

LIVING AS CLAY



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LIVING AS CLAY

An art program and exhibition connecting clay with the social mindset in Jatiwangi.

Curated by
Another Public (Denmark)

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In collaboration with
Jatiwangi Art Factory

Jatiwangi
artFactory

Part of
Indonesia Contemporary
Ceramics Biennale #5 2019



Participating artists

Emil Krog Rasmussen (Denmark)
Jesper Aabile (Denmark)
Christian Elovora Dinesen (Denmark)

Local partners

Puskesmas Hospital Jatiwangi
Al Mizan Islamic Boarding School
Pasar Ciborelang

Supported by

The Danish Arts Council

**DANISH ARTS
FOUNDATION**

Danish Embassy in Jakarta



EMBASSY OF DENMARK
Jakarta

October 2019

Imagine clay shaping social attitude

Living as Clay is an art project in Jatiwangi that encourages you to use your imagination. It kindly asks you to imagine, that there is an invisible connection between clay – the local material that Jatiwangi is famous for – and the community mindset shaping social life and attitude in the city. Why? Because it is important to speculate and wonder. And because it might be true, that the materials that surround and connect us physically and historically also shape the way we live our lives – the way we see the world, each other and the values that effect our decisions and daily actions. That's why.

The way the project unfolds is like this. Together with Jatiwangi Art Factory I invited three artists from Denmark to respond to the idea of clay as a community mentality in the context of three different places in Jatiwangi: Al Mizan Islamic Boarding School,

the local hospital and the traditional market. In these places life in Jatiwangi is continuously shaped and performed. They are community catalyzers that in different ways shape life in Jatiwangi. Looking at these sites, through the lens of clay as a kind of social super glue connecting people mentally and socially, was the challenge given to the artists. The result is three different art works, that tap into Jatiwangi daily life and makes you wonder, what actions, behaviors and attitudes makes Jatiwangi Jatiwangi? They don't make any conclusions, but simply invites you to envision that clay is not only marking physical landscapes but mental and social landscapes too.

Thank you for playing along :)

Amalie Frederiksen
Curator, Another Public



What is value?

For his art work Fruit Tile Trading Station, artist Jesper Aabille rents a booth at Ciborelang Market in Jatiwangi. From there he invites shoppers and sellers to trade real fruit in exchange for fruit tiles; sliced fruit combinations hand painted on roof tiles. If for example one customer gives one watermelon and a banana, Jesper will agree to paint one watermelon and a banana on a roof tile and give it to the customer in exchange. The project mimics the social and economic system at the market where people hang out and meet each other while buying food to bring back home.

The roof tiles original function as money based trade object is turned into a conversation about the value of the market as a social space often used for unformal hang out, gossiping and sharing stories. Inviting the costumers to freely define the value of the roof tiles in fruit, Jesper asks the question: How is value created? And points towards Jatiwangi as a place where social life and chit chats might rank higher than money and profit. The project ends with an open ceremony in the market booth where all the traders can come and pick up their fruit tile order and eat fruit together.





What is health?

Artist Christian Elovora Dinesen transforms the kids food consulting room at the hospital into a visual and humorous art installation called Super Food. It taps into the issue of stunting which is used to describe malnutrition among kids in Jatiwangi, an issue that the hospital deals with through counseling families in food's nutritional values. In his project Christian turns this difficult and heavy health issue into a playful and aesthetic conversation and campaign focusing on food and health as more than just a matter of nutrition, but also a

matter of imagination, play and togetherness. The installation consists of several sculptures imitating kids' collective selection of food they would consider as super food. The kid's super food selection is shown as oversized, intensely multicolored clay food piles, decorated with glitchy stickers and blinking led light. In Super Food Christian uses clay to mirror the Jatiwangi kids relation to health and food and taps into Jatiwangi's characteristic sense of humor and collectivity as a step stone to talk about healthy ways of living.





**# I AM
SUPERFOOD**

What is education?

Emil Krog Rasmussen invites kids from the Al Mizan Islamic Boarding School to make a huge multi-colored chain out of clay with him to be installed in the school yard as a festoon. Through a series of workshops each student makes their own individual clay chain. It's an exercise that requires concentration and care and fosters emotional connection to the clay through the creative process. Each student's chain is linked together with the classmates' chains. Finally all the classes' chains are tied together into a long chain, that they collectively install in the

school yard; Planting the chain in the earth and letting it grow organically up and around the trees. The title of the sculpture is Connected Clay referring to the school kids' mental connection to the clay, to the school and to each other. The sculpture transforms clay into a metaphor for the educational system pointing towards the importance of emotional connections and collective caring as well as the fragile structure of the community. Emil encourages the students to water the sculpture regularly – as a symbolic reminder to take care of each other and the systems that connect us.





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