



Courtesy of Museum Puri Lukisan

## BALI'S INVISIBLE WORLD made visible – and rapturous

The Museum Puri Lukisan has published a magnificent new book titled *Lempad of Bali: The Illuminating Line*. An architect, artist and master draftsman, Lempad lived for over a hundred years and created countless sculptures, drawings, temples, sarcophagi and funeral towers.

Ron Jenkins  
CONTRIBUTOR/UBUD

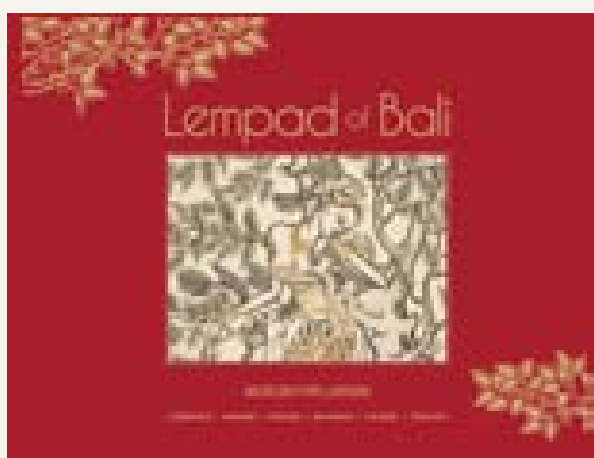
The aptly titled volume illuminates not only the exquisite lines of Lempad's artwork, but also the intangible elements of Balinese identity that those lines represent.

Lempad's depiction of the moment of birth, for instance, uses simple black ink lines on paper to portray a baby emerging from the womb, but the midwife and the father are not looking at the child.

They are battling the otherworldly creatures that are scrambling to grab the newborn at the precarious moment when the first breath is drawn. The father embraces his wife with one arm while brandishing a knife at the fanged demon that is gnawing at her forehead.

The midwife is holding the infant's head in her hand as she positions herself to block the advance of another demon with a frog dangling from its toes. Offerings of fruit, flowers and coconuts are positioned directly below the child's head, providing an element of supernatural protection in this ferocious struggle of life against death.

Bali's invisible world is made visible in Lempad's rapturous line drawings. With an astonishing economy of means, he brings to life the sacred and mundane elements of Balinese culture with all their contradictions on display.



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**Lempad of Bali:**  
**The Illuminating Line**  
Edited by Bruce W. Carpenter  
Published by Museum Puri Lukisan (2014)  
424 pages

that are defending her. Lempad's Kusumasari is a tropical wonder woman, an Amazonian beauty whose enemies fall upside down from the skies at her feet, literally upended by the unseen force of her will.

The texts that accompany these extraordinary artworks were written by a team of scholars and specialists under the leadership of Bruce Carpenter.

Each essay offers fascinating insights that are the result of impressive research. H.I.R. Hinzler's archival detective work uncovers a letter that suggests the children in Lempad's drawings of Men Brayut represent the 18 letters of the Balinese aksara alphabet.

Bruce Carpenter refutes the myth that Lempad's best work was inspired by his Western patrons. Soemantri Widagdo unearths a revealing story about a painter who asked Lempad why he sometimes worked on his drawings upside down.

Lempad's answered that he wanted to make the drawing perfect from all directions. This book provides ample evidence that he came as close as humanly possible to achieving that elusive goal.

### bookWORM

SIDI SALEH

## CONNECT TO THE WORLD THROUGH PRINT



Warta Kota/Nur Ichasan

Award-winning filmmaker Sidi Saleh says books are vitamins for his brain. They have become a connecting door between him and the world, through which he can try to understand other people's minds.

"Through books I can know what people are thinking and talking about; what kinds of things interest them," he said.

Sidi, who has been reading since he was very young, understands well that reading expands his thinking, which then leads to the emergence of autocriticism.

