



Jumaadi

An arm and a leg



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11 September – 6 October 2018

King Street Gallery KS  
on William Gw

10am – 6pm Tuesday – Saturday  
177 William St Darlinghurst NSW 2010 Australia  
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Front Cover: *Pink bed and don't be sad* 2018 gouache on paper 27 x 38 cm  
Opposite: Jumaadi, East Java, Indonesia



*Birth and dogs* 2018 gouache on paper 27 x 38 cm



*Left: House on head 2017 enamel on aluminium 30 x 18 cm*  
*Right: Cowra 2017 enamel on aluminium 38 x 14 cm*

# Jumaadi: An arm and a leg

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In most parts of the developed world the human condition is a state of permanent distraction. In Sidoarjo in East Java, where Jumaadi was born, there was a different pace of life and a very different relationship with nature. Free from the pervasive white noise that surrounds us, people told stories. Some tales, such as those from the Hindu epic, the *Ramayana*, had been around for centuries, seeping into the folk culture of villages across the Indonesian archipelago, including the shadow puppet performances that form one aspect of Jumaadi's artistic repertoire.

That story-telling tradition is part of Jumaadi's personal history and his psyche. Living in Australia he still dwells in that world of demons and spirits, fanciful creatures and struggling humanity that he knew in his childhood. If his work has the sense of abundant fantasy one finds in a children's storybook it is because when he sits down to paint or draw he is transported back the realm of childhood.

The world of Jumaadi's art is not a lost paradise, it's a comedy-drama in which there are no hard-and-fast distinctions between the categories of animal, mineral

and vegetable. In *Delicate*, a grey buffalo has grown a row of small trees on its back, rhyming neatly with a row of teats dangling from its block-like torso. It's an image of nurturing – the mother buffalo provides for her calf, the land provides for the animals. The trees are rooted in the very spine of the buffalo, which resembles a mountain.

In *Tree of life, white wedding dress*, a woman's garment is inhabited by the trunk and branches of a tree, as if the bride has been transformed like Daphne in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Yet the tree is also a road, with tiny cars crawling along the branches that serve as the bride's arms. The infill at the bottom of the work is a mass of small, identical houses. A snake resides in the upper branches, perhaps a cousin of the serpent that offered the apple to Eve in the Garden of Eden.

This complex image, painted on buffalo skin, is full of cross-cultural references, mixed promiscuously by an artist who now inhabits two worlds, straddling the divide between east and west. We might even see Jumaadi's bride as folk culture's answer to the machine aesthetic of Duchamp's *Bride Stripped Bare*'.

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Jumaadi's work conjures up thoughts of those famous trackers of myths and legends, from J.G.Fraser's *Golden Bough* (1890), to the books of Mircea Eliade and Joseph Campbell. Fraser believed that human civilisation began with magic, progressed to forms of organised religion, and eventually adopted a more scientific and rational outlook.

In retrospect this seems like a textbook case of late Victorian optimism. The further we move into the 21st century, the more irrational the world becomes, as millions embrace fundamentalist cults and wild conspiracy theories. With the Trump ascendancy even truth has lost its value, with "alternative facts" being promulgated by the leader of the free world on a daily basis. Things that were unspeakable, if not unthinkable, only a few years ago are now barely newsworthy.

Rationality has let us down badly, the demons and spirits are running amok, even in the White House. At the same time the planet is getting hotter, with a growing procession of extreme weather events and natural disasters. Science tells us it's time to act but the skeptics put ideology before evidence. It's a march of folly on a scale that puts the dark ages to shame. In an

age of religion people could blame their troubles on an angry God, today we simply deny there is a problem - or look for scapegoats.

No wonder we embrace Jumaadi's magical imagery that celebrates mutually sustaining connections between different orders of being. His motifs – an arm and a leg – are reminiscent of the *ex votos* one finds in places of Catholic pilgrimage. The emblem of an arm or a leg begs reliefs for a physical ailment, or offers thanks for a cure. For Jumaadi, however, it's not so simple to enjoy a one-on-one relationship with an all-powerful deity.

In his works all human activities, all cultural signs, are bound up with the natural world. A tree wraps itself around a house, a man carries a blue dog on his head. A buffalo walks a tightrope in the presence of a monumental human foot - severed at the ankle it looks like the last fragment of a heroic statue. These vignettes suggest that Nature will get us in the end if we don't relinquish our arrogant conviction that among all the entities on this planet, humans are in some way special.

