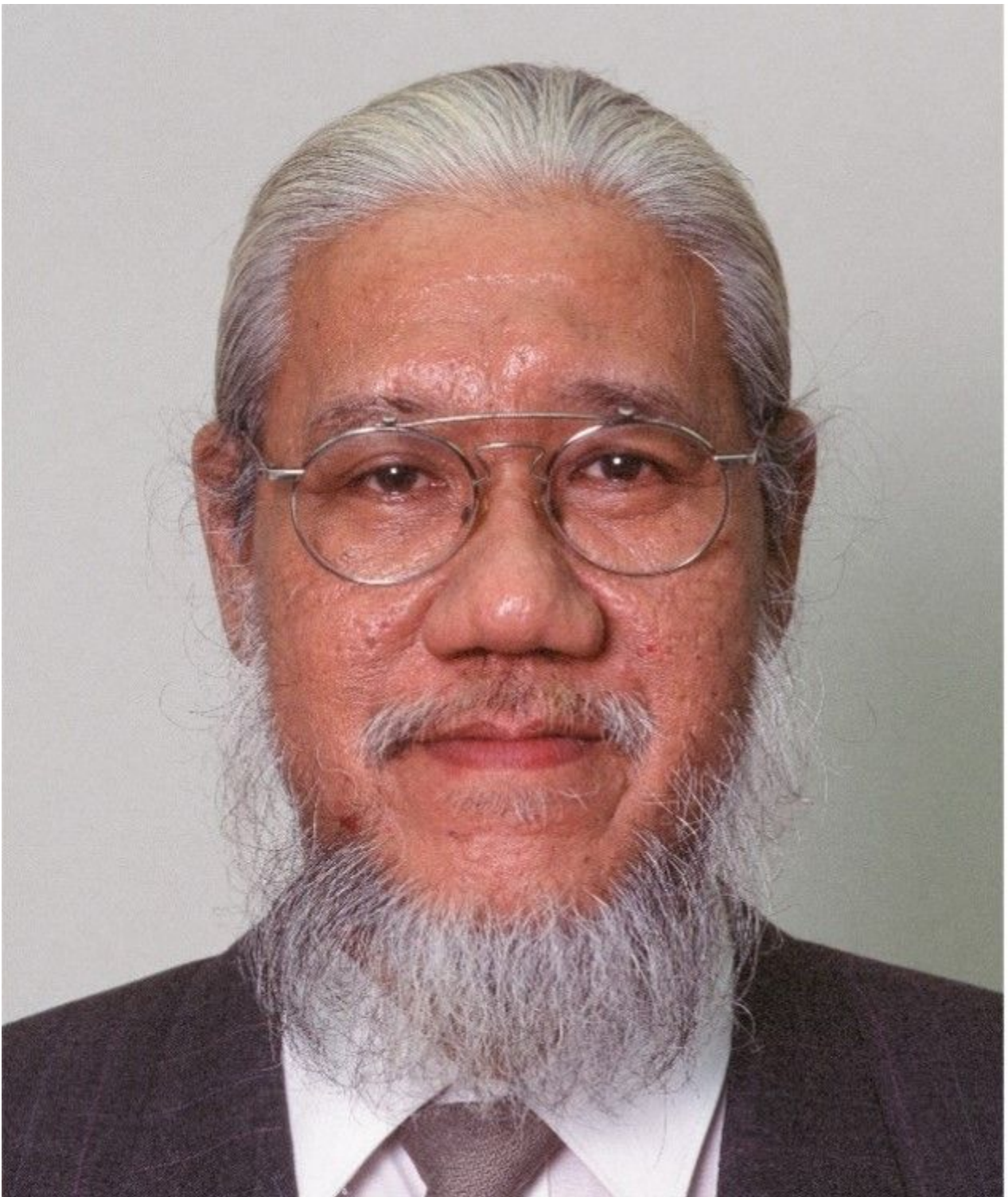


## Jim Supangkat

### Leonhard Bartolomeus

Jim Supangkat, born in 1948 in Makassar, Indonesia is known for his work as a sculptor, journalist, art critic and curator. He was one of the artists who initiated the New Art Movement or Gerakan Seni Rupa Baru (GSRB) in 1975. In 1990, Jim Supangkat became the first independent curator in Indonesia, where the profession of art curator was virtually unknown, and went on to leave his activities as an artist and journalist to focus on curating and art writing. In 1993, he was one of the curators of the First Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art at the Queensland Art Gallery. For his contributions to Indonesian art, he was honored with a Prince Claus Award from the Netherlands in 1997. More recently, he has been active in giving lectures and public talks related to Indonesian contemporary art development.

To this day, Jim Supangkat's name is always tied to two things: the title of "Curator" and Gerakan Seni Rupa Baru. In the first context, Jim is a pioneer who made a place for the curatorial profession in Indonesia's art ecosystem. Although