



Raden Saleh

Leonhard Bartolomeus

Raden Saleh Syarif Bustaman (1807-1880) was a pioneering painter from Java (then part of the Dutch East Indies). He studied in Europe for 20 years, and was influenced by the development of 19th century Romanticism. With an Arab-Javanese ethnic background, Raden Saleh often highlighted his cultural roots through elements in his paintings. Returning to Java in 1852, he built a house based on Callenberg Castle, where he had stayed while in Europe. This has since been converted to form part of a public hospital. Raden Saleh died in Bogor, West Java upon returning from a trip to Europe.

Despite his popularity, many art historians and critics in Indonesia are still debating whether Raden Saleh should be considered an "Indonesian painter." Even though the concept of Indonesia as a nation did not exist during his lifetime, Raden Saleh quite often expressed a political perspective which was against Dutch colonialism, most notably in his painting, *The Arrest of Prince Diponegoro* (1857). Nevertheless, his story reflects how colonialism and modern art run parallel in Southeast Asian art history. Raden Saleh is often compared with Juan Luna from the Philippines, sharing an interest in Romanticism and a critical view of colonialism.



Raden Saleh, 1863-1866, by Woodbury & Page

<https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/collection/NG-2011-31-30>



The house of Raden Saleh in Batavia, 1875-1885, by Woodbury & Page



Raden Saleh, *Six Horsemen Chasing Deer*, 1860, oil on canvas, 160x188cm
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Related links

- A short description about Raden Saleh
<http://www.nusantara.com/heritage/raden.html>
- Article about Raden Saleh in correlation with the exhibition at Nasional Gallery Singapore, 2018 <https://jakartaglobe.id/culture/raden-saleh-artist-of-two-worlds/>
- Another insight about Raden Saleh journey of life
<https://web.archive.org/web/20110727195041/http://www.raden-saleh.org/english.html>