

For Immediate Release

**THROUGH INDONESIA'S RIVERS AND JUNGLES
IN SEARCH FOR THE LOST TEXTILE TRADITIONS**

(Hong Kong, September 19, 2019) **Didi Budiardjo**, Indonesia's genius in fashion design, will share his experience and stories from his inspiring journey in crossing many rivers and hiking through deep jungles in Indonesia's remote regions to revive old textile traditions, at Asia Society Hong Kong Center on September 19, 2019.

Titled "Lost & Found, Indonesian Handwoven Textile Tradition," the program will be an eye opener to see the revival of old weaving traditions which have revitalized village economies.

"The world's most diverse textile traditions spread among the 17,000 islands, Indonesian textiles are immensely varied. The journeys have certainly gives me a lot to reflect on, leaving me a greater appreciation in creating my designs. The patience that the weavers put in creating the fabrics, often takes many months to create one piece of fabric, reflected in the meticulous texture and motifs, which are difficult to replicate." comments Budiardjo on creating his masterpiece.

"Asia is rich in various weaving technique which is the forerunner of the textile and garment industry, which had been the backbone of the Hong Kong economy. As such, it is no wonder that the region provides a wealth of opportunities for those who are interested to understand the dynamics between textile and culture," says S. Alice Mong, Executive Director of Asia Society Hong Kong Center. "We are privileged to have Mr. Budiardjo sharing his design inspirations with our members and supporters."

"Indonesia's thousands of islands and hundreds of cultures, ethnicities and languages make it the world's largest treasure trove of handwoven textiles, with a variety that cannot be found anywhere else. And textile is one of the best ways to explore Indonesia's dynamic culture" says **Kestity Pringgoharjono**, Founder of Preserve Indonesia, who collaborates with ASHK in this event.

Mandala Purba, Acting Consul General of the Republic Indonesia to Hong Kong, says: "It is a rare and unique opportunity for all of us to share the richness of Indonesian textile traditions as shared by Indonesia's most iconic fashion designer. I am also pleased that this activity is a true reflection of the recently signed MOU between Indonesia and Hong Kong on cultural cooperation, witnessed by our two leaders. "We are proud to present Indonesia's rich textile traditions to our Hong Kong friends"."

The event would not have been made possible without the generous support from Indonesia's Ministry of Education and Culture as part of its Cultural Diplomacy program, the Indonesian Consulate General in Hong Kong, and Island Shangri-La Hotel.

The program will take place at Asia Society Hong Kong Center, and begin with a drinks reception at 6:30 pm, followed by a conversation at 7:00 pm. Tickets are priced at HK\$150 for Asia Society

members and HK\$250 for non-members, and they are available online at ticketing.asiasociety.org.hk.

Didi Budiardjo has been designing lavish evening gowns for over 30 years. He has successfully brought Indonesian fashion to the next level with his signature classical designs emphasizing good quality fabrics with embroidery, lace and beading from all over the world, creating masterpieces. A cognoscente of traditional textile, Budiardjo's passion and curiosity has driven his efforts to search for and resurrect extinct traditional textiles from around Indonesia, to carve out a unique identity that sets him apart from others in Indonesia's fashion world today. An exhibition at the Jakarta Textile Museum was held in 2015 to celebrate his important contribution to Indonesia's fashion industry.

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About Preserve Indonesia

Focusing on arts and culture since 2006, Preserve Indonesia is a cultural initiative leveraging innovation in creating and participating in unique activities and programs. Preserve Indonesia collaborates with leading local and international figures and organizations for projects in design, food, film, music and performance. See www.preserveindonesia.org.

About Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Asia Society Hong Kong Center is a leading non-governmental organization and intellectual hub that fosters cross-cultural understanding and promotes dialogue and better understanding of Asia. The Center provides insight, generates ideas, and promotes collaboration to address present challenges and create a brighter shared future across the fields of arts and culture, business and policy, and education.

About Asia Society

Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller III in New York, and with a worldwide network of 12 centers, Asia Society is a key educational institution dedicated to promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among peoples, leaders, and institutions of Asia and the United States in a global context.

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