

Artist of the Month

Made Saek:

In the Space of the Unseen



Fairy Tale to the East, 2022, acrylic on canvas



Made Kaek is a Balinese artist whose work moves between the subconscious and lived reality.

His paintings are not built to explain something clearly—instead, they invite us to pause, question, and stay with uncertainty. What appears on the surface may feel strange, but it often comes from something deeply familiar: emotion, memory, and inner tension.

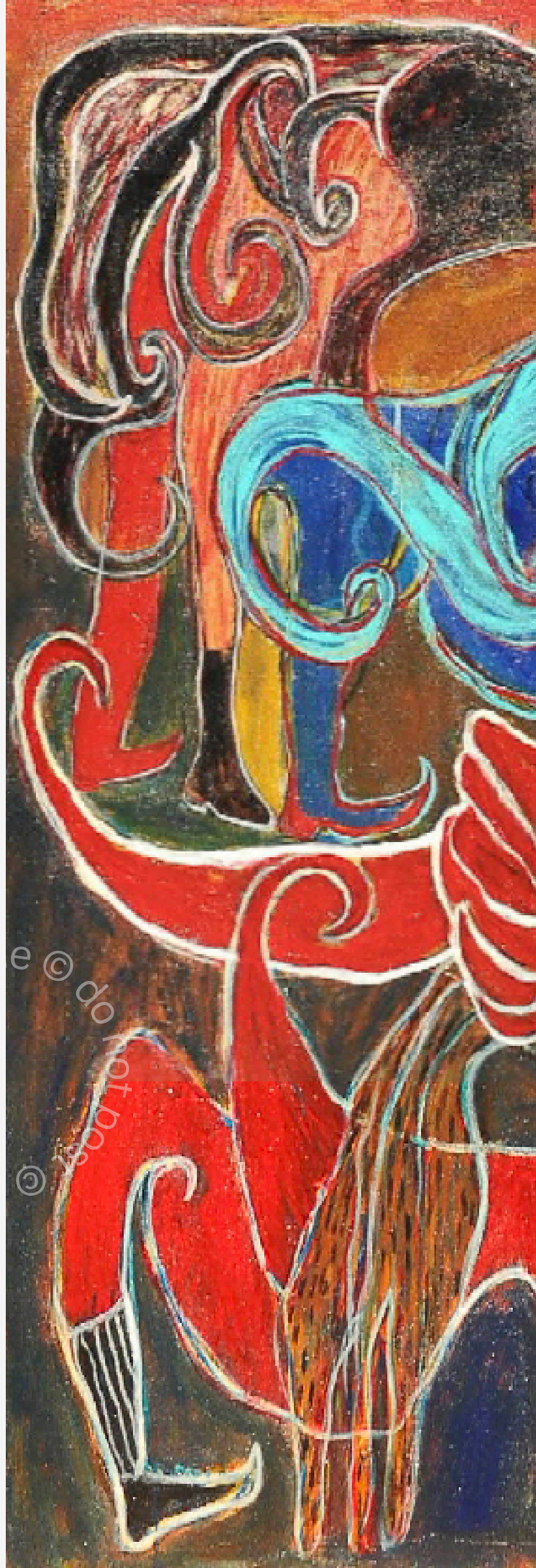


The Happy Centre, 2024. Indian Rosewood

Background & Early Path

Born and raised in Bali, Made Kaek began drawing seriously in the late 1980s while studying in Yogyakarta.

At the time, he was enrolled in **law school**—but the discipline never aligned with his inner world. **Art** became a necessity rather than a choice. In Yogyakarta, exposure to artists like Widayat and Nyoman Gunarsa shaped his understanding of expressive freedom, distortion, and emotional honesty in form.





Endless Romance, 2022, acrylic on canvas

Madeline KASH 2022

How His Work Begins

Unlike artists who start with concepts or stories, Made Kaek begins with *form*.

A shape or imagined being appears first—almost suddenly. Only afterward does meaning begin to grow. This process allows intuition to lead, rather than logic. For him, painting is a way of releasing subconscious pressure, translating inner sensations into visual language.



White Fairy Tale, 2021, acrylic on canvas

The Creatures

The figures in Made Kaek's work are often described as "creatures."

They are deliberately undefined—neither human nor animal, sometimes both. He does not impose a single interpretation. Instead, he gives space for viewers to decide: is this figure a monster, a guardian, or a reflection of the self? For Made Kaek, these creatures can be seen as humble protectors, as his family—inviting us to look inward rather than judge outward appearances.

Cryptic & Amorphous Language

Made Kaek's visual language is often called **cryptic** or **amorphous**.

Forms dissolve, bodies distort, and faces refuse clarity. Colors do not follow natural rules—they respond emotionally rather than realistically. This vagueness is intentional. When meaning is not fixed, curiosity remains alive. His works function like open codes, asking viewers to participate rather than consume.



The Studio: Rumah Paros

His current studio was once his mother's empty house. After returning from years away, Made Kaek transformed it into a living workspace. Rumah Paros is not just a studio—it is a place where painting, writing, discussion, and daily life intersect. Ideas are developed slowly here, shaped by time, conversation, and repetition.

Art, Healing & Belief

In 2012, Made Kaek faced a serious illness. Since then, art has become inseparable from survival and healing. Alongside painting, he began developing a collaborative book project that traces his personal journey—an ongoing process of reflection and documentation, expected to be published later this year.

For Made Kaek, creating is not about producing objects, but about continuing to live consciously. He believes in miracles, angels, and unseen forces—whether we sense them or not depends on our openness.

