

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***preload***

Solo exhibition by Iwan Effendi

11 November – 17 December 2023

Vernissage: Saturday, 11 November 2023, 4 – 7pm



Mizuma Gallery is pleased to announce *preload*, a solo exhibition by Iwan Effendi.

### *Category: Release Letter from Iwan Effendi*

*To whom it may concern,*

*I began preload (2023) with a simple question: what goes through a person's mind when they are lost in their thoughts, that a certain expression appears on their face?*

*Face to Face, a series of facial drawings and puppets I created in 2019 constituted my exploration of the faces of the puppets performed by Papermoon Puppet Theatre. At that time, I was curious: How could theatre audiences believe in the static-faced puppets and emotionally engage with the narratives? I resolved this in Daydreaming Face, a 2021 exhibition that featured the dreamlike expression on the puppets that allowed puppeteers to convey the emotions they sought to express, while the audience had the freedom to interpret it, often finding reflections of themselves in the puppets.*

*When I returned to the world of visual arts and attempted to embrace drawing as my medium, a question lingered among the charcoal I drew on paper. If the daydreaming puppet's face was to shift into the medium of drawing, would the viewers experience it with the same emotional intensity?*

*preload is a work that unravels my process of understanding the journey of remembrance through seven faces: Kah, Wid, Kus, Yun, Tin, Tri, and Min. Their portraits on the large canvases invite the audience to observe the expressions that appear on their faces as they successfully recollect what they want to*

*remember. Unlike the passive, emotionless ‘daydreaming faces’, preload presents lively and expressive visages—faces that pique one’s curiosity.*

*As I drew the seven faces and their fragments, I learnt to recollect as well. Allowing my body to think and observe the reactions that surfaced as their data and stories filled my mind. Each stroke with its varying thickness of charcoal lines and the splatters of coffee stains represent the layers of meaning in this journey of remembrance; understanding what lies behind an expression that can emotionally engage others and uncovering the stories behind it.*

*Fragments of the tales of these seven characters have been previously performed on the stage of the Papermoon Puppet Theatre. Just like watching a stage performance, at the end of this preload journey, I have to set everything aside. To move forward, one must take a step back. And recollecting, too, is a part of letting go.*

*Best,  
Iwan Effendi  
Yogyakarta, October 10, 2023*

*preload*, a solo exhibition by Iwan Effendi, will run from 11 November to 17 December 2023 at Mizuma Gallery, 22 Lock Road #01-34 Gillman Barracks, Singapore 108939. The gallery will open from 11am-7pm on Tuesdays to Saturdays, and 11am-6pm on Sundays. The gallery will be closed on Mondays and Public Holidays.

In conjunction with the launch of the exhibition, an opening reception in the presence of Iwan Effendi (artist) will be held on Saturday, 11 November 2023, from 4 to 7 pm. This event is free admission, and is open to the public. To register your attendance and to meet the artist in person, please RSVP at [info@mizuma.sg](mailto:info@mizuma.sg) by Friday, 10 November 2023. A digital publication featuring images of the artworks and a text by Windy Ariestanty will be available on [www.mizuma.sg](http://www.mizuma.sg).

## About the Artist



**Iwan Effendi (b. 1979, Yogyakarta, Indonesia)** studied at the Department of Visual Art in Indonesia Institute of the Arts, Yogyakarta, Indonesia from 2002 to 2004. In 2006, Iwan and his spouse, Ria Tri Sulistyani, founded Papermoon Puppet Theatre, and in 2020, he founded Ing Printmaking Studio. His solo exhibitions include *Daydreaming Face* at RUCI Art Space, Jakarta, Indonesia (2021); *DRAWING withdrawing* (2020) and *Face to Face* (2019) at Mizuma Gallery, Singapore; *Lunang* at Lir Space, Yogyakarta, Indonesia (2013); *Eye of the Messenger* at Yavuz Gallery, Singapore (2011); and *Two Shoes for Dancing* at Valentine Willie Fine Art (Project Room), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2009). Iwan has also participated in group exhibitions in Bulgaria, Singapore, Australia, The Netherlands, Philippines, France, Japan, USA, and Mexico. He has undertaken residencies with the Museum of Art in Kōchi, Japan (2015); Federation Square, Melbourne, Australia (2014); and Asian Cultural Council in New York, USA (2009-10) researching on puppetry, visual, and performance arts. Iwan Effendi lives and works in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.



Iwan Effendi, *Kus*, 2023, charcoal, acrylic, soft pastel on canvas, 200 × 150 × 5 cm © Iwan Effendi, courtesy of the artist and Mizuma Gallery.



Iwan Effendi, *Wid*, 2023, charcoal, gouache, acrylic, soft pastel on canvas, 200 × 150 × 5 cm © Iwan Effendi, courtesy of the artist and Mizuma Gallery.



Iwan Effendi, *Tin: Perplexed*, 2023, charcoal, soft pastel on paper, 56.5 × 76 cm (unframed), 69 × 88 × 5 cm (framed) © Iwan Effendi, courtesy of the artist and Mizuma Gallery.





Iwan Effendi, *Hug*, 2023, charcoal, soft pastel on paper, 56.5 × 76 cm (unframed), 69 × 88 × 5 cm (framed)  
© Iwan Effendi, courtesy of the artist and Mizuma Gallery.

### **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. From 2018 to 2023, “Mizuma & Kips” opened in New York, USA, as a shared collaboration between Mizuma Gallery 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.

#### **Press Contacts**

Theresia Irma  
theresia@mizuma.sg  
T. +65 6570 2505  
F. +65 6570 2506

[www.mizuma.sg](http://www.mizuma.sg)  
[www.mizuma.shop](http://www.mizuma.shop)  
[www.mizuma-art.co.jp](http://www.mizuma-art.co.jp)

#### **Mizuma Gallery**

22 Lock Road #01-34  
Gillman Barracks  
Singapore 108939

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

#### **Copyright and Image Credits:**

Images © Iwan Effendi, courtesy of the artist and Mizuma Gallery.

Text © Windy Ariestanty, Mizuma Gallery.