

## **Launch of the +E program**

### **The new mentorship initiative by ellipse art projects dedicated to the emerging female creation**

Following the ellipse prize, ellipse art projects reinforces its actions in favor of the young creation with a new mentorship program devoted to women artists.

The exhibition of the first selected artist will be held during the 17<sup>th</sup> Lyon Biennial as part of the *Jeune création internationale program*, in partnership with the Institut d'art contemporain of Villeurbanne and the MAC Lyon.

Already known for its commitment to emerging scenes with the ellipse prize - four successive editions dedicated to Senegal, Ivory Coast, Togo and Benin in 2024 - the endowment fund also supports young female talents.

Last November a collective exhibition entitled « Bhinneka Tunggal Ika », the national motto of Indonesia meaning « Unity in Diversity », was held in Jakarta. Gathering 12 Indonesian artists, the event was curated by independent curator Farah Wardani, in partnership with Kompas Gramedia group and Deka Kom.

As the first milestone in the new +E program, this ground-breaking exhibition enabled a committee of experts to select the first beneficiary: Inès Katamso, a multi-disciplinary Franco-Indonesian artist. As part of the +E mentorship she will receive support from Farah Wardani and ellipse art projects, including a residency in France at the Institut d'art contemporain in Villeurbanne, to achieve an exhibition project. This production will be presented in the *Jeune création internationale program* in September 2024 on the occasion of the Lyon Biennial.

### **The +E program**

Banner for the feminization of words in the French language, the letter "E" is also the first letter in the monogram of the endowment fund, whose goal through this program is to bring "+" (more) visibility and "+" recognition to female expression.

All-female, this brand-new project aims to create a dialogue between an experienced mentor and a young artist to support her in a professional development project raising visibility of her work.

Each year, the selected artist benefits from a residency in France to create an original work, then presented at a major contemporary art event.

### **An expert mentor**

As part of this first edition, ellipse art projects has invited a specialist of the Indonesian scene Farah Wardani. Art historian and passionate curator from Indonesia, she has contributed to several projects highlighting the contemporary creation of South-East Asia. Specialist in the Indonesian art scene, she was the artistic director of the Jakarta Biennial in 2021 and participated to the publication "Indonesian Women Artists: The Curtain Opens" in 2007. A visionary committed to the younger generation, Farah Wardani has also curated many exhibitions.

### **An emerging artist**

The first beneficiary of the +E program is Inès Katamso, a multi-disciplinary artist graduated from La Calade fashion and textile school in Marseille. Born in 1990 in Yogyakarta, Inès Katamso began her career creating murals before turning to smaller formats, giving her access to a more intimate. From morphogenesis of bacteria to the observation of micro-organisms, and fossils study, Inès Katamso's artistic practice aims to dissect the whole concept of existence. By an organic visual approach, the artist materializes the complexity of interactions between science, spirituality and personal identity.



Farah Wardani and Inès Katamso, Bali, Indonesia, March 2024

## Institutional Partners

In order to consolidate its commitment, ellipse art projects joins forces with partners at each edition to increase its capacity for action.

The partners of this first edition are:

- **The Lyon Biennial**, Lyon
- **The Institut d'art contemporain**, Villeurbanne
- **The Musée d'Art Contemporain**, Lyon

## ellipse art projects

ellipse art projects was created in 2020 by Ellipse Projects, a European company specialized in cutting-edge infrastructure in the health and digital sectors, operating mainly in West Africa and South-East Asia.

Culture is a key element of the Sustainable Development Goals established by the UN since 2015. A real lever of sustainability promoting economic growth and social inclusion, it is undeniably weakened by the lack of support for artists, initiatives and structures working for its dissemination, promotion and protection.

In the wake of the geographical establishment of the founding company Ellipse Projects, the ellipse art projects endowment fund aims to foster exchanges within territories through art by encouraging the sharing of knowledge and dialogue between cultures.

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