the city, he has exhibited regularly in domestic and overseas presentations, including the Kandang Ayam Project: Drunken Broom group exhibition at Bentara Budaya Yogyakarta in April 2018, a presentation that brought together core members of his collective and reinforced the position of Kandang Ayam as one of the distinctive artist-run platforms operating within Yogyakarta's contemporary scene. He continues to live and work in Yogyakarta.





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