**John McDonald, August, 2018**



*Left: Man holding land* 2018 acrylic on buffalo hide 130 x 63 cm

*Right: Delicate* 2018 acrylic on linen 89.5 x 120 cm







*Left: Moon howling 2018 chinagraph on mulberry paper 50 x 76 cm*  
*Right: 2 figures, honeymoon suite 2018 acrylic on buffalo hide 94 x 67 cm*





*Left: Rain on mountains* 2018  
acrylic on linen 120 x 89.5 cm  
*Right: Tree of life, white wedding dress* 2018  
acrylic on buffalo hide 78 x 76 cm



*Left: Kiss* 2018 gouache on paper 42 x 30 cm  
*Right: Stand up* 2018 gouache on paper 38 x 27 cm







*Treehouse* 2018 acrylic on buffalo hide 104 x 66 cm





*Left: Aeroplane 2017 enamel on aluminium 43 x 25 cm*  
*Right: Blue dog 2017 enamel on aluminium 30 x 25 cm*



*Left: Buffalo head* 2018 chinagraph on mulberry paper 50 x 76 cm  
*Right: Marching in* 2018 chinagraph on mulberry paper 100 x 76 cm (diptych)





*Big feet small animal* 2018 acrylic on linen 89.5 x 120 cm



*Mountain ranges* 2018 acrylic on linen 89.5 x 120 cm



Kiss 2018 gouache on paper 42 x 30 cm



*Shift* 2018 gouache on paper 30 x 42 cm



# Jumaadi

**Born** 1973 Sidoarjo, East Java, Indonesia

## **Studies**

2008 Master of Fine Art, National Art School, Sydney  
1997-2000 Bachelor of Fine Art, National Art School

## **Solo exhibitions**

2018-2019 *Staging love* Maitland Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
2018 *An arm and a leg* King Street Gallery on William, Sydney  
2017 *½ Fish and ½ Eaten* Watters Gallery, Sydney  
2016 *Landscape Oddity* William Mora Galleries, Melbourne  
2015 *Landscape of Longing* Kerry Packer Civic Gallery, University of South Australia, Adelaide  
*Diary of Dust* Watters Gallery  
2014 *FORGIVE ME NOT TO MISS YOU NOT* Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, Charleston, South Carolina, USA  
*Weighted* William Mora Galleries, Melbourne  
*I Have Travelled a Long Way to Find Your Beauty* Watters Gallery  
2013 *The Woman who Married the Mountain* (with Cameron Ferguson), performance, Watters Gallery  
*The Figural Poetry of Jumaadi* Art:1 Museum Jakarta, Indonesia  
*Cry Baby Cry* Jan Manton Art, Brisbane  
2011 *Pause* Watters Gallery  
*Illumination Made* Budiana Gallery, Lod Tunduh, Ubud, Bali, Indonesia  
*Landscape of Memory* Expansionist Art Empire Art Galerie, Leiden, Netherlands  
*Traveling Light* Taksu Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2010 *Rain rain, come again* Watters Gallery  
2009 *Unsent Letters* Legge Gallery, Sydney  
2008 *Story from Cloud Rain and Sky* Legge Gallery  
*Home Sweet Home* Art Space, Adelaide Festival Centre, South Australia  
*Jumaadi The Next Generation*, Art Melbourne 08, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne  
*Home is not Sweet Home* Gallery 4A, Sydney



	<i>Museum of Memory</i> Project Space, National Art School, Sydney
	<i>Letters and Stories</i> SoMA Galleries, Adelaide
2007	<i>Jumaadi: World Created</i> French Cultural Centre, Surabaya, Indonesia
2006	<i>Works on Paper</i> Legge Gallery
2005	<i>WS Rendra 70th Birthday</i> Hotel Kartika Wijaya, Batu, East Java, Indonesia
	<i>Jumaadi at Mura Clay</i> Mura Clay Gallery, Sydney
2004	<i>Be-Longing</i> Mura Clay Gallery
2003	<i>Jumaadi at Mura Clay</i> Mura Clay Gallery
	<i>Mapping Memory</i> Bondi Beach Pavilion Gallery, Sydney
2002	<i>Dreams and Memories</i> Hill on Hargrave Gallery, Woollahra, Sydney
	<i>The Green Paintings</i> French Cultural Centre, Surabaya, Indonesia
1999	<i>One Thousand Frangipanis</i> Australian Volunteers International, Sydney
	<i>The Green Paintings</i> French Cultural Centre, Surabaya, Indonesia

## Group exhibitions

2017	<i>Mosman Art Prize</i> Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
	<i>Preview 2017</i> Watters Gallery, Sydney
	<i>Grounded</i> National Art School, Sydney
	<i>Naturally Wrong</i> [Finalist] Guirguis New Art Prize 2017, Art Gallery of Ballarat, Vic
	<i>National Self-Portrait Prize</i> UQ Art Museum, Qld
2016	<i>The Life and Death of a Shadow</i> for the exhibition <i>Telling Tales: Excursions in Narrative Form</i>
	Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
	<i>Halfway to the light, halfway through the night</i> for the exhibition <i>The Dobell Australian Drawing Biennial</i>
	Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
	<i>Twenty Twenty</i> The Old Rum Store, Chippendale
	<i>Stage of Love</i> for the exhibition <i>Diaspora-Making Machines</i> Blacktown Arts Centre
2015	<i>Monster Pop!</i> Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
	<i>Sydney Contemporary</i> Carriageworks, Sydney
	<i>Mosman Art Prize</i> Mosman Art Gallery

