

claremorris gallery

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BUDI GUGI | from another island

feb 24 - march 9th, 2024



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13th of February, 2023: From Another Island is a solo exhibition by Budi Gugi which will run from February 24th to March 9th.

Budi Gugi is an Indonesian painter who lives on the Island of Bali. The exhibition will feature twenty paintings and this is the artist's first time exhibiting outside of his home country. The title of the show refers not only to Ireland and Bali, two islands contrasting starkly in culture and climate, but also to the notion of the artist himself as an island.

Budi is a self-described loner, who spends 99% of his time in solitude. His paintings reflect this isolated existence and express the beauty of life, with an equal appreciation of both joy and sorrow. His poetic paintings bring to mind the words of William Blake,

"It is right it should be so;
Man was made for joy and woe;
And when this we rightly know,
Thro' the world we safely go.

Joy and woe are woven fine,
A clothing for the soul divine.
Under every grief and pine
Runs a joy with silken twine."

Budi is alone not only in life but also in his practice. His work stands apart from that of his Balinese peers in both subject matter and style. The artist was trained in art school in the capital of Indonesia where

he acquired very fine image-making skills. An art degree in Indonesia takes five years to complete, during which artists focus almost entirely on technique and on the refinement of skills in painting, drawing, sculpture and craft. A typical Indonesian art education differs enormously from the training offered in art institutions in Ireland, the UK and indeed the rest of

the Western World. Art colleges in Indonesia in line with other Southeast Asian countries, such as Vietnam, Thailand and Laos, adopt a more traditional pedagogical approach. One that is heavily influenced by the government's cultural policy, with syllabi often based on Indonesian cultural values described as "playing an active role in the creation of pure art that produces Indonesian identity based on these values" . The artist's alma mater, for example, offers a Traditional Weapons and Keris Programme as part of its fine art degree. Many of Gugi's contemporaries work in this vein, producing art that espouses the values set forth by the Indonesian Education ministry. In this way, artists are encouraged to work in service of national identity and to keep alive ancient and traditional crafts, for which there is a strong tourist demand.

Taken in this context we see how Budi's work is a radical departure from prevailing Indonesian trends. Gallery director, Rosemarie Noone says that, "Budi is an outlier amongst his peers making work that is deeply personal. His command of colour and proficiency as a painter are instantly recognizable but his compositions are have a strong "outsider" aesthetic.

According to Budi, "Being an artist is like taking a small and lonely path, where we can see beautiful scenery, we can see mountains, river, jungle, bird, sky, everything but in the end, the only one we can talk to is ourselves."

Exhibition runs from February 24th to March 9th.

Gallery Hours: 1 – 6pm, Wed to Sat, or by appointment. For more see <https://claremorrisgallery.ie/> or find us on instagram





After the Storm,
60 x 60cm,
acrylic on canvas,
2023, €690



The Wanderer,
60 x 60cm,
acrylic on canvas,
2023, €690



Home at Midnight,
60 x 60cm,
acrylic on canvas,
2023, €690



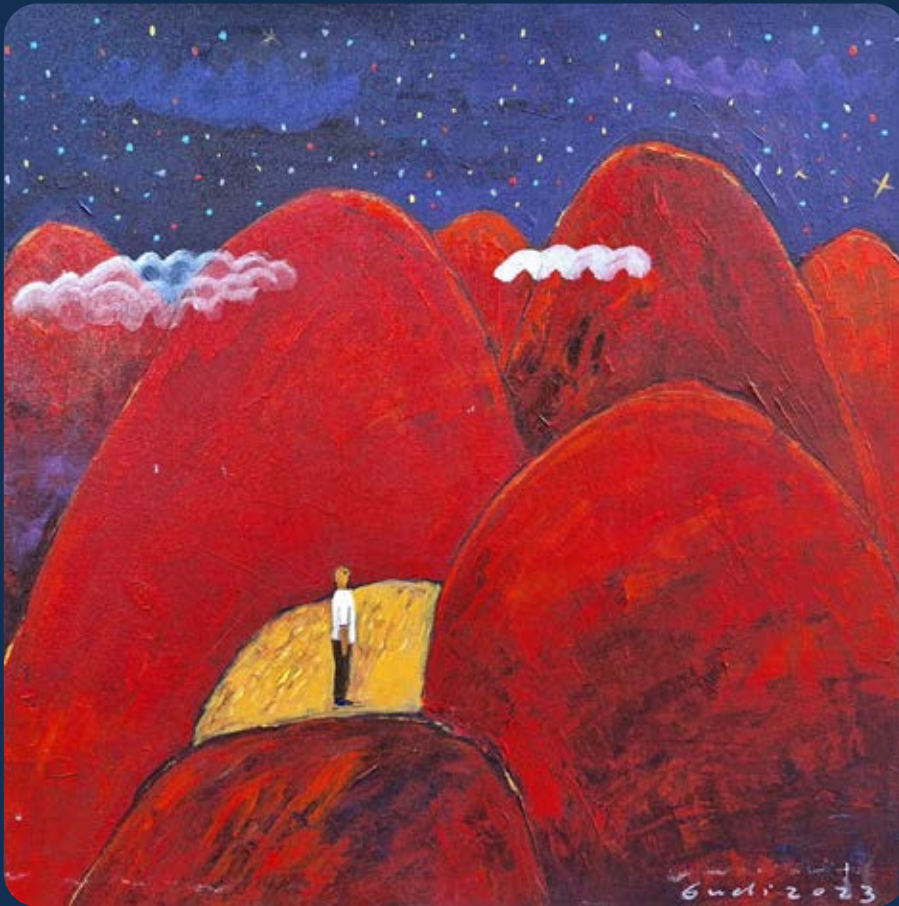
The Battle is Over,
60 x 60cm,
acrylic, on canvas,
2023, €690



