

# SINGAPORE BIENNALE 2019

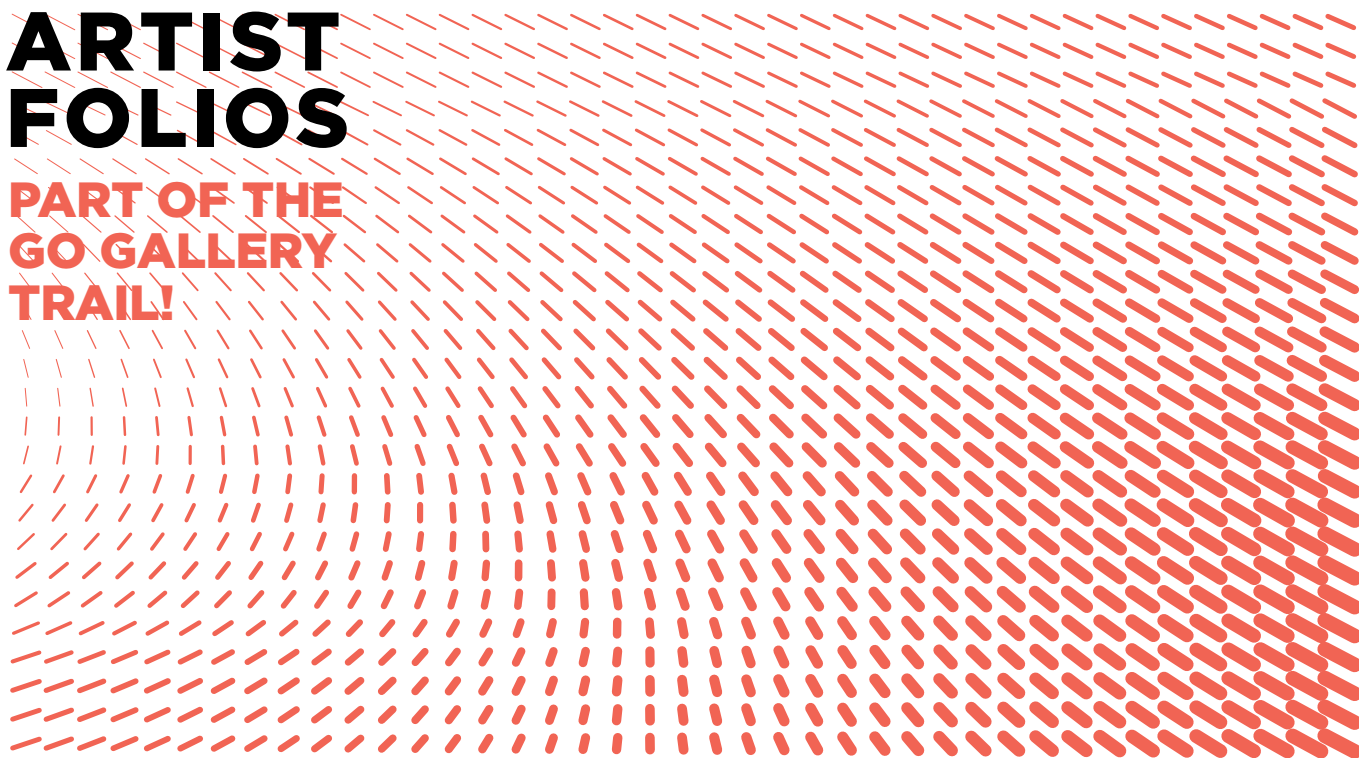
22 Nov 2019 –  
22 Mar 2020

EVERY  
STEP  
IN THE  
RIGHT  
DIRECTION

EDUCATION KIT

## ARTIST FOLIOS

PART OF THE  
GO GALLERY  
TRAIL!



