

[The Hague artists](#)

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Some information on this page is only available in Dutch

Marcos Kueh

High Entertainment Value, Low Cost Margin

Marcos Kueh (b. 1995, Sarawak) is a textile artist who has a background in graphic design and advertising. Growing up in a post-colonial developing country, he has always been fascinated about his identity as Malaysian and his place in the larger discourses in the West. His practice is about safeguarding contemporary legends onto textiles; to use fibres to string bits of day-to-day narratives he encounters for storytelling - just as the ancestors of Borneo did with their dreams and legends, before the arrival of written alphabets from the West. In many of his artistic research projects, he explores the spectacle of how his country is being perceived, from colonial descriptions in anthropological museums around the world, to marketing texts in tourism advertisements, versus his lived experiences as a human from a small town in Borneo, navigating through mundane expectations to progress as a modern citizen in a gradual, uniform, globalized world. Adapting from the fundamentals of traditional graphic design craftsmanship and the smart wits of advertising philosophies, Marcos describes his works as woven posters and billboards. Using keywords that relate to the third-world such as laborious, complicated, traditional and slow, he meticulously crafts his larger than life posters that describe a world where the subject matter is of the other, and messages take time and considerable effort to construct. Through his work, he wishes for the public to reconsider how we fashion our reality through the visual and text messages that we consume – how it affects the way we see and speak to ourselves and how we perceive and describe others. In-between the lines, beyond all the bright colours and entertaining visuals, his works are desperate attempts to call for us to see each other as human.

Websites

www.instagram.com/marcoslah/

Social media

www.instagram.com/marcoslah/

Education

- 2018 - 2022
Bachelors in Textile Design Den Haag, Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende Kunsten diploma

exhibitions

- 2024
ArtSG 2024 Marina Bay Sands Singapore, Singapore This installation consists of what, in textile terms, are called a woven “billboard” (the longest work), a pair of woven “banners” (the medium-long works), and a pair of woven “postcards” (the smallest works), which all come together to make a woven assemblage collectively titled Nenek Moyang, which means “ancestor” in Malay. The works are part of Kenyalang Circus, a series of colourful, fluorescent textile works made with industrial weaving machines by Marcos Kueh, a young graphic and textile artist from Malaysia who’s rapidly become an exciting name to watch.

The series sees Kueh grappling with searing questions over his own identity as a Chinese-Malaysian from Borneo who currently lives among Europeans in The Netherlands. Many of the imagery in the series draws from Malaysian and Bornean imagery, coupled with the crude imagery of street advertisements, multinational brand logos, and fluorescent threads —satirising the way that the diverse cultures of Borneo are exoticised and misunderstood by Westerners and Peninsula Malaysians alike. artsg.com/platform/woven-billboards-nenek-moyang-part-of-the-kenyalang-circus-series/ Group

- 2024

Between the Lines Appetite Singapore Singapore, Singapore Between The Lines explores how contemporary artists engage with the medium of textile. One of the oldest forms of artmaking, textile has drifted in and out of the margins of art history, often sidelined as 'women's work' or 'craft'. The recent resurgence of interest in this medium may be attributed to a consideration of modes of artmaking and cultural expression outside of a Western modernist paradigm, and precipitated by the global pandemic lockdowns and rapid digitalization of the world which prompted a renewed interest in tactility and the handmade. appetitesg.com/event/between_the_lines/ Group

- 2024

The Missing Link: Exploring Tradition in Contemporary Art Practice Mizuma Gallery Singapore, Singapore As a continuation of his past project, Post Tradition: Revisiting and the Future of Balinese Painting (2023), curator Hermanto Soerjanto further explores his hypothesis that the "Post Tradition" art movement is based on a missing link in art history. Unlike the development of Western art that has a clear path in their history and advancement of human civilization from the Baroque era to the Contemporary, the development of Indonesian art took a big leap from the traditional art to the modern Western art that we adopted. In his 2023 exhibition, the curator focused on contemporary Balinese art, presenting artworks from contemporary Indonesian artists whose works are based on the tradition of Balinese art. In this exhibition, he would like to expand his discussion on the practice of "Post Tradition" to artists not only from Indonesia, but also from Malaysia and China. mizuma-art.co.jp/en/exhibitions/alexander-sebastianus-hartanto-du-kun-indieguerillas-i-nyoman-arisana-kuncir-sathya-viku-marcos-kueh-the-missing-link-exploring-tradition-in-contemporary-art-practice/ Group

- 2024

Devo(lu)tion Brutus Rotterdam Rotterdam, Netherlands Devo(lu)tion is a duo exhibition by the Malaysian textile artist Marcos Kueh and the Dutch glass artist Emmy van de Grift. It is a dramatic interplay between the Eastern gods infected by capitalism in Kueh's intricate tapestries and the Western gods consumed by fungi in Van de Grift's delicate glass works. The tension between the two worlds questions the politics of the ever-changing ideologies of our devotions and the duality of it all - from the nuanced connotations to the complicated power plays. brutus.nl/nl/programma/programma/devolution/ Duo