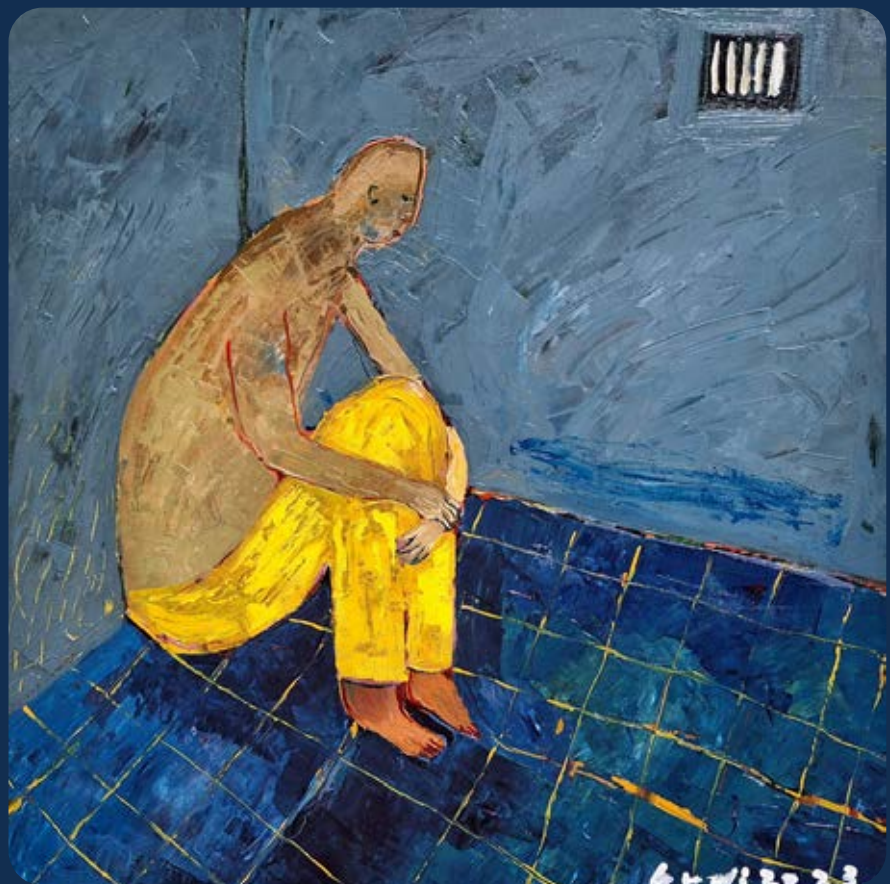
Life Sucks, 60 x 60cm, acrylic on canvas, 2023, €690



Voices in My Head, 60 x 60cm, acrylic on canvas, 2023, €690



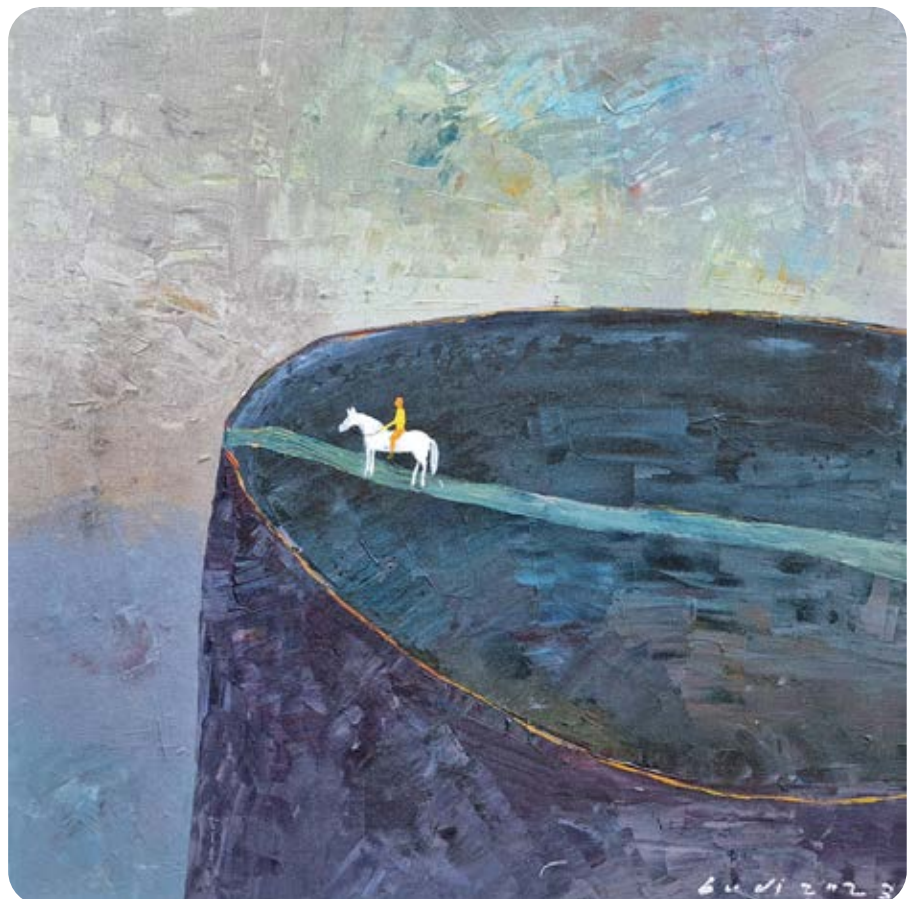
I Got Lost While Trying to Find Myself, 60 x 60cm,
acrylic on canvas, 2023, €690