many parties continue to debate whether or not he really was the "first curator," almost all agree that he is the one who helped build the foundations for curatorial work in Indonesia. He was also, together with several friends, a foundational figure through various exhibitions and writings by GSRB.



Jim Supangkat, 1999

## Related Links

## Websites

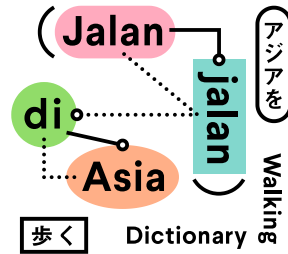
- An article about curatorship in Indonesia, especially during 'Reformasi' period. <http://www.reformasiart.com/blog/2019/11/18/curatorial-practice/>
- Jim Supangkat interview with *Whiteboard Journal* <https://www.whiteboardjournal.com/interview/ideas/art-history-and-policies->

[with-jim-supangkat/](#)

- A short text about Jim Supangkat artworks in 1989 <http://www.global-contemporary.de/en/artists/10-jim-supangkat>

## **Video**

- "There was already a spirit of finding a real, more honest art."  
Grace Samboh and Haruko Kumakura interviewed Jim Supangkat, December 2015 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2nlhLX1\\_bEk&ab\\_channel=GraceSamboh](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2nlhLX1_bEk&ab_channel=GraceSamboh)