- 2024

Art Rotterdam 2024 Van Nelle Fabriek Rotterdam, Netherlands Galerie Ron Mandos is delighted to be part of the 25th edition of Art Rotterdam, marking not only the fair's milestone anniversary but also celebrating our own 25th year in the art world. This year's showcase promises to be exceptionally memorable as we commemorate this dual achievement with a special Best of Graduates Legacy presentation, an exhibition featuring 25 young artists who have participated in our Best of Graduates program over the past 5 years. What began as a platform to support recently graduated artists has evolved into an artistic institution over seventeen years. Our exhibitions act as a springboard for emerging talent, garnering recognition through partnerships like collaborations with Museum Voorlinden and participation in a Residency program with BRUTUS. This trajectory has become an indispensable part of the gallery's mission and therefore cannot be absent from our jubilee program. At Art Rotterdam, we unveil new works by these 25 emerging artists, offering visitors a glimpse into their artistic development. ronmandos.nl/art_fair/art-

[rotterdam-2024/](#) Group

- 2024

Analog Festival 2024 Grafisch Werkplaats Den Haag The Hague, Netherlands Dit jaar is het 50 jaar geleden dat de Grafische Werkplaats Den Haag werd opgericht. Een groep kunstenaars kraakte toen het pand waar de werkplaats nog steeds is gevestigd. Het festival Analog 74-24 viert dit feit én kijkt vooruit met een uitgebreid programma rond activisme en community. Vanaf 9 mei zijn er exposities, presentaties en workshops in de Grafische Werkplaats, West Den Haag, Design Museum Dedel en Page Not Found. Sinds 1974 is de Grafische Werkplaats hét makers- en expertisecentrum voor grafische druktechnieken in Den Haag. Je kan hier terecht om te werken of te leren, maar ook om collega's te ontmoeten, tentoonstellingen te zien en de nieuwste ontwikkelingen rond grafiek te volgen. Het twee-jaarlijkse festival Analog is een van de hoofdactiviteiten van de Werkplaats en draait om ruimte voor experiment, talentontwikkeling en kennisuitwisseling tussen jonge en gevestigde kunstenaars. Dit jaar vindt een speciale editie plaats in het kader van 50 jaar Grafische Werkplaats: Analog 74-24.

www.grafischewerkplaats.nl/werkplaats/analog/ Group

- 2023

Secrets of Making 3 Textile Museum Tilburg, Netherlands A hands-on exhibition exploring how artists and designers translate their ideas into marvellous textiles in our TextielLab.

textielmuseum.nl/en/tentoonstellingen/secrets-of-making-3-for-the-whole-family Group

- 2023

Armory Show 2023 Jarvits Center New York, United States About the fair Fair images Fair artworks About the artists Related The Armory Show 2023 ABOUT THE FAIR Galerie Ron Mandos is thrilled to be part of The Armory Show 2023 in New York. Joining us on this journey are Isaac Julien, Remy Jungerman, Hadassah Emmerich, Marcos Kueh, Daniel Arsham, Erwin Olaf, and Bouke de Vries, each of whom brings a uniquely captivating and critical perspective to the realm of contemporary art. With their thought-provoking explorations of postcolonial identity, representations of the exotic, and innovative artistic expressions, our exhibition promises to be a celebration of creativity and cultural dialogue.

ronmandos.nl/art_fair/the-armory-show-2023/ Group

- 2023

My Oma Kunstinstituut Melly Rotterdam, Netherlands My Oma is a curatorial project focusing on the figure of the grandmother. The project overall explores personal and cultural legacies mobilized by affection as much as by conflict. It convenes artists and narratives, as well as artworks and theory that articulate central issues of our time: experiences of immigration, dissonant heritage, and changing gender roles.

www.kunstinstituutmelly.nl/en/experience/7288-my-oma Group

- 2023

Ghost Reading WEST Den Haag The Hague, Netherlands In the context of the Apprentice Master program by Kunstpodium T, the 5 participating artists in this exhibition have shared time and thoughts over the last 6 months. For this exhibition, which is the result of a group process, they have invited curator Haris Giannouras to formulate thoughts and associations about their conversations.

westdenhaag.nl/exhibitions/23_05_Ghost_Reading Group

- 2023

Between Borders Museum Arnhem Arnhem, Netherlands All over the world, people move across borders. In the 21st century, people are migrating more than ever for a variety of political, economic and environmental reasons. At the same time, getting around is becoming increasingly difficult for many people. How difficult, or easy, it is, is often determined by your passport. Where are you welcome and where not? And when you are in another country, when do you feel at home? In the exhibition Between Borders, artists, fashion and jewelry designers and Arnhemmers provide answers to these questions.