- 2014 *Cementa 15 Contemporary Arts Festival* Kandos, NSW  
*Margaret Tuckson's Private Collection* Watters Gallery, Sydney  
*Jumaadi and Picasso: forgive me not to miss you not* College of Charleston, South Carolina, USA  
*A Special Arrow Was Shot in the Neck ...* David Roberts Art Foundation (DRAF), London, UK  
*Re:Visited* Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art, Latvia  
*Some Ways of Depicting Landscape* Watters Gallery  
*Beastly* Delmar Gallery, Trinity Grammar School, Sydney  
*Redlands Konica Minolta Art Prize* National Art School  
*Watters Gallery: 50th Anniversary Exhibition* Watters Gallery
- 2013 *Loneliness was part of it* The 5<sup>th</sup> Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia  
*Middle Head: 33° 50'S, 151°14'E* Mosman Art Gallery  
*Mainly Sculpture* Watters Gallery  
*Cultivating the Garden* Light Square Gallery, Adelaide College of Art, SA  
*Platform 2013* Metro Art, Brisbane  
*Watters Gallery 27th Summer Exhibition* Watters Gallery
- 2012 *Snake Snake* Sydney Town Hall, Sydney  
*Contemporary Work on Paper from Indonesia* DNA Project Space, Sydney  
*Melbourne Art Fair 2012* Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
- 2011 *Who is afraid of the wood* Jakarta Biennale 2011, National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta  
*Bali Artist Camp* Made Budiana Gallery, Lod Tunduh, Ubud, Bali, Indonesia  
*Xuchun Innagular Contemporary Art Workshops* Shanxi Province, China  
*The Sin City* National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta  
*My Australia* Kuandu Museum of Fine Art, Taipei  
*Frank's Flat* Maitland Regional Art Gallery  
*Buka Jalan Performance Festival* National Gallery of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur
- 2010 *Summer Show* Watters Gallery  
*Museum of Memory* Flinders University Pendopo, South Australia  
*Istanbul 5: Student International Triennale* Turkey  
*Art Month* Sydney Watters Gallery  
*2010* National Art School  
*My Australia* Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, Taipei National University of the Arts, Taiwan

- 2009 *First International Contemporary Art Workshop* Shanxi International Art Centre, China  
*Works on Paper* Legge Gallery  
*Packsaddle* New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale  
*Perang Kata Dan Rupa* Gallery Salihara, Jakarta  
*Theatre of Grass* Blue Poles Gallery, Byabarra, NSW  
*Seasons of Life* Chrissie Cotter Gallery, Sydney  
*Common Sense* National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta  
*Without Boundaries: Artist Books* Art Gallery of New South Wales Research Library, Sydney  
*Summer Exhibition* Watters Gallery
- 2008 *Blake Art Prize 07* Delmar Gallery, National Art School Gallery, Sydney  
*Black and White* Legge Gallery  
*Without Boundaries: Artist Books* Mundubbera Regional Art Gallery, NSW  
*Without Boundaries: Artist Books* Art Gallery of New South Wales Research Library  
*Let the Blood Run Free* East Sydney Doctors, Sydney  
*Melbourne Art Fair 08* Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne  
*Blake Art Prize* National Art School Gallery  
*11th Annual Members' Exhibition* Gallery 4A, Sydney
- 2007 *Blake Art Prize* National Art School Gallery  
*Works on Paper* Legge Gallery  
*Painted Bridges* University of Southern Queensland Gallery, Qld  
*Art Sydney* Fox Studios, Sydney  
*Australians with Accent* Project Space, National Art School  
*Summer Exhibition* Legge Gallery  
*Packsaddle* New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale
- 2006 *Redlands Westpac Art Prize* Mosman Art Gallery  
*Summer Show* Legge Gallery  
*End of Year Exhibition* Legge Gallery
- 2005 *Jumaadi and Peta Hinton* Legge Gallery  
*The Song of Grass* Gardens of Government House, Sydney  
*Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition* Nan Tien Temple, Wollongong (Federation of Ethnic Community Councils of Australia)  
*Mosman Art Prize* Mosman Art Gallery

