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UBUD WRITERS & READERS FESTIVAL UNVEILS ITS 2018 THEME

'JAGADHITA: THE WORLD WE CREATE'

Ubud, INDONESIA-

From 24-28 October, 2018, more than 150 writers, artists, thinkers and performers from across the world will converge for the 15th Ubud Writers & Readers Festival (UWRF), to share stories and ideas under the banner of this year's theme, 'Jagadhita'.

Like many of the Festival's previous years, the theme is drawn from a Balinese Hindu philosophy. 'Jagadhita' is the individual pursuit of universal harmony and prosperity as one of life's primary goals, interpreted in English as 'The World We Create'.

The Festival's five-day program will explore countless ways to create a world that we want to live in; how we strive as individuals and as communities to manifest positive change; and how to nurture this goal through respect and action that sustains compassion for each other and ourselves.

"Last year's theme, 'Sangkan Paraning Dumadi', or 'Origins', was an important reminder of our shared humanity," explained Founder & Director Janet DeNeefe. "At a time when disparities rather than shared values are shaping political decision-making, we'll ask what harmony and prosperity looks like in 2018, and consider the tensions that have emerged between personal and collective fortunes in contemporary life.

"In our 15th year, we'll be celebrating the writers, artists, thinkers and activists from across Indonesia and the world who are making a powerful contribution to our harmony and prosperity," continued DeNeefe. "Through the Balinese Hindu philosophy of Jagadhita, we'll explore the world they create."

Along with the launch of the theme, the Festival also launched the UWRF18 artwork by Balinese artist, Budi Agung Kuswara, known in the art community as Kabul. The artwork, titled *Anonymous Ancestors*, is Kabul's attempt to take a moment in time and interpret it for the modern day.

"When I saw faces in a photo from Bali in the 1930s, I wondered who the faces belonged to," Kabul explained. "*Anonymous Ancestors* is a form of appreciation for the faces, the ancestors of modern Balinese society and the forbearers of the tourism industry, which is



now part of the economy as well as spiritual life.” Kabul further explained that his artwork interprets Jagadhita and prosperity as not just “the accumulation of numbers,” but as a “flow of knowledge from generation to generation, like water, which can be consumed by anyone.”

By bringing together 160+ speakers from 30 countries in 2017, the UWRF has well and truly evolved into a global hub of ideas, experiences and empowerment for both individuals and its diverse community of attendees.

Through its strong focus on the Indonesian literary and artistic landscape, UWRF continues to be the most prominent platform for showcasing the nation’s emerging and established writers and artists.

“In Bali, the pursuit of collective harmony and prosperity can be seen almost everywhere,” concluded DeNeefe. “At a time when the rapidity and severity of global events can make us feel fractured and dissonant, this year’s Festival compels us to pause and reflect on how we can strive for harmony and prosperity in the world we create.”

More Information

Ubud Writers & Readers Festival 2018

The 15th Ubud Writers & Readers Festival will be held from 24-28 October, 2018, in Ubud, Bali, Indonesia. Early Bird Tickets will go on sale and the first lineup announcement made in July, with the full program announced in August.

About the Festival

The Ubud Writers & Readers Festival’s mission is to create a world class festival that celebrates extraordinary stories and amplifies brave voices, tackles global issues and bold ideas. The Festival brings together a diverse mix of Indonesian and international writers, speakers, thinkers, artists, advocates, commentators and activists, to create a space for cross-cultural dialogue and connection.

The Ubud Writers & Readers Festival is one of the major annual projects of not-for-profit foundation, the Yayasan Mudra Swari Saraswati. It was first conceived of in 2004 by Janet DeNeefe, Co-founder of the Foundation, as a healing project in response to the first Bali bombing.



Testimonials

“The festival – surely the best in the world – ensures that you're never at a loss for intellectual nourishment.” - [Harper's Bazaar](#)

UWRF is one of Penguin Random House's [Best Literary Festivals Around the World](#)

2018 Artwork

The 2018 artwork, *Anonymous Ancestors*, was created by Balinese artist Budi Agung Kuswara, aka Kabul. Read more about him and this artwork [here](#).

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Festival Photography

High-res Festival photography (please note photo credits) can be downloaded from www.flickr.com/photos/ubudwritersfest/