www.museumarnhem.nl/nl/tentoonstellingen/tussen-grenzen Group

- 2023
Tanah Merdeka Framer Framed Amsterdam, Netherlands The exhibition Tanah Merdeka brings together works by the Indonesian art collective Taring Padi and various collaborators to reflect on the concept of land and its socio-political implications through a cross-cultural network of solidarity. During the exhibition, their collaborations will also take form in an extensive public program and newly developed artworks. Tanah Merdeka is presented by Framer Framed in partnership with Brazilian Jewish cultural centre Casa do Povo. framerframed.nl/en/exposities/expositie-tanah-merdeka/ Group
- 2023
Robe bleu, fond rouge #2 Quartair The Hague, Netherlands Robe bleu, fond rouge #2 – Onder dezelfde naam vindt iedere twee jaar in mei een tentoonstelling plaats in de ruimte van Quartair. De tentoonstelling wordt samengesteld door de kunstenaars Nies Vooijs, Annemieke Louwerens en Pietertje van Splunter en geeft iedere twee jaar een update op de staat van de schilderkunst gezien vanuit Den Haag. www.quartair.nl/events/ Group
- 2023
Armory Show 2023 JAVITS CENTER New York, United States A cornerstone of New York's cultural landscape since its founding in 1994, The Armory Show brings the world's leading international contemporary and modern art galleries to New York each year. The fair plays a leading role in the city's position as an important cultural capital through elevated presentations, thoughtful programming, curatorial leadership, meaningful institutional partnerships, and engaging public art activations. www.thearmoryshow.com/ Group
- 2023
UNKNOWN ASIA 2023 Knowledge Capital Congrès Convention Center Osaka, Japan UNKNOWN ASIA 2023 is a vibrant and diverse art fair that brings together artists from Japan and various Asian countries to showcase their works in Osaka. Since its inception in 2015, UNKNOWN ASIA has provided numerous opportunities for artists to connect with galleries, collectors, and fans, helping to support their sustainable artistic endeavors. unknownasia.net/ Group
- 2023
Textile biennale - Images of Power Museum Rijswijk Rijswijk, Netherlands The Textile Biennale 2023. Images of Power is an international exhibition of high-quality and substantively strong contemporary visual art in which textiles as a material play the leading role. In recent years, a topical and substantive theme has been linked to the biennales that addresses the most pressing issues we face worldwide. Climate change, our relationship to food, being at home/having a home and transition were the themes of the past three years. www.museumrijswijk.nl/tentoonstelling-textiel-biennale-2023-images-of-power-260 Group
- 2022
municipal art acquisitions Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Netherlands The Stedelijk Museum announces the designers and artists for the upcoming Municipal Art Acquisition Project 2022, co-curated by Amanda Pinatih and Britte Sloothak. The Municipal Art Acquisitions Project takes place every two years and invites makers living and working in the Netherlands to respond to an open call, followed by a jury selection and a group exhibition. Part of the work shown is purchased for the museum collection. This year's open call was open to designers and artists with projects including objects or sculptures. www.stedelijk.nl/en/exhibitions/municipal-art-acquisitions-2022-2023 Group
- 2022
The Best of Graduates 2022 Gallery Ron Mandos Amsterdam, Netherlands Galerie Ron Mandos proudly present Best of Graduates 2022, the fifteenth edition of the annual exhibition bringing together the work of the most promising young artists based in the Netherlands. To celebrate the fifteenth jubilee edition, we have designed a special program with festive events ronmandos.nl/exhibition/best-of-graduates-2022/ Group

- 2022
TRANSCROSSING IDENTITIES Kazerne Eindhoven, Netherlands As time goes by, our environment changes constantly, cyclically. The contemplative installation by designer Theo Colin is a manifestation of temporality, emphasizing the preciousness and transience of life on earth. Salt crystals grow and dissolve again. A frozen moment.
kazerne.com/en/design/current-exhibition/transcrossing-identities-neenee-collective/ Group
- 2022
This Far and Further Voorlinden Museum Wassenaar, Netherlands How can we paint a hopeful picture for the future together in these bizarre times? Museum Voorlinden is marking time in the new collection exhibition Until here and beyond and shows how artists are exploring other avenues. Thanks to their imagination, you will also long for a new perspective and want to contribute to change. The exhibition is now on view!
www.voorlinden.nl/tentoonstelling/tot-hier-en-verder/ Group
- 2022
Best of Graduates | Tweede Kamer House of Representatives of the Netherlands (Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal) The Hague, Netherlands The exhibition is in collaboration with the Ron Mandos Young Blood Foundation. It includes works from the “Best of Graduates” of the past four years. Every year the foundation we bring together the work of the most talented young artists graduated from Dutch art academies. The exhibition stems from an initiative of MPs Jorien Wuite (D66) and Pim van Strien (VVD). They submitted a motion on April 22, 2022, stating that beginning artists in particular have been hit hard by the corona pandemic because they have had less opportunity to show their work to a wider audience. The MPs asked the Presidium, the executive committee of the House of Representatives, in cooperation with the Arts Committee, to give these artists a stage. “The cultural and creative sector should be more involved in social issues,” they wrote in the motion, which passed by a large majority. ronmandos.nl/exhibition/best-of-graduates-tweede-kamer/ Group
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Dutch Design Awards - Young Designer 2023 Dutch Design Week Eindhoven We want recognise and celebrate this impact. Dutch Design Awards (DDA) has been leading in the recognition of excellent Dutch design for years. DDA not only looks to the future, but also to the past: to our design traditions and the significant impact the Dutch design mentality has on the world. Dutch design is now a global concept and perhaps even a figure of speech. Our aim as an organisation goes much further than rewarding the best design: we want the discussion about Dutch design to continue. We therefore use openness and curiosity to facilitate exchanges between designers and curators, audience and professionals. In doing so, we can continue to emphasise the desired impact of design on society and thus further contribute to the development of the profession. Dutch Design Awards came into being in 2003 thanks to the BNO and DesignLink. The DDA office has been located in the design capital of Eindhoven since 2005. With the competition, the Award Show and an exhibition, DDA presents and rewards the very best in the field of Dutch design and brings winners into the attention of professional colleagues, the press and a wider audience. DDA is part of the Dutch Design Foundation and forms one of the highlights of Dutch Design Week, that attracts over 350,000 visitors every year.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-q1l-shOXU&ab_channel=DutchDesignFoundation

