



Melati Suryodarmo *Passionate Pilgrim*

17 May – 3 September 2023

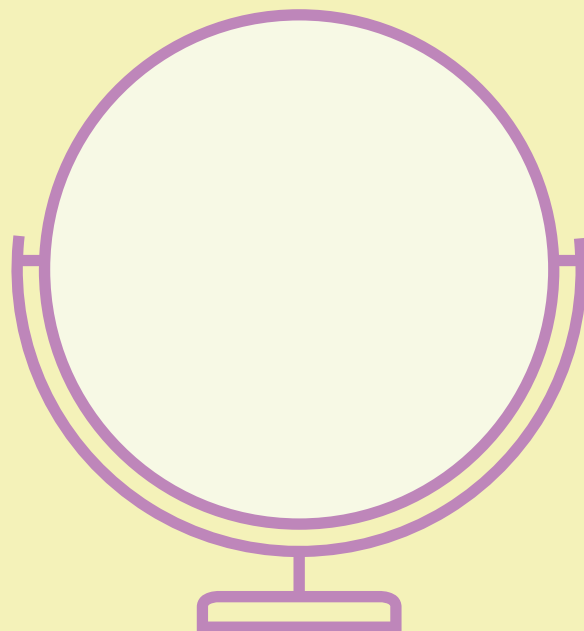
Melati Suryodarmo is one of Indonesia's most important living artists. Her performances can last several hours, testing the limits of the human mind and body.

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Find *Passionate Pilgrim*. The mirrors are used in a performance by Melati with a group of women activists. It explores the working conditions and identity of migrant domestic workers. The women use the mirrors to look at their reflections and to communicate with each other and the audience.



Look in a mirror and draw your reflection. Around your self-portrait, draw or write ways in which you can help others.

Find the film *Exergie-Butter Dance*. Watch as Melati slowly dances on blocks of butter. Her movements squash the butter, causing her to slip, fall and lift herself up. The artist compares these three movements to a haiku – a Japanese form of poetry with three lines. A haiku has five syllables in the first line, seven in the second and five in the third.

Can you write a haiku about dancing on butter? For example:

I danced on butter,
And I tumbled to the ground,
Greasy, I got up.



Find *I'm a Ghost in My Own House*. For this performance, Melati grinds blocks of charcoal with a stone rolling pin for 12 hours. The work reflects her feelings of isolation when returning to Indonesia after living in Germany for many years.

Can you spot the different items used during the performance? Circle items when you see them.

