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**Haris Purnomo: Visual Poetry**

Artist's Reception at CoCA Ballard October 13, 6-9pm  
Installation Unveiling at CoCA Belltown October 13, 8:30pm, webcast live at [www.cocaseattle.org](http://www.cocaseattle.org)  
Exhibition on view in both locations October 13- November 14, 2009

**Seattle, Washington, October 3, 2009** – CoCA, Seattle's Center on Contemporary Art, is pleased to introduce the work of acclaimed Indonesian artist Haris Purnomo to the Pacific Northwest.

A graduate of Sekolah Tinggi Seni Rupa College of Fine art, Yogyakarta, Purnomo recently re-emerged, more than 30 years after shaking up the Jakarta art scene with the rebellious Kepribadian Apa ("Pipa") art movement.

Tattooed babies pervade the content of Purmono's work. "Each Indonesian child, newly born, carries the burden and debts of our past deeds", he says. "...a baby, whoever its parents are, is a new human being, so that we can invest our hopes in children. I am perhaps too pessimistic to expect anything from 'old human beings'. There is something good in thinking a thief getting caught and sent to jail is important, but it is more significant to ensure that children will not become thieves".

After showing in New York and Miami last year, Purmono returned to his native Indonesia with a tour-de-force show this year at Bentara Budaya in Jakarta, featuring the same paintings and the monumental installation of 100 life-size babies that CoCA now brings to Seattle.

CoCA Curator, Joseph Roberts met Purmono at the Art Basel/Miami fairs last December. In his essay for the catalogue that accompanies the shows in both Jakarta and Seattle, CoCA Curator Joseph Roberts admits, "I was totally unprepared for what I saw. I had neither the benefit nor curse of context. A series of life size babies floating like cocoons in a spider web if viewed from afar; more like sublime spirits viewed at closer range.... I don't know whether I should be afraid of or in love with Haris Purmono's work - and I am afraid to ask; but I do, over and over again. Purmono's work is beautifully haunting and strangely timeless." Roberts decided that day in Miami that he had to bring this work to Seattle. With the kind help of Fanny Pratjojo, of Jakarta based FPA Gallery, now he has.

Preparing to enter its 30th year, CoCA serves as a catalyst and forum for the advancement, development and understanding of contemporary art.