Projects

- 2023
MINI Art Car Ron Mandos Amsterdam, Netherlands www.instagram.com/p/CtBeEOEtBKC/
In collaboration with Interhouse, Van Poelgeest, and The Ron Mandos Young Blood Foundation, KENYALANG CIRCUS takes the wheel to spread colorful joy on what it means to be resilient with a personality, to embrace the power of being the oddity and to celebrate

shared values from the East to the West.

- 2022
Advance Textile Program 2022 TextielLab Tilburg, Netherlands textiellab.nl/en/open-call-advanced-textile-program-textiellab/ TextielLab aims to become the ideal learning and working environment for makers. As part of this ambition, we want to support young professional artists and designers with an interest in textiles, through specialized additional training in the early stages of their careers. With Expertise & Experiment, the new advanced textile program at TextielLab, we invite an international group of recent graduates to develop their skills and experience on a professional level. Participants will be given access to the resources and facilities of the TextielMuseum and TextielLab and the guidance of an inspiring group of experts, or 'masters' through workshops, lectures and more.
- 2022
Kunstpodium T: Apprentice Master kunstpodium Tilburg, Netherlands kunstpodium-t.com/meer-over-apprentice-master/ The Apprentice Master program supports and motivates newly graduated artists at the start of their professional career. During this project they are supported by renowned artists, the Masters, in exploring their professional possibilities. The project started in 2007 as the Apprentice/Master program. When international academies entered the 2014/2015 season, the name was changed to Apprentice Master and English was used as the official language. The project is characterized by three core values that we see as essential for talent development in the visual arts: experiment, knowledge exchange and community.

International exchanges/Residencies

- 2022
BRUTUS Rotterdam Rotterdam, Netherlands A graduate of KABK, Marcos Kueh is joining Brutus at the Villa for six months, as the Young Blood Foundation resident. We look forward to spending more time with this talented artist, currently textile is his chosen medium. www.instagram.com/p/Ck-36vcoF89/?hl=en

Commissions

- 2023
MINI Art Car Mini Cooper (van Poelgeest) Amsterdam , Netherlands In collaboration with Interhouse, Van Poelgeest, and The Ron Mandos Young Blood Foundation, KENYALANG CIRCUS takes the wheel to spread colorful joy on what it means to be resilient with a personality, to embrace the power of being the oddity and to celebrate shared values from the East to the West. www.instagram.com/p/CtBeEOEtBKC/ finished

Publications

- 2022
This Far and Further Catalog theshopvoorlinden Voorlinden Museum Wassenaar, Netherlands www.shopvoorlinden.nl/en_GB/a-77610302/products/catalogue-this-far-and-further/#description How can we together paint a hopeful picture for the future in these bizarre times? Museum Voorlinden takes a pause in its new collection exhibition This far and further to show how artists explore other paths. Thanks to the powers of their artistic imagination, you yourself start longing for a new vista and want to contribute to change.

reviews

- 2024

De kleurrijke wandkleden van Marcos Kueh vertellen een verhaal over identiteit en afkomst Magazine LIZA KARSEMIJER Amsterdam, Netherlands www.elle.com/nl/interieur/interieur-trends/a46965216/marcos-kueh-wandkleden/ Na een studie grafisch ontwerpen in Maleisië, zijn geboorteland, koos Marcos Kueh (28) voor de Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende Kunsten in Den Haag, waar hij in 2022 afstudeerde op textiel. Met zijn kleurrijke wandkleden vertelt hij verhalen over zijn afkomst en identiteit. Het leverde hem een Dutch Design Award op.

- 2024

Artist Marcos Kueh Unravels Colonial Narratives Through Textile Art In Southeast Asia Magazine Alicia Choo Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia robbreport.com.my/2024/02/29/artist-marcos-kueh-colonial-narratives-textile-art/ Intrigued by a deep-seated urge to unravel his identity and a place in the world, rising Malaysian contemporary artist Marcos Kueh revolves his creative practice around contemporary legends onto textiles with influences from the ancestral traditions of Borneo—where epics and anecdotes were documented on fabrics long before the introduction of ciphers from the West.

