

Forgive me not to miss you not

Jumaadi is an Indonesian artist currently dividing his time between Sydney, Australia and Java, Indonesia. He works in multiple media with equal fluency – painting, drawing, sculpture, installations, and shadow puppets. In the past fifteen years, he has been something of an itinerate artist, engaging with a variety of communities around the globe.

Having grown up in rural East Java, in the village of Sidoarjo, Jumaadi assisted his father in moving buffalo from one grazing area to another each day. He and his brother became quite proficient duck wranglers, shuttling strings of hundreds between rice paddies. In quiet moments in these rice fields, the young artist and his friends would amuse themselves with shadow puppets they fashioned out of rice grass.

Shadow puppet theater is among the principle means for Indonesians to share their rich stories and pass them down from generation to generation. In Indonesia, it is called *wayang kulit* and has a thriving tradition in both Bali and Java. The word *wayang* literally translates to shadow. The word *kulit* means skin, referring to the buffalo skin used to make flat puppets with moveable joints. Shadow puppet



performances are accompanied by gamelan music and often last more than six hours. In 2003, UNESCO designated *wayang kulit* from Indonesia as one of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

Puppetmasters hold a revered position in Indonesian society, as they are the keepers of the stories of their shared ancestry. Jumaadi has become a kind of keeper himself, though his stories are more autobiographical, and he has the opportunity to share his work with a global audience.

Jumaadi moved to Sydney, Australia in the late 1990s, where he undertook undergraduate and post-graduate studies in Fine Arts at the National Art School in Sydney and was awarded a BFA (2000) and an MFA (2008). Since graduation, he has maintained a peripatetic residency schedule with stops all over Europe, Asia, and Australia. He had developed a unique community-participatory practice at each location, and has forged strong collaborative partnerships with diverse groups, including Australian Aboriginal artists. His first visit to the United States was in 2013 to participate in a residency at No Boundaries International Art Colony in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Aside from his puppetry work, Jumaadi is also a skilled poet, musician, painter, sculptor, and chef. Jumaadi's paintings and drawings have an otherworldly feeling about them, as if the figures and landscapes are from a barely remembered dream. Many of his figures seem to be carrying burdens of some sort, a metaphor for the human condition. Jumaadi's imagination is full of poetic wanderings that manifest through his various media. Through these images, the artist explores the fertile terrain of his protean imagination, combining fragments of overheard stories, vague memories of childhood, and lived experiences in novel combinations.

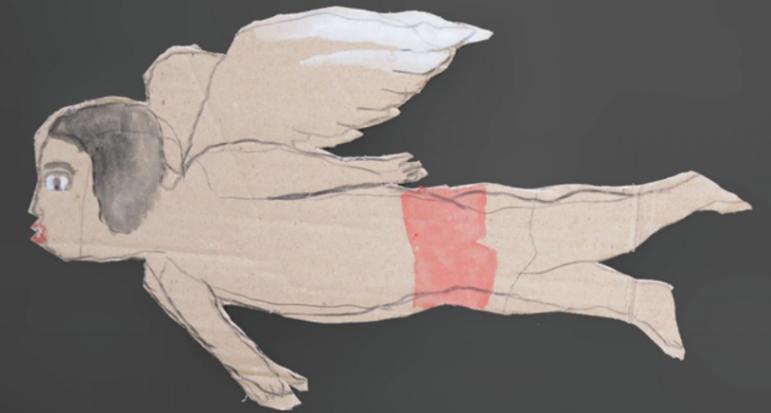
Jumaadi has exhibited extensively in Australia, Indonesia, Asia, and Europe, but this will be his first exhibition in the United States. He was recently selected to participate in the Moscow Biennale in Russia. His residency and exhibition are supported in part by the Quattlebaum Artist-in-Residence Endowment and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.

"Departure"

As quick as the night leaves the mountain range
I am smoke turning into the morning fog
And you are the wood turning into embers
Some day we will meet again on the mountain

I descend and turn into the rain
While you will turn into the branches
And perhaps the leaves of the cypress?
As the mist and the grass
We will embrace once more

- Jumaadi



While in Charleston, Jumaadi collaborated with Charleston-born artist Geoffrey Cormier to create a series of shadow puppets. Cormier visited Java in 2013 to work and study with Jumaadi. As part of their collaboration, they are working directly with students at the Academic Magnet High School to create original shadow puppets, a script, and perform a *wayang kulit* shadow puppet production for the community. The objective of Jumaadi's residency and exhibition is to create a unique cross-cultural and artistic collaboration for two artists from different cultures with similar interests and to share the resulting work with our community through an exhibition and educational programs. This project represents the next level of collaboration between the Halsey Institute and the Academic Magnet High School.

Shadow puppet performance by Academic Magnet High School students

Saturday, November 15, 5:00pm
Tickets are \$5
Academic Magnet High School
5109 W Enterprise St, North Charleston, SC