Hongkong Land Unveils **Parallel Worlds**

*A major exhibition showcasing contemporary art and archaeology at The Rotunda, Exchange Square*

HONG KONG, 1st September 2015 – Hongkong Land today celebrated the launch of **Parallel Worlds: Where Art & Archaeology Collide**, a major exhibition inviting audiences into an imaginative sphere where science and the arts meet. The exhibition is presented in collaboration with the Bandung Geology Museum of Indonesia, together with Indonesian artists Ms Kinez Riza and Mr Rudi Hartono, and weaves large-scale fossil reproductions, contemporary photography and sculptures into a cohesive narrative. **Parallel Worlds** will be open for public view at The Rotunda, Exchange Square in Central from 1st to 18th September 2015.

“We are grateful to our partners at the Bandung Geology Museum and the artists for sharing their national collections and art with our audience,” said Mr Y K Pang, Chief Executive of Hongkong Land. “Art has always been a pillar of Hongkong Land’s vision, and over the decades, we have enriched our property portfolio with a permanent collection of world-class artworks, complemented by a strong exhibition programme. It is our pleasure to once again provide a platform for this unique exhibition and to create meaningful exchange with our partners from Indonesia.”

**Parallel Worlds** assembles 21 exhibits covering a number of geologic periods. A highlight of the exhibition is a reproduction fossil of an elephant head, estimated to be 165,000 years old. Concurrently, a replica of an important ammonite fossil dating back to 161.2 to 145.5 million years ago is also on display. These archaeological discoveries have, in their own right, provided significant contributions to the world of science, impacting the study of evolutionary biology, palaeontology, anthropology and beyond. In parallel, celebrated Indonesian artists Ms Kinez Riza and Mr Rudi Hartono have created artworks in response to the phenomenal findings derived from the study of these significant artefacts. The juxtaposition of artefacts and art creates stimulating dialogue and offers an immersive experience into the previously undiscovered.

“I am delighted that this collaboration with Hongkong Land has already created a momentous cross-cultural dialogue,” said Mr Halmi Insani, Museum Curator for Quaternary Vertebrates Palaeontology Division, the Bandung Geology Museum. “It is important that we provide global access to our scientific findings, archaeological artefacts and visual arts. We sincerely hope that the audience in Hong Kong will find the exhibition engaging, creative and thought-provoking.”

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Parallel Worlds invites the public on a contemplative journey of education, enquiry and enjoyment. Bringing rare archaeological findings and Indonesian art to Hong Kong, the exhibition highlights the value of natural and cultural resources, enhancing public awareness on the importance of geo-heritage preservation and conservation. Through this unique collaboration, Hongkong Land connects the realms of science, nature, and creativity to present an exhibition that explores trans-disciplinary perspectives of viewing the world.

Photo caption 1:

Mr James Robinson, Executive Director and Art Committee Chairman of Hongkong Land gives the welcome speech for "Parallel Worlds: Where Art & Archaeology Collide" at The Rotunda, Exchange Square.
Photo caption 2:

Officiating guests join Mr James Robinson (far right), Executive Director and Art Committee Chairman of Hongkong Land in celebrating the opening at the toasting ceremony: (left to right) Mr Chalief Akbar, Consul General of Indonesia in Hong Kong, Ms Sandra Walters, exhibition curator, artist Mr Rudi Hartono, artist Ms Kinez Riza, Mr Halmi Insani, Museum Curator for Quaternary Vertebrates Palaeontology Division of the Bandung Geology Museum of Indonesia, and Ms Deborah Iskandar, exhibition curator.

Photo caption 3:

Guests admire the replicas of ancient fossils.
Photo caption 4:

Guest listens attentively to the artist and curator explaining their creative process.

Photo caption 5:

Artist Ms Kinez Riza is conducting a final check of one of her photographs, *Dwarf Elephant (Stegodon Trigonocephalus)* (2014), at Hongkong Land’s *Parallel Worlds: Where Art & Archaeology Collide* exhibition.

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Photo caption 6:

Artist Mr Rudi Hartono is conducting a final check of one of his sculptures, Dancer (2015), at Hongkong Land’s Parallel Worlds: Where Art & Archaeology Collide exhibition.

Photo caption 7:

Mr Halmi Insani, Museum Curator for Quaternary Vertebrates Palaeontology Division, the Bandung Geology Museum (right), with Elephas hysudrindicus / The Blora Elephant (replica), is guiding the installation process at Hongkong Land’s Parallel Worlds: Where Art & Archaeology Collide exhibition.
Hongkong Land

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About the Bandung Geology Museum

Founded in 1928, the Bandung Geology Museum holds the largest collection of geological artefacts in Indonesia. The institutional anthology contains specialised regional specimens ranging from rocks to minerals to fossils, illustrating the rich geological features and natural history of this great archipelago nation.

Parallel Worlds features two important fossil replicas from the museum’s permanent collection; the first is the Elephas hysudrindicus, the discovery of this of ancient elephant has imparted significant contributions to the study of evolution, and is expected to provide the missing link on the interactions between early human, Homo Erectus Soloensis and the animal kingdom, as well as the macro environment. The second fossil replica featured is Perisphinctes supremus SUTNER, an ammonite from the late Jurassic era. This type of fossils is of central importance in Palaeontology, serving as key age determining references, and being used for reconstructing ancient marine assemblages.
About Kinez Riza

Kinez Riza (b.1989) is a multi-disciplinary Indonesian artist. Her practice combines photography, film, objects and artefacts and explores representations of reality in correlation to nature, time and the Sublime. Through her works, Riza attempts to disseminate notions of reality within the human faculty to dismantle certain truths that are largely accepted. She combines discourses from the arts and sciences in her work and considers the tension between the two. A large part of her practice involves artist-led expeditions, individually led or with artistic and scientific institutions.

Riza has been exhibited in Art Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Unseen Photo Fair, Amsterdam, D Gallerie, Indonesia amongst others. She was the youngest artist to be nominated for the Sovereign Art Prize. She also participated with Land Art Mongolia 360° Biennale (2014) in the Orkhon Valley cultural landscape and The Arctic Circle residency programme (2013). She has been working closely with members of University of Wollongong and Griffiths University, Australia, as well as other archaeologists and palaeontologists, helping them to document their findings in return for access to subject and context for her work. Her coverage of the world’s oldest cave art in Sulawesi has been published widely by the international media.

About Rudi Hartono

Rudi Hartono (b. 1975) is an Indonesian artist also known as Rudy Crystal, engages with the role of the man, the natural world and the proliferation of civilisation in his work. A sculptor who exclusively utilises stone as his medium, Hartono’s oeuvre demonstrates a profound interest in materiality, layered human histories and the pursuit of aesthetic ideals.

Hartono’s artistic process begins with and is derived from rare geological materials, including chalcedony, lapis lazuli, jade, amethyst, serpentine, rainbow obsidian, black obsidian, opalised wood, brown jasper, and many more. Each of his creations is embedded and empowered with a unique spirituality, formed from his ability to integrate the original character of each ancient stone with a contemporary concept. The resulting new sculptural forms seek to evoke dialogues of sensitivity, feelings, and imagination.

The Art Rock Series exhibited in Parallel Worlds represents a vision to bridge the past and the present, as well as the arts and the sciences. Rocks, artefacts, and fossils are traces of past civilisations, and in the artist’s hand they are burnished with new lives and narratives. Glorifying gemstones are disclosing civilisation.

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