- 2024

STATE OF THE ART: TO MARCOS KUEH, APPROACHING CONTEMPORARY ART IS LIKE READING A BOOK Magazine Zara Zhuang Singapore, Singapore grazia.sg/culture/contemporary-art-marcos-kueh/ For our Art issue, we invited artists from Singapore and the Asian region to ponder the questions surrounding creativity, inspiration and purpose in today's world. Here, we speak to Marcos Kueh from Malaysia, who's represented by The Back Room.

- 2023

Marcos Kueh heeft het gemaakt als ontwerper, maar voelt zich niet goed genoeg. 'Misschien vanwege mijn afkomst' Newspaper Harmen van Dijk Amsterdam, Netherlands www.trouw.nl/cultuur-media/marcos-kueh-heeft-het-gemaakt-als-ontwerper-maar-voelt-zich-niet-goed-genoeg-misschien-vanwege-mijn-afkomst~b7cbdadbf/ Hij is een van de smaakmakers van de Dutch Design Week die zaterdag 21 oktober in Eindhoven begint. Toch is er altijd het gevoel niet goed genoeg te zijn.

- 2023

History Unravelling: Textile artist Marcos Kueh explores what it means to be Sarawakian Magazine Koyyi Chin Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia www.tatlerasia.com/lifestyle/arts/sarawakian-textile-artist-marcos-kueh-on-what-it-means-to-be-sarawakian Sarawak-born textile artist Marcos Kueh weaves the Southeast Asian perspective on post-colonial narratives and explores what it means to be Sarawakian

- 2023

That's what artists do. Robe bleu, fond rouge #2; Quaternary, The Hague Blog/Vlog Villa La Repubblica The Hague, Netherlands villalarepubblica.wordpress.com/2023/06/02/dat-is-wat-kunstenaars-doen-robe-bleu-fond-rouge-2-quartair-den-haag/ Two years ago, still deep in corona times, the first Robe bleu, fond rouge exhibition was held. With this second episode in Quartair the compilers Annemieke Louwerens, Pietertje van Splunter and Nies Vooijs hope to establish a new biennial tradition in The Hague.

- 2023

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WORKS ACQUIRED FROM THE EXHIBITION WHEN THINGS ARE BEINGS Website Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Netherlands www.stedelijk.nl/en/news/announcement-works-acquired-exhibition-when-things-are-beings The Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam will purchase eight projects from the current exhibition When Things Are Beings. The exhibition is part of the biennial project Proposals for Municipal Art Acquisitions, which invites designers and artists living and working in the Netherlands to submit work in response to an open call. This edition showcases a selection of works that bridge the material and non-material worlds. From the group presentation, the Stedelijk will acquire work from the following designers and artists: Yinka Buutfeld, Hatutamelen (James Noya), Saskia Noor van Imhoff, Marcos Kueh, Sabine

Marcelis, Chequita Nahar, Ana Navas and Antonio Jose Guzman & Iva Jankovic

- 2022
Graduating in the TextielLab Website Willemijn Tilburg, Netherlands
textiellab.nl/en/graduating-in-the-textiellab/ June is an exciting month at academies. This is when up-and-coming designers and artists put the finishing touches to their final project, which they then present to critical committees of teachers and examiners. Several of these projects were made in the TextielLab, which the lab hopes will be the first of many. “We want to give young talent a boost,” says head of the lab Hebe Verstappen.
- 2022
About emptiness, light-heartedness and dedication. Graduation Show 2022; Royal Academy (KABK), The Hague Blog/Vlog Villa La Repubblica The Hague, Netherlands
villalarepubblica.wordpress.com/2022/07/05/over-leegte-lichtvoetigheid-en-toewijding-graduation-show-2022-koninklijke-academie-kabk-den-haag/ Walking through the departments of Fine Arts and Photography, and also through other departments, of the graduation exhibition of the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague, once a stronghold of solid stability, a sense of a certain emptiness was noticeable.
- 2022
The studio of... Marcos Kueh Website Oscar van Gelderen Amsterdam, Netherlands
galleryviewer.com/en/article/1379/the-studio-of-marcos-kueh What does the ideal studio look like? How much time does an artist spend in his studio? Is it a sacred place? In the series 'The Artist's Studio' this week: Marcos Kueh, winner of the Ron Mandos Young Blood Award of 2022, whose work is currently on view at the 'Best of Graduates' exhibition at Ron Mandos Gallery, till September 17th.
- 2022
THE WINNER IS: MARCOS KUEH | RON MANDOS YOUNG BLOOD AWARD 2022
Website Ron Mandos Young Blood Foundation Amsterdam , Netherlands ronmandos-youngbloodfoundation.org/news/de-winnaar-is-marcos-kueh-ron-mandos-young-blood-award-2022/ During the award ceremony last Friday, Joop van Caldenborgh, founder of Museum Voorlinden, announced that Marcos Kueh (KABK) is the winner of the Ron Mandos Young Blood Award 2022 . Winning the prize means that a work by Marcos Kueh will be included in the permanent collection of Museum Voorlinden. Congratulations Marcos! “ The work of Marcos Kueh is of a crushing beauty, through his visual power and craftsmanship he opens our eyes to the world of today, the world of yesterday and the world of tomorrow. As a young artist, Marcos shows guts, ambition and vision and we are curious about his next steps as an artist” – Joop van Caldenborgh | Founder of Museum Voorlinden
- 2021
Marcos Kueh explores traditional textiles from Borneo! Website Digital Weaving Norway Hønefoss, Norway digitalweaving.no/marcos-kueh-explores-traditional-textiles/
- 2020
Kenyalang Circus Blog/Vlog Lim Sheau Yun Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
oforother.malaysiadesignarchive.org/kenyalang-circus/ Welcome to Kenyalang Circus. Translated as “Hornbill Circus” from Sarawak Malay, Kenyalang Circus interrogates the possibility of the authentic in a neoliberal culture of icons, taking a satirical eye to the commercialisation of Borneo and Sarawak as “Malaysia’s exotic unknown.” For Sarawakian Marcos Kueh, the graphic designer behind these works, this project is personal: it traces the faultline of heritage between inherited past and internalised exotification.