"I've learned that reading has given me greater self-awareness, allowing me to criticize myself. And that's a good way to improve yourself,"

he said. However, he does not like to read books that are too thick, saying that it takes him a long time to finish them – if he does not eventually forget to complete them.

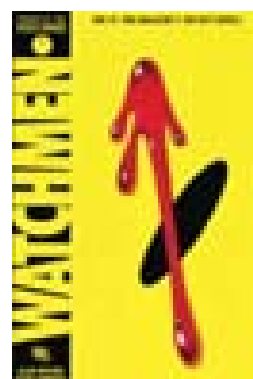
"It will take me about a year maybe to read more than 600 pages. I can finish a book in two weeks if it is less than 600, and is interesting," he said.

Sidi rose to fame when his short film *Maryam* won the Best Short Film Award at the 71<sup>st</sup> Venice International Film Festival in Italy last year.

Apart from being a director, 35-year-old Sidi is also known as a cinematographer for commercial feature-length movies.

'HISTORY OF BEAUTY'  
BY UMBERTO ECO

I never get bored of reading *History of Beauty*; I have re-read this book so many times. The text and images are very enjoyable to read. The book also becomes my reference point when I need an idea to complete my projects.



ALL WORKS BY ALAN MOORE

I'm a huge fan of Alan Moore; I have all of his works. I like *Neonomicon*, *Promethea*, *Watchmen* and others. I also have his biography. I adore him because his works are often confrontational, providing readers with lots of new visions on many things. He also writes a lot about human behavior and thanks to the illustrations, the message is well received.



BOOKS ABOUT FILMS

I first read books about film in college when I studied cinematography, and have always enjoyed them ever since. I like reading biographies of filmmakers or about the history of film. My favorite reads are, among others, *Cinemas of the Mind: A Critical History of Film Theory* by Nicole Tredell and *The Story of Film* by Mark Cousins.

— JP/NOVIA D. RULISTIA

### Guess what?



### Luna to release perfume brand

**JAKARTA:** After launching an online fashion business, actress and presenter Luna Maya will soon release a perfume line.

She said she decided to move forward with a perfume business as it had become an inseparable part of her look.

"Many celebrities use their name as a brand for their business, I want to do that too," she said as quoted by *tempo.co*.

The 31-year-old, who also likes to collect perfume, said she had been working on the trademark for her perfume for five years and already had her own perfume maker. "I hope it can be released this year," Luna, who starred in *H1Steria*, said. ■



### Zuckerberg's next book pick: 'The Better Angels'

**NEW YORK:** Mark Zuckerberg has made his next book club pick, a release he considers especially timely after the recent terrorist attacks in Paris.

The Facebook CEO announced he would take on Steven Pinker's *The Better Angels of Our Nature*, a widely discussed and occasionally criticized 2011 book that contends violence has decreased in modern times.

He posted the news on his Facebook page and on a community page he set up for his club, A Year of Books.

Two weeks ago, Zuckerberg declared he would read a new book every other week in 2015.

"Recent events might make it seem like violence and terrorism are more common than ever, so it's worth understanding that all violence – even terrorism – is actually decreasing over time. If we understand how we are achieving this, we can continue our path towards peace," Zuckerberg wrote. "A few people I trust have told me this is they've ever read." — AP

### Rossa hurts spine, going abroad for treatment

**JAKARTA:** Singer Sri Roslana "Rossa" Handiyani says she will go abroad for medical care to treat a spine injury.

"I hurt my back after I fell while wearing high heels. I have a tailbone dislocation and the pain reaches up to my neck," she said as quoted by *tribunnews.com*.

She said that after she had fallen, she could not stand up right away.

"I froze for about 10 minutes on the floor because it hurt so much. I've met a doctor to fix the tailbone but I need further treatment," said the singer of "Ayat-ayat Cinta" (Love Verses).

Nevertheless, Rossa said she would not cancel the singing contracts she had signed before the incident. "But will not take new offers as I want to focus on the treatment." ■