	Installation of grass puppets and digital images, Sydney Opera House Studio
	<i>Selected Works</i> Craft Victoria, Melbourne
	<i>Summer Show</i> Legge Gallery
2004	<i>Singing Shadows</i> : Installation of grass puppets and digital images, Sydney Opera House Studio
	<i>Mosman Art Prize</i> Mosman Art Gallery
	<i>Art on the Rocks</i> ASN Gallery, The Rocks, Sydney
2003	<i>Mosman Art Prize</i> Mosman Art Gallery
	<i>Art on the Rocks</i> ASN Gallery
	<i>Salon des Refuses</i> S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
	<i>The National Art School Alumni Show</i> Cell Block Theatre Gallery, NAS, Sydney
	<i>Christmas Show</i> Hill on Hargrave Gallery, Sydney
2002	<i>Mosman Art Prize</i> Mosman Art Gallery
	<i>Waverley Art Prize</i> Bondi, Sydney
2001	<i>Group Exhibition</i> Bondi Wadi Gallery, Woollahra, Sydney
2000	<i>Drawing Week National Art School</i> Mary Place Gallery, Sydney
	<i>Graduating Students' Exhibition</i> National Art School
1999	<i>Australian Volunteers International Exhibition for East Timor</i> Sydney Office
	<i>Three of Us</i> KulturShop, Bronte
1998	<i>From Sydney to Alice</i> Bondi Beach Pavilion
	<i>Amnesty International Group Show</i> TAP Gallery, Sydney

### **Residences, community projects & workshops**

2015	<i>Children's Ground</i> Bininj Community, Kakadu West Arnhem, Northern Territory
	<i>Walking Shadow</i> Queensland College of Art, Brisbane
2014	<i>Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art</i> Charleston, South Carolina, USA
	<i>Djilpin Arts</i> Walking with Spirits Festival, Beswick (Wugularr) Community, Northern Territory
	<i>Cowra Civilian Internment Arts Program</i> Cowra, NSW
2013	<i>No Boundaries International Art Colony</i> Bald Head Island, North Carolina, USA
	Artist in Residence, The Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, South Carolina, USA
2012	<i>Penang State Museum</i> shadow puppet performance and workshops, Malaysia
2010	<i>Museum of Memory</i> Asia Study Centre, Flinders University, SA
	Artist in Residence, Hill End, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW
2009	<i>Letter to the Moon</i> community art project with mud victims, East Java, Indonesia

	<i>Indonesia in the Bush</i> Port Macquarie and surrounds, NSW
2008	Co-director, <i>Ose Tara Lia</i> , a collaborative project with Heri Dono, OzAsia Festival, SA
	Grass sculpture weaving workshops in collaboration with Aboriginal Tjumpi weavers, Art Space, SA
2007	Facilitator and interpreter, <i>The Eyes of Marege</i> , a collaborative project between Maccasan and Yolngu performers, OzAsia Festival Adelaide and Sydney Opera House
	Artist in Residence, Painted Bridges, University of Southern Queensland
2005	<i>Community Cultural Development Grant</i> to work with Indonesian women in Sydney
	Artist in Residence, Cowra Art Gallery, Cowra, NSW
	Artist in Residence, South Project, Art Play, Melbourne

### **Commissions, grants & awards [selected]**

2017	<i>Mosman Art Prize</i> Mosman Art Gallery [Winner]
2015	<i>The Bridge to Alengka</i> Art Gallery of New South Wales, Conversations through the Asian collections
	<i>Journal of Dust</i> shadow performance, Gallery 4A, Sydney
2014	<i>Displaced Goddess</i> video performance, Mosman Art Gallery
2013	<i>Australia Council</i> New Work Grant for Mid-Career Artist, for Moscow Biennale Project
2012	<i>Rimbun Dahan</i> Artist in Residence, Hotel Penaga, Malaysia
2011	<i>Xuchun Inaugural International Contemporary Art Workshops</i> Shanxi Province, China
2009	<i>Jumaadi + Mawarini</i> 'Cerita' Slot, Sydney
2008	<i>Jumaadi Next Generation</i> Art Melbourne 08, Melbourne
2007	<i>The John Coburn Art Prize for an Emerging Artist</i> (as part of the Blake Prize) [Winner]
2005	<i>Sculpture by the Sea Flower Festival</i> Government House, Sydney
	<i>Small Painting Prize</i> Soda Gallery, Avalon, NSW [Winner]
2003	<i>Inaugural Scholarship</i> Friends of the National Art School, Sydney
2002	East Java Art Council Certificate of Appreciation
	<i>Waverley Art Prize</i> Bondi, Sydney [Winner]

### **Collections**

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney	Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
Charles Darwin University, Australia	National Art School, Sydney
Halsey Institute, South Carolina, USA	National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Macquarie Bank, Australia	St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney
Maitland Regional Art Gallery, NSW	



*Left: Wooden thorn* 2018 chinagraph on mulberry paper  
100 x 76 cm (diptych)  
*Right: Jumaadi, Sydney studio*



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Published by King Street Studios P/L  
Photography: Penny Clay  
Design: Ella Burrett  
ISBN 978-0-9925715-2-8



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