Sitting Alone, 60 x 60cm, acrylic on canvas, 2023, €690



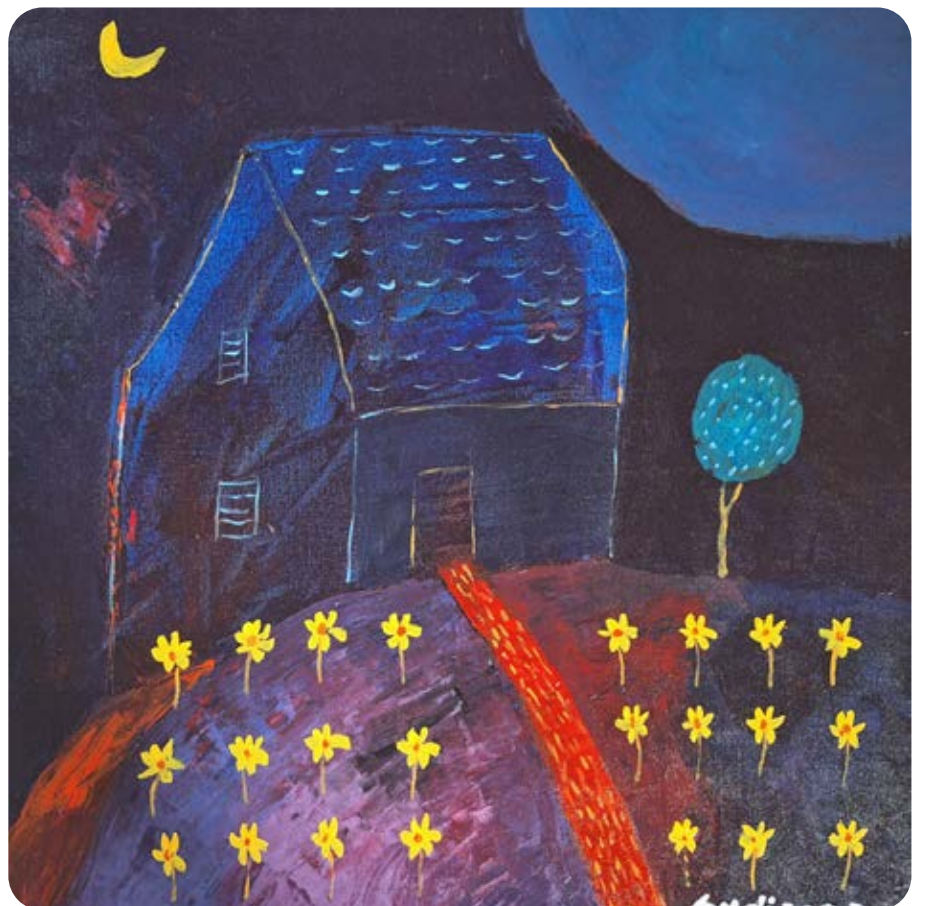
So Far Away, 60 x 60cm, acrylic on canvas, 2023, €690



Not all Paths we took led us in the Right Direction,
60 x 60cm, acrylic on canvas, 2023, €690



The Last Tiger, 60 x 60cm, acrylic on canvas, 2022, €690



The Home I knew Well, 60 x 60cm, acrylic on canvas, 2023, €690



The Puppeteer, 60 x 60cm, acrylic on canvas, 2023, €690



A Bipolar Woman in my Rose Garden,
60 x 60cm, acrylic on canvas, 2023, €690



The Sailor and the Raging Sea,
60 x 60cm, acrylic on canvas, 2023, €690



Doubt, 60 x 60cm, acrylic on canvas, 2023, €690



Those who Treat you as a Number, don't deserve your heart,]
60 x 60cm, acrylic on canvas, 2023, €690



The man who walked into the Storm, 70 x 90cm, acrylic on canvas, 2023, €990

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www.claremorrisgallery.com

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