

Press release, 18 April 2007

Children's Art Beyond All Expectations: East Bali Poverty Project & Bali Dynasty Resort Organise First Children's Art Exhibition

What does it take for an educational program to be successful, when it involves children from illiterate families who started off life malnourished and underprivileged, children who only recently obtained the option of any schooling at all?



**Alam – Nature
by I Wayan Lias**



**Kemarau – Dry Season
by I Wayan Lias**

The East Bali Poverty Project art exhibition at the Bali Dynasty Resort reveals just how well the magic ingredients of East Bali Poverty Project's education programmes do work. Starting with their first lessons in hygiene, nutrition and being on the receiving end of a

good healthy meal each day, not to mention the care and devotion of a loving and supporting community deeply involved in their own children's education, these lucky children have simply blossomed. The creativity and mastery of technique that their art reveals is far beyond that of the average child of their age. Each painting affords a delightful glimpse into Balinese rural life in the isolated villages high on the slopes between Mt. Agung and Mt. Abang.



**Pohon – Trees
by I Nengah Toya**

The children of Cegi and Pengalusan, two remote mountain hamlets with no roads, water, electricity or access to education or health care, were able to start their education in April and September 2000 respectively in part thanks to the commitment of Bali Dynasty Resort's manager, Robert Kelsall.

At that time, East Bali Poverty Project (EBPP) had no trained teachers and as the government was unable to entice them to work in this remote and inaccessible area, there was no choice but to train local villagers to teach the children.



Perayaan 17 Agustus – Independence Day Celebration by I Wayan Lias



Gotong Royong – Working Together by I Nengah Toya



Bekerja di Kebun – Working in The Garden by I Wayan Lias



Sembahyang – Praying by I Wayan Lias

For their first art class, after only 2 weeks in school, the instructions to the newly established teaching team was simply to give each child some A4 drawing paper and some coloured crayons, take them outside to look out over their beautiful and unspoilt landscape and tell them to "draw what you see and feel". Then one day in late 2001 Balinese artist Made Budhiana and some of his friends gave the children a day of their time to introduce them to art and its many mediums - another eye-opening which the children put to good use. Made has continued to volunteer from time to time primarily as a tutor to assist the children in Bunga, and he is also astounded at the children's progress.



Pergi ke Pasar – Going to The Market by I Wayan Lias

This unorthodox approach to painting tuition has obviously had remarkable success. It is documented in **“The Art of Learning by Doing”** which tells the story of the many illuminating changes the children experienced as they discovered the joys of learning. This full colour book published by Saritaksu Editions and sponsored **by the Annika Linden Foundation** was launched in September 2005 continues to be a popular buy amongst visitors to the island and locals alike -- so popular that it will soon be into its third reprint.



**Mencari Rumput –
Collecting Grass (for cow fodder)
by I Nyoman Merta**



**Panen Kentang –
Harvesting Potatoes (for lunch)
by I Nyoman Merta**

These young artists are the first generation in the history of their region to experience a curriculum which includes subjects such as health and hygiene, nutrition and organic farming, as well as art. Although they never had tuition from a qualified art teacher, the 42 paintings by the children of Cegi and Pengalusan schools included in the exhibition are a good representation of the children’s work. The children all made their own frames for this Exhibition from recycled materials (the backing is cardboard from Dancow milk cartons collected from the milk they get daily at school, and the front is bamboo off-cut waste).

- The official **Opening of the Exhibition will be at 4pm on 20th April** at Bali Dynasty Resort lobby, and there will be a dance performance by local school children to raise money for the Charity effort. The exhibition will run for two months, until 20th June.
- Optional Dinner (Malam Bali Night at Tropical Café with Authentic Balinese Buffet and Traditional Balinese Frog dance) Rp.110,000 net per person.



**Alam – Nature
by I Nengah Toya**



**Pelihara Kambing – Goat Breeding
by I Ketut Tunas**

Notes on the auction of paintings:

- The paintings will be auctioned by filling in “bid forms” at Bali Dynasty resort or on-line by filling in the Painting Auction Form at the hotel’s Reception or online at www.balidynasty.com. The successful bidders will be announced by Bali Dynasty Resort on 20th June 2007.
- The total sales achieved from all sales in this exhibition will go into the Bali Dynasty Charity Effort Kitty to further sponsor children’s education at EBPP Pengalusan School



**Pelihara Sapi – Cattle Breeding
by I Ketut Tunas**



**Tanam Bambu – Planting Bamboo
by I Ketut Tunas**



**Belajar Melukis – Learning to Paint
by I Ketut Tunas**



**Alam – Nature
by I Wayan Ngetis**



**Membuat Anyaman –
Making Woven Baskets
by I Wayan Ngetis**



**Panen Vetiver –
Harvesting Vetiver Grass
by I Nengah Kumpul**



Bermain – Playing
by I Nengah Kumpul



Bekerja di Kebun – Working in The Garden
by I Wayan Murta



Membersihkan Lingkungan – Cleaning The Environment
by I Nyoman Alit



Berkebun – Gardening
by I Putu Dana

PAINTING BY PENGALUSAN CHILDREN



Bermain & Bernyanyi – Playing & Singing
by Luh Sekar



Bantu Ibu – Helping Mother
by Luh Sekar



Sembahyang – Praying
by I Ketut Budi



Tanam Pisang – Planting Banana Tree
by I Ketut Budi



Bawa Banten –
Taking Offering (to the temple)
by I Nengah Sudana



Membuat Anyaman –
Making Woven Basket
by I Nengah Sudana



Periksa Gigi –
Dental Health Examination
by I Nengah Sudana



**Periksa Kehamilan –
Pregnancy Check-up
by Ni Wayan Ngetis**



**Makan Makanan Bergizi –
Eating Nutritious Food
by Ni Wayan Ngetis**



**Membantu Memasak –
Helping to Cook
by Ni Wayan Ngetis**



**Belajar Menggambar –
Learning to Paint
by I Nyoman Nawi**



**Upacara – Ceremony
by I Nyoman Nawi**



**Memelihara Cacing –
Organic Worm Breeding (for casting)
by I Wayan Nuadi**



**Belajar Karate –
Karate Class
by I Wayan Nuadi**



**Memotong Rumput Vetiver –
Cutting Vetiver Grass
by I Wayan Dite**



**Belajar Bahasa Inggris –
Learning English
by I Wayan Dite**



**Mencari Kayu Bakar –
Collecting Wood for The Fire (for cooking)
by I Wayan Dite**

(photographs of paintings kindly done by Saritaksu's photographer Don Jensen)*

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