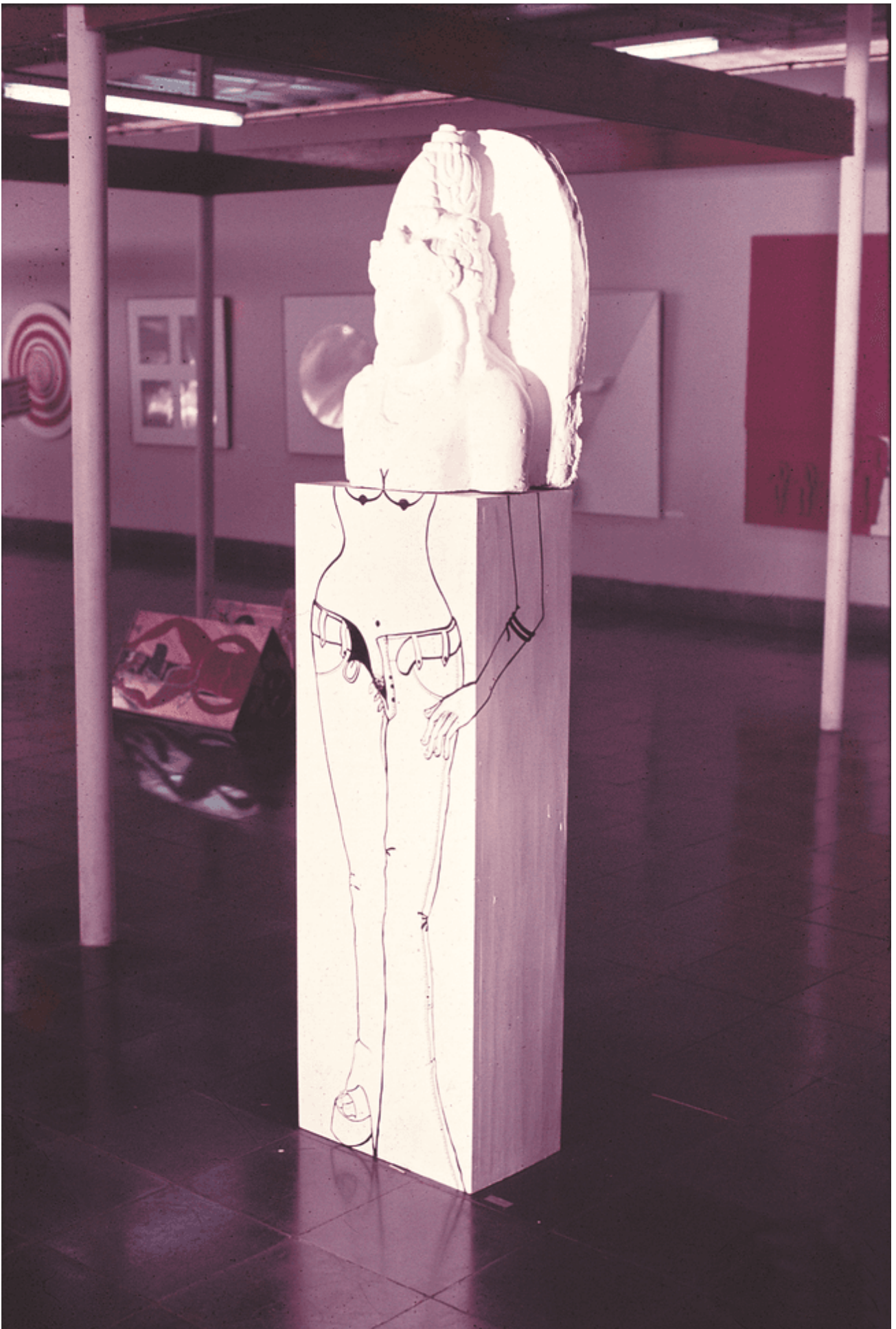
## Jim Supangkat

### Kumakura Haruko

Born in 1948 in Sulawesi island, Indonesia, Jim Supangkat is a curator and art critic residing in Bandung, and is the first person ever to have worked with the title of curator in Indonesia. After graduating from the Institute of Technology in Bandung, in 1975, with the help of Sanento Yuliman, who was a lecturer at the Institute, Supangkat met FX Harsono and other artists in Yogyakarta who had participated in the Black December resistance movement, and together hosted the New Art Exhibition. From there on, he showed work in the series of exhibitions that would later be called the Indonesian New Art Movement. After participating in the contemporary art forum ARX (Artists Regional Exchange) held in Perth, Australia in 1989, Supangkat became a curator. He acted as curator at the 1991 Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art and the 1993 Jakarta Biennale, to name a few. He has also taken part in symposiums and exhibitions organized by the Japan Foundation since the 1990s, contributing to the international promotion and development of contemporary art in Indonesia.

*Ken Dedes*, a work shown at the New Art Exhibition in 1975, portrayed an image of the bust of Queen *Ken Dedes* of the Singhasari Kingdom combined with a modern female figure from the chest down, wearing jeans. Supangkat was keenly aware of the social status of women and issues relating to gender from as early as the 1970s and created work based on such themes. Supangkat's achievements as a curator have been discussed extensively, but his activities as an artist also have importance in the contemporary context.





Jim Supangkat, *Ken Dedes*, 1975, resin, oil on plywood

## Related Links

- <http://hyphen.web.id/srbi-exh-list/>
- <http://archive.iva-online.org/pelakuseni/jim-supangkat>