Awards and grants

- 2023
Winner of Ron Mandos Young Blood Awards 2023 Ron Mandos Young Blood Foundation

Amsterdam , Netherlands During the award ceremony last Friday, Joop van Caldenborgh, founder of Museum Voorlinden, announced that Marcos Kueh (KABK) is the winner of the Ron Mandos Young Blood Award 2022 . Winning the prize means that a work by Marcos Kueh will be included in the permanent collection of Museum Voorlinden. Congratulations Marcos! “ The work of Marcos Kueh is of a crushing beauty, through his visual power and craftsmanship he opens our eyes to the world of today, the world of yesterday and the world of tomorrow. As a young artist, Marcos shows guts, ambition and vision and we are curious about his next steps as an artist” – Joop van Caldenborgh | Founder of Museum Voorlinden

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Young Designer Winner Dutch Design foundation, NL Eindhoven, Netherlands It is extraordinary that Marcos Kueh has already achieved so much and yet still shows so much promise. The possibilities for this young designer seem endless. The layering in his work is impressive, both technically and graphically and in the way in which he applies his craft. With his own distinct visual language, Marcos Kueh knows how to seamlessly interweave a digital aesthetic, that is very topical, with age-old craftsmanship, thus conveying a narrative that cries out for attention. His work is beautiful and daring and cannot be labelled into one category. Unbelievably powerful, this unanimously chosen winner in the Young Designer category.

Representation

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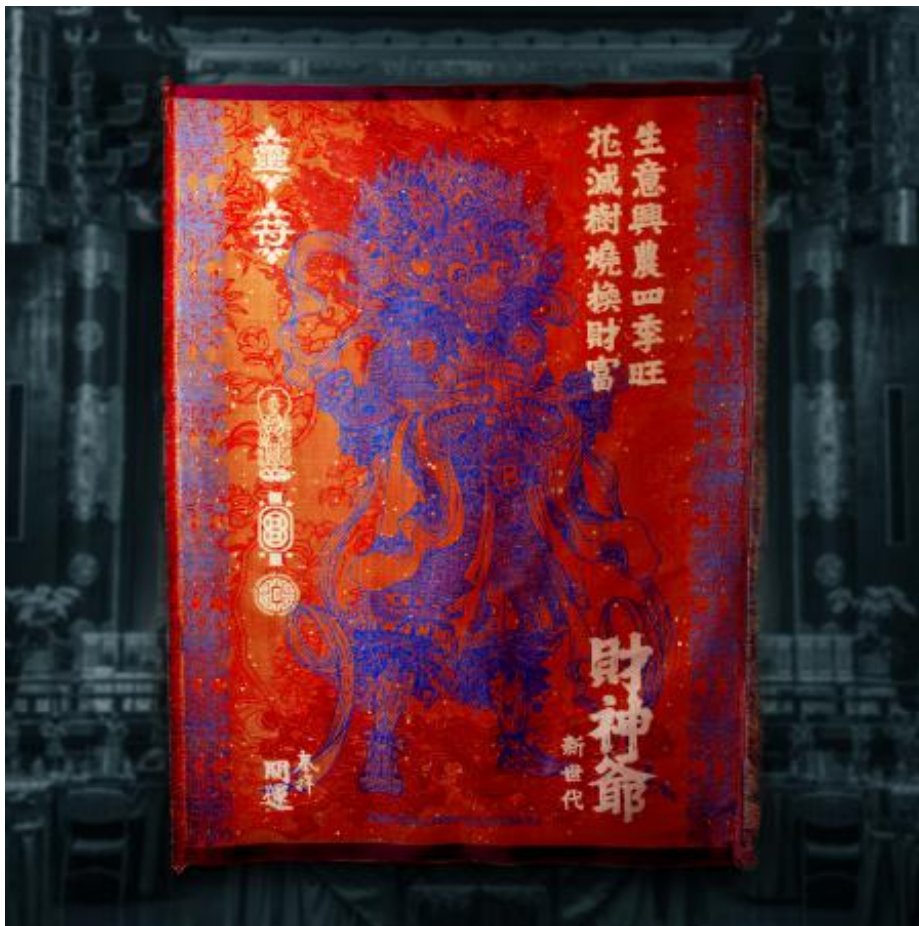
Ron Mandos Gallery Amsterdam, Netherlands <https://ronmandos.nl/>

