

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

There's a Fun in Funeral

Solo exhibition by Agan Harahap
24 April – 30 May 2021

AGAN HARAHAAP

24.4–30.5.21

THERE'S A FUN IN FUNERAL

MIZUMA GALLERY



Mizuma Gallery is pleased to announce *There's a Fun in Funeral*, a solo exhibition by Indonesian artist Agan Harahap.

Responding to the challenges brought about by the pandemic, Agan Harahap created a new series of works which explores the absurdity of our new reality. Juxtaposing various images from his archives and those procured from the web, Agan composed photographs of disturbing scenarios that strangely exude beauty and serenity.

There's a Fun in Funeral, a solo exhibition by Agan Harahap, will run from 24 April to 30 May 2021.

"The year 2020, in its own way, has forced us to carry out various new regulations which can be said to be incompatible with our social nature as human beings. Starting from travel restrictions, border restrictions, freedom of assembly and association, to the imposition of curfews in certain areas – even the way we shake hands is suddenly regulated in such a way as to minimize the risk of spreading the virus. This uncertain situation is exacerbated by the large number of news in the media about the spread of the virus, from Covid-related obituaries to various social, economic, political upheavals, make many people even more depressed.

This is what most people around the world experience when a pandemic breaks out. I am no exception. Being used to regular traveling, I suddenly had to face a reality that I had never thought of before. With my children being forced to stay at home, I had no choice but to adapt to these new norms. That is what has been happening till this day. I finally got used to it and am able to enjoy this 'new reality'.

Long story short, one morning a few months ago, I accidentally came across a viral meme on social media that read: "There's an over in lover, there's an end in friend, and THERE'S A FUN IN FUNERAL." Suddenly, I felt that this meme, which sounded trivial and random, was somehow relevant to our conditions today. How can anyone have fun when others are mourning? Perhaps it sounds rude and uncivilized, but in this condition now, I can understand that one's sense of selfishness is actually fundamental in creating a resistance. When someone is able to find something that they feel is 'fun' even in the midst of mourning, we can say that they are in their own reality that is different from the social reality around them."

- Agan Harahap, 2021



Agan Harahap, *I'll Follow the Sun*, 2021, C-print on photo paper, 110 × 140 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP
© Agan Harahap, courtesy of the artist and Mizuma Gallery



Agan Harahap, *Fun in Funeral*, 2021, C-print on photo paper, 87 × 120 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP
© Agan Harahap, courtesy of the artist and Mizuma Gallery



Agan Harahap, *Morning Glory*, 2021, C-print on photo paper, 100 × 150 cm, edition of 3 + 1 AP
© Agan Harahap, courtesy of the artist and Mizuma Gallery

About the Artist



Agan Harahap (b. 1980, Jakarta, Indonesia) graduated from the Indonesian Design School (STDI), Bandung, Indonesia in 2005, after which he moved to Jakarta and worked as a senior photographer for Trax Magazine. Since his first solo exhibition in 2009, Harahap's works have been featured in a range of exhibitions, including: *Apa Kabar?*, Showroom MAMA, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (2019); *Hello World. Revising a Collection*, Hamburger Bahnhof - Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin, Germany (2018); *The History of Boys: the MES 56 and Beyond*, DECK, Singapore (2017); and *5th Singapore Biennale: An Atlas of Mirrors*, Singapore (2016). In his studio practice, he has maintained a fascination with the art of photo manipulation often combining satire or parody with social commentaries. Harahap was the resident artist of Objectifs Centre for Photography and Film, Singapore, in 2017. His works are part of the Sigg Collection in Mauensee, Switzerland. Agan Harahap lives and works in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

About Mizuma Gallery

Executive Director Sueo Mizuma established Mizuma Art Gallery in Tokyo in 1994. Since its opening in Gillman Barracks, Singapore in 2012, the gallery aims for the promotion of East Asian artists in the region as well as the introduction of Southeast Asian artists to the international art scene. From 2014 to 2019, the artist residency space "Rumah Kijang Mizuma" opened in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, to create a new platform for dialogue by supporting exchanges between East Asia and Southeast Asia. Later in 2018, "Mizuma & Kips" in New York, USA, as a shared collaboration between Mizuma Gallery from Tokyo and Singapore and Kips Gallery from New York.

About Gillman Barracks

Set in a former military barracks dating back to 1936 and surrounded by lush tropical greenery, the Gillman Barracks visual arts cluster was launched in September 2012. Gillman Barracks' vision is to be Asia's destination for the presentation and discussion of international and Southeast Asian art. Today, Gillman Barracks is a place for art lovers, art collectors, and those curious about art. The cluster is a focal point of Singapore's arts landscape, and anchors the development of visual art in the region and beyond. For more information: www.gillmanbarracks.com

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Gallery hours:
Tue - Sat: 11am - 7pm
Sun: 11am - 6pm
Closed on Mondays &
Public Holidays

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COVID-19 update: In accordance with the current advisory from the Singapore Government, we require all visitors to check-in using SafeEntry and to wear their masks during the duration of their visit. For more information, please visit:
www.mizuma.sg/news/notice-to-visitors/