Table

Shoes

Costume

Charcoal dust

Rolling pin

Charcoal blocks

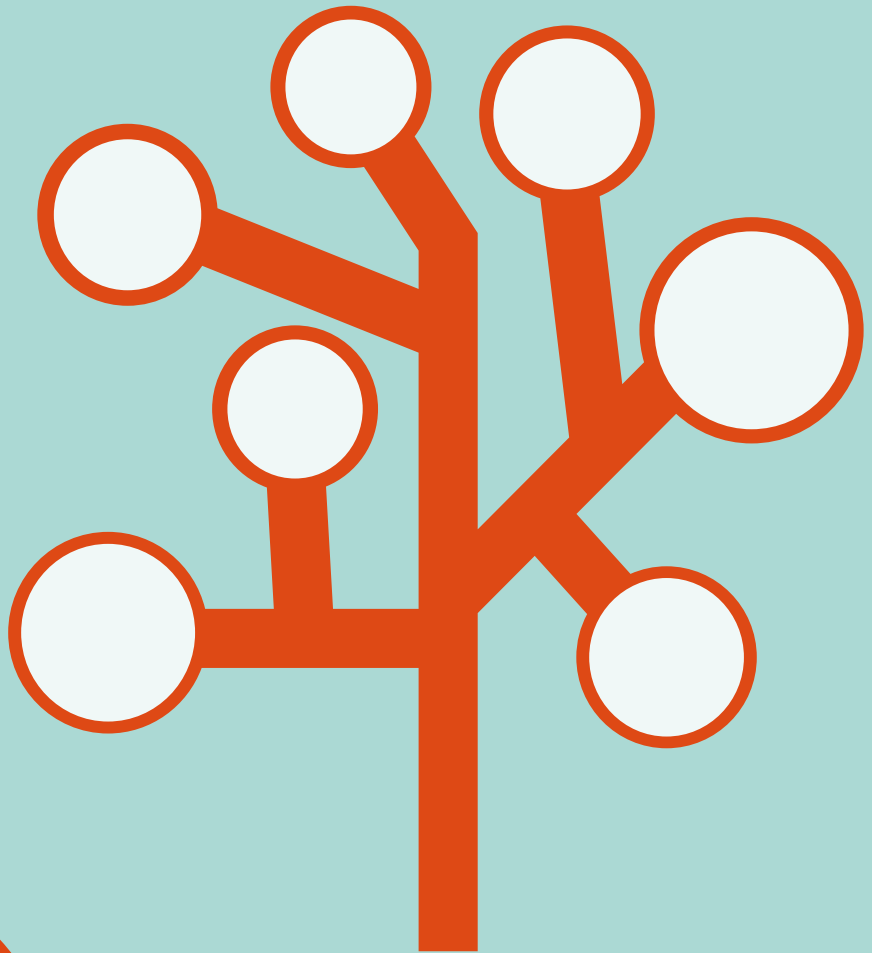
Explore Ikon's Second Floor Galleries



Find *Kleidungsaffe (Clothes Ape)*. The multicoloured 'tree' of donated clothing reflects how humans buy and consume more products than they really need.

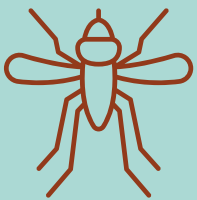
Reduce, reuse, recycle – these are three ways you can help decrease waste and protect the environment.

Draw or write things you can do to help the planet:



Find *Studio Plesungan*. The installation recreates Melati's studio in Indonesia, surrounded by countryside and wildlife. In this space, you can watch videos of different artists performing.

Can you create a performance inspired by nature?



Find the self-portraits of Melati. What has the artist included in the backgrounds of the photographs? What might these objects tell you about the artist's identity?



Ikon Gallery
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Open Wednesday–Sunday, 11am–5pm
Free entry, donations welcome

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This exhibition is supported by Bagri Foundation, British Council through the Connections Through Culture grants programme, Birmingham City University, University of Leeds, and the Melati Suryodarmo Exhibition Circle: A.I. Gallery; ShanghART, Tanya Michele Amador and Michiel Verhoeven; and Michelangelo and Lourdes Samson. It is developed in collaboration with Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Nusantara (Museum MACAN), Jakarta, Indonesia.

This guide is printed on recycled paper and produced in collaboration with Mimi and Saskia, work experience students from Queensbridge School, Birmingham.

Cover:

Melati Suryodarmo, *I'm a Ghost in My Own House* (2023), performance at Ikon Gallery. Image courtesy of Ikon. Photographer Tod Jones.

Inside:

Melati Suryodarmo, *Passionate Pilgrim* (2023). Installation view. Image courtesy Ikon. Photographer Stuart Whipps.

Melati Suryodarmo, *Exergie-Butter Dance* (2000), performed at VideoBrasil 15, Sao Paolo, Brazil (2005). Photo credit: Isabell Matthaeus. Image courtesy of the artist.

Melati Suryodarmo, *I'm a Ghost in My Own House* (2023), performance at Ikon Gallery. Image courtesy of Ikon. Photographer Tod Jones.

Melati Suryodarmo, *Kleidungsaffe* (2023). Installation view. Image courtesy Ikon. Photographer Stuart Whipps.

Melati Suryodarmo, *Self Portrait (tryptich)* (2018). Digital C-print. Courtesy of the artist and ShanghART.

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