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The Back Room Kuala Lumpur Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia <https://www.thebackroomkl.com/>

Secondary art-related activities

- 2022 - 2022
TC2 Weaving Instructor for KABK, The Hague
- 2019 - 2022
Chairman, Academy Council, KABK, The Hague



info

What is it about the sound of waterfalls that paints the imagination of the overworked hustler who grew up in the city? What is it about the idea of living in a penthouse that strikes a chord of the heartstrings of the jungle dwellers living below the poverty line? Once I was told to look deeply into the mycelium of a mushroom and meditate on it. For a split second, I could see the universe – I saw how we are all interconnected as one, how we all go through cycles of life and death, how naturally our bodies and lives destruct and rejuvenate as an integral part of growth. The next second, I saw my personal yacht floating in Santorini when I manage to save the world and earn big bucks by campaigning my new age religion and market my mycelium might pills. Sometimes it is scary what I am willing to do to shed this skin of poverty and shame, to devolve into a disgusting city dweller, to ascend into a higher state of capitalistic conscious – I don't need all this suffering and mundane rituals to restraint what I truly desire. We can exchange our devotions, you take my place and be the enlightened one, and I can head to the capital to be the other one.

The Brilliant Billionaire, 2024
Industrial Jacquard Weaving , 1.7 x 2.25 m



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My whole childhood, looking at the pair of tigers on my national emblem, the iconography that supposedly unifies and represents our values and identity as Malaysians, I naturally assumed that there would be tigers in the rainforests of Borneo too. They told us not to head into the rainforests because the tigers might devour you, but what is scarier, I think is the death of trust and belonging when you find out that your identity is actually just a myth, and the fictional, dangerous predator in the jungle had been, all along keeping us in our own bubble of reality in the guise of safety. I wonder how many of us are sitting still, petrified to head out into the wilds, because we believed in false values. I wonder, as a person from the east, how many of us are still in the rainforest desperately searching for tigers, trying so hard to believe that the Malayan tiger is not exclusive only to the west.

National Identity: No Tigers in Borneo, 2024
Industrial Jacquard Weaving , 1.70 x 1.10 m



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Malaysia is composed of two non-contiguous regions: West Malaysia which is on the Malay Peninsula, and East Malaysia, which is on the island of Borneo. The Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur and the administrative center, Putrajaya are both located in the West. The highly profitable activities of tourism, timber extraction and petroleum industry are mainly situated in the East. The national flower of Malaysia is the *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*. The red of the petals symbolizes the courage, life, and rapid growth of the Malaysian people, and the five petals represent the five Rukun Negara of Malaysia. The tourism trap of Sarawak is the parasitic *Rafflesia Arnoldii*. The red petals are seductive icons for tourists seeking for an exotic adventure in the tropical rainforest through pre-paid package deals; the five petals smell like rotting meat because the main pollinators of the flower are flies.

Woven Postcard: *Rafflesia is not our National Flower*, 2024
 Industrial Jacquard Weaving , 75 x 110 cm



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There are only a few profound moments in my life so far. One was at 19 when was made to believe, for the first time, that I was enough. Since then life has become a devotion to understand and work for pride, to follow the voices so strong and clear - often I forget to eat, some nights I cannot sleep and hard work has become my friend. I see it sometimes, in the eyes of others, in fleeting moments when they are in tuned with the same sublime frequency and they can see what I see. They tell me that they are proud and I am proud too. As the work becomes bigger and bigger, I feel smaller and smaller. Eventually I will also be gone, I will burn and melt and disintegrate ; Just like every devoted weaver in Borneo who goes blind and develop back problems because we hear callings, we pay the price in evoking the sublime, in working for the arts. In the end only the work remains. I am ok to go.

Kenyalang Circus: Nenek Moyang, 2024
Industrial Jacquard Weaving , 4 x 2 x 6 m



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In the textile installation : Three Contemporary Prosperities, we encounter an animated conversation of color, pattern, and symbol. The installation encompasses eight tapestries of varying sizes, carefully arranged by the artist to afford a view of both the front and reverse sides. Kueh encourages us to move between perspectives on observing, to create multiple encounters while we meditate on the meaning of “prosperity” in modern times. Kueh’s study of prosperity is driven by an urge to deepen his understanding of his

