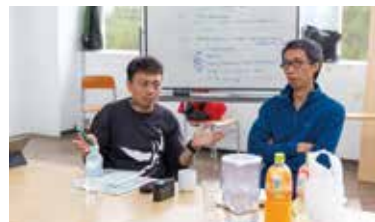


“Our dialogue is inefficient. Probably all of you here at the university are seeking something efficient...(laughs)” These are the words of Ade Darmawan, representative of ruangrupa, spoken at a recent international forum. The values that ruangrupa offers are diverse and reflect tolerance, placing importance on the process of continuing the dialogue itself rather than the premise of confronting the listener with conclusions. There is a historical and cultural background to such thinking. In the late 1990s at a time when the dictatorship had continued for more than 30 years, Indonesia suffered from the Asian Financial Crisis, leading to rising inflation, unemployment and social unrest. It was an era in which you would be arrested if five or more people gathered without asking prior permission. Sensing that the social system is not simply something

provided, but must be built by the people themselves, students took action. The activities of ruangrupa also began at that time. Indonesia is a diverse country, consisting of more than 13,000 islands on which more than 500 languages are spoken. That is why it is important to talk while admitting differences. ruangrupa first secured a space of their own, and started by creating a ‘living room.’ Initially, the size was approximately that of 4.5 tatami mats (‘ruangrupa’ means ‘the shape of a room’ in Indonesian). The conversation

has continued since then. Appointed as Artistic Director of Documenta 15 in 2022, ruangrupa are not planning anything special and will instead transfer their activities to Kassel unchanged. ‘Lumbung’ (rice barn) expresses their idea of sharing. This will surely have a profound effect on the creation of societies in the coming era. Even though they are attracting attention from around the world and fully occupied with work, they agreed to hold a weeklong workshop here at GAP. How will this seed grow?



## GAP Social Practice Seminar

# ruangrupa

### Details

Special Lecture: Artist Collective-Space as a form and place where we take part in distributing knowledge and experience

Lecturer: ruangrupa

Course period: October 17 - 21, 2019

Venue: Ueno campus, Toride campus

「私たちの対話は inefficient なんです。多分、ここにいらっしゃる大学の皆さんは efficient なことを求めているとは思いますが……笑」。先日のある国際フォーラムでのルアンルパ代表アデ・ダルマワンの発言だ。

ルアンルパが提供する価値観は多様で寛容で、対峙するような結論を前提とするのではなく、対話を続けるプロセスそのものを重要視している。そこには歴史的、文化的な背景がある。30年以上独裁政権が続いた90年代末、インドネシアをアジア通貨危機が襲いインフレと失業、社会不安が増大した。5

人以上人が集まる時には届け出をしないと逮捕されるような時代。社会システムを与えられたものではなく、自分たちで作り上げてはならないと学生たちは立ち上がった。ルアンルパの活動もそのときに始まった。1万3千以上の島と500以上の言語が存在し、多様性を持つインドネシア。そこでは違いを認めながら対話することこそが重要だ。

ルアンルパはまず自分たちのスペースを確保し、そこにまず「リビングルーム」を作った。最初は四畳半ぐらいの大きさから（「ルアンルパ」はインドネシア語で「部屋

の形」を意味するという）。そのときからずっと対話が続いている。2022年の「ドクメンタ15」のアーティストティック・ディレクターに選出されたルアンルパは、ドクメンタに特別なものを計画するのではなく、カッセルに彼らの活動そのものを持っていくという。彼らのシェアの思想を表した「ルンブン（米倉）」。それがこれからの時代の社会づくりにじっくりと影響を与えていこう。世界中から注目され、大忙しの彼らが、ここGAPで1週間、ワークショップを行なってくれた。この種はどのように育っていくだろうか。

(Text by Yusaku Imamura)



Iswanto Hartono  
Photo: Jin Panji



Reza Afisina  
Photo: Jin Panji

### ruangrupa

*ruangrupa* - always written using lowercase letters and without spaces - is a contemporary art organization and artist collective founded in 2000 by a group of artists based in Jakarta, Indonesia. This collective started as a contemporary art ecosystem that was developed from a nonprofit work model. As an NPO lead and founded by creatives, ruangrupa is involved in wide-ranging initiatives including operating the art space that they use as their headquarters, holding exhibitions and workshops, conducting research as well as directing international exhibitions.

In 2019, ruangrupa worked together with 2 artist collectives: Serrum and Huru Hara to initiate Gudskul: Contemporary Art Collective and Ecosystem Studies. This is an educational platform aimed at maximizing learning opportunities surrounding the arts in the forms of collaboration and sharing.

Another facet of their art ecosystem is the ArtLab which is a program that examines art projects and perform creative collaborations. These usually deal with urban issues and the media. ArtLab aims to be a space for individual artists or interdisciplinary groups from within and outside Indonesia to interact and work together.