## BOEDI WIDJAJA

*BLACK-HUT, BLACK-HUT*

2019

SINGAPORE

ORGANISED BY



COMMISSIONED BY



SUPPORTED BY





**THE ARTIST**

**BOEDI WIDJAJA**

- (b. 1975, Solo, Indonesia) Lives and works in Singapore, where the experiences of moving to a new country, such as loneliness and bridging multiple cultures, define much of his practice.
- Obtained his B.A. in Architectural Studies (Hons) at University of New South Wales, Sydney, and spent his young adulthood in graphic design, before turning to art in his thirties.
- The techniques, materials and tools of drawing became defining elements of his artistic practice. This is expressed through a broad range of media, from photography and text to compelling installations and 'live art', with an emphasis on process and bodily engagement. His work often refers indirectly to his life history or feelings of anxiety and isolation he experienced. The change in environment—from rural to urban—meant that urban materials such as concrete were “mentally complex” for him.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

Widjaja came to Singapore at the age of nine due to ethnic tensions in Indonesia, and the first place he lived in was Tampines New Town. Then, he lived with Singaporean families and moved 13 times.



**THE ARTWORK**

**BLACK-HUT, BLACK-HUT**  
2019

**Mixed media installation: salt-infused concrete, sound, petrified wood and metal | Dimensions variable**  
**Collection of Artist**  
**Co-commissioned with Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art for Singapore Biennale 2019 and the 9th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art**

- **MEDIUM:** Site-specific architectural-sound installation; using sounds from his hometown Solo City and building materials found in the urban landscape of Singapore. For example, Widjaja discovered that salt is found in urban concrete, Through a natural process called efflorescence, where the salt and moisture in the urban concrete migrates to the surface. The water dissipates, leaving a layer of salt on the surface. What he does in his artwork is to amplify this process.
- **TECHNIQUES / PROCESSES:** An overlay of a tropical vernacular house (traditional Malay attap built on stilts) on a symbol of Singapore modernity (National Gallery Singapore), combined with recomposed recordings of traditional Javanese gamelan percussion instruments.
- **IDEAS / INSPIRATIONS / CONTEXT:** The artwork is shaped by the specific curatorial contexts of both APT9 and SB2019, and stems from Widjaja’s ongoing artistic interrogations into what constitutes home. It also expands on the artist’s earlier explorations and projects, such as an installation titled *Black-Hut*, which was an affiliate project of Singapore Biennale 2016.

## STEP BY STEP

### PRIMARY:

ART / SOCIAL STUDIES

#### STEP 1 :: PRE-VISIT

##### RESEARCH:

*Black-Hut, Black-Hut* presented at the Singapore Biennale 2019 is the third iteration of the project. Find out more about the past two iterations and note down the similarities and differences between the first two versions.



#### STEP 2 :: AT THE ARTWORK

##### EXPLORE:

Take your time to delve into Widjaja's installation, and note down your observations of:

- The different architectural elements.
- The staircase that his artwork sits on.
- The sounds that emit from the installation.

##### CAPTURE IT:

Have fun wandering around the installation to take images of its site-specific architectural features. Consider the following:

- Try to capture the installation in a variety of lighting conditions.
- Look for a unique angle.
- Take photographs of both the fine details and the installation as a whole.
- Consider the elements of art and principles of design when taking your photographs.
- Include people in your shoot for a sense of scale!

#### STEP 3 :: POST-VISIT

##### EVALUATE & COMPARE:

Use the observational notes taken at the artwork and compare it with the previous two editions:

- What words would you use to describe the artwork?
- What can you see or recognise in this artwork?
- What are the similarities between this artwork and the previous two iterations?
- What are the differences?
- How did the artist arrange the elements in this artwork?



## **FIND OUT MORE**

### **THE ARTIST**

- <http://www.boediwidjaja.com/>

### **THE ARTWORK**

- <http://www.boediwidjaja.com/blackhut>
- <https://www.singaporebiennale.org/sb2016/black-hut.php>
- <https://www.brasbasahbugis.sg/stories-of-bbb/a-day-in-the-life-of-an-artist>
- <https://blog.qagoma.qld.gov.au/apt9-boedi-widjaja-formally-engages-with-the-galleries-architectural-space/>

### **OTHERS**

- <https://inter-mission.art/INTER-MISSION-X-BLACK-HUT>