Chinese-Malaysian cultural background. He has become fascinated with the three popular Chinese gods of fortune: the Fú Lù Shòu (). Each of these three gods embodies a different form of fortune. Fú () stands for prosperity or wealth; Lù () for reputation or nobility, and Shòu () for longevity or eternity. Kueh weaves these attributes into his works through written text, Chinese characters and symbols that refer to the excessive accumulation of wealth and influence by companies like Amazon and Facebook. Under these circumstances – what does it mean to wish someone wealth, reputation, and eternal life in today's world? Kueh takes a critical look at these blessings by depicting Fú as a millionaire, Lù as a social influencer, and Shòu as a post-human cyborg. As we continue our exploration of “prosperity” in the contemporary, we encounter a four-meter-long tapestry depicting the most supreme deity of the Chinese pantheon: the Jade Emperor (, Yù Huáng Dà Dì). Here, we as viewers literally sit at the feet of this great emperor and, as the title suggests, Under God's Eye places us right beneath his gaze. Kueh deliberately shows only the back side of the work, where the colors are decidedly more muted and the weave threads more fluid and painterly. In this tapestry the reverse side is especially less illustrative – becoming a scene where Kueh erodes the material notion of prosperity in pursuit of the spiritual.

Three Contemporary Prosperities, 2023
Industrial Jacquard Weaving , Installation



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We are all hungry beings. With so much truth already in the world we still need more. The more “truths” we make up, the more truths we forget. more education for more opportunities, more gym for more health, more followers for more influence, more travel plans so I can run, run away from these yucky feelings we still cannot describe - we just need more words to describe our emotions and then we will be safe. “You are not you when you are hungry” says the American SNICKERS chocolate bar advertisement. But you have always only been hungry. You have always only been devouring. You are an enlightened man, they are the jungle men. In between us is the believe of science or

ghosts.

HUNGER, 2023

Industrial Jacquard Weaving , 240 x 225 cm



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<< >> <<Wander's hum>> Thread in loving Mother's hands,
clothes for her wandering child; Sewn tight so that it lasts, in case the journey ahead gets
long; How can a young heart, as tender as fresh new grass, make up for mother's
benevolent love as three seasons of spring sunshine.

Thread in Loving Mother's Hands, 2023

Industrial Jacquard Weaving , 170 x 225 cm



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Even when I was in your belly, you whispered hopes for me to be your pride and joy; I have heard every prayer of yours, for me to be that brilliant son. The moment they cut off the umbilical cord that tied me to you, our heartbeats lost sync. And underneath the weight of expectations, the screeching sound of my first cry was the only response I could give. Some nights I stay up late, thinking of the many ways we tried to meet each other in the middle, because the line of agreement is for me to be brilliant and you to be proud, while I grieve over parallel lives we could have had outside of the middle. In honour of the suffering of our tradition, in honour of the legacy of our bloodline, we tolerate each other and stay still. At the end of the road, I will whisper apologies into your urn; and I hope you hear it from the other side of how you would have been a brilliant grandmother to the son I will never have. Because my heart in this mortal body is not a vessel that can hold on to your tears – it is only filled with fears. I will be the one crying here while you stay dry as a powder, and that is the only love I can give, at the end of the road.

Expecting, 2023

Industrial Jacquard Weaving , 170 x 170 x 235



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We were driving by acres of palm oil plantations in Malaysia when Kevin first mentioned about the story of the red monkey. Instead of poisoning and shooting invading monkeys, there is a hearsay going around the durian and palm oil plantations that farmers are trapping monkeys for torture. The tormented monkeys are then marked red before getting released back into the wild. When the red monkey returns to its community, it will be seen as a mutant and scares off the other monkeys from returning to the estate. The story itself is a very loaded one: it reminded me both of how my dad used to tell me that if I was naughty, I would be caught by the boogymon as a practice of discipline and Kevin's other story of how his great grandfather was captured by the Japanese occupation and tortured for information. The only difference of course is that when Kevin's great grandfather returned to his village, he was celebrated as a hero for enduring torture and not disclosing the location of the village while the red monkey (supposedly) gets rejected by its community as an oddity and dies alone. When you look into the perspectives of each character at play - the plantation worker, the red monkey and the monkey's community, you slowly realize that truths are almost always so personal and insecure. It is said that the idea of disgust is a biological trait that keeps us far from danger - rotting meat, sickness, homelessness, inferiority, the poor. As the world becomes less safe, more and more mutated red monkeys seem to appear in the jungle. Maybe one day, you too will forget that you actually loved durians.

MONYET MERAH, 2023

Industrial Jacquard Weaving , 300 x 300



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In the morning she scrubs, with nimble hands the toilet bowl she rubs. Day job cleaner lady, it's just her warm up, because after hours she grinds, midnight at the nightclub. The thrill of power gets her riled up, Nimble hands, she really knows how to rub. Growing up small, she always wanted to feel grown up, businessmen mentors, she keeps them close, gets them worked up. ~ Contemporary myths, we're all villains, truly sincerely - Look in the mirror, look at who we are clearly. Because we were told that we are shamefully ugly, our egos we like to beat up, severely in eternity. Maybe we need to love ourselves really more deeply, kindness against evil even if we have to embrace it insecurely.

KENYALANG CIRCUS Woven Poster #10: Homo Servantis Erotis, 2023
Industrial Jacquard Weaving , 3 x 2.25 m