

I Gusti Ayu Kadek Murniasih Dyslexia Friendly Wall Text

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Feels Strangely Good, Ya?

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27 Sep 2025–11 Jan 2026

Feels Strangely Good, Ya? is the first international institutional solo exhibition of the late Balinese artist I Gusti Ayu Kadek Murniasih (1966–2006, Bali), more commonly known as 'Murni'. Spanning two galleries, the exhibition is a celebration of Murni's acutely personal works which emerge as

an exploration of her subconscious,
dreams and psyche.

Largely self-taught, Murni gained
recognition in the 1990s for her
striking depictions of female
sexuality in a body of work that
addresses themes of pleasure, sex,
power dynamics, trauma and desire
with humour, absurdity and
unflinching honesty. Her
unapologetically raw paintings are
grounded in her experiences and
daily life, and they challenged
taboos around expressions of

sexual desire by speaking to the unruly complexity of the female body. Unconventional by nature, her work resisted the dominant societal, cultural and political norms of Indonesia and Bali.

The exhibition presents seminal works created across the artist's lifetime, many of which feature ambiguous hybrid figures – part human and part animal – as well as interspecies relationships that exist beyond the

realms of human-made moral
codes. The direct and unique
nature of her visual language –
playful, confessional and stripped
of inhibitions – led to both
acclaim and marginalisation within
the growing contemporary Balinese
art world.

The exhibition also embraces the
companionship, creative freedom
and overlapping themes she found
amongst a small group of fellow
artists including Edmondo Zanolini
'Mondo' (b. 1951), I Dewa Putu

Mokoh 'Mokoh' (c. 1936–2010) and
Oototol, born Dewa Raram 'Totol'
(c. 1930–2008) with a selection of
their works in Gallery 1.

Feels Strangely Good, Ya? marks an
important step in championing
Murni's legacy to audiences
globally. It is an invitation for
viewers to find pleasure in the
surreal, to sit within the strange,
the uncomfortable and the ecstatic
and to trust and be guided by the
senses.

RELATED EVENTS

WALKTHROUGHS

Wed 1 Oct, 12pm

Welcome Walkthrough

Explore the exhibition with our
team and community partners,

Manjit Sahota, Poets Against

Racism and Anna Ball, HEAL

(Hostile Environment, Art-fuelled
Living) followed by refreshments
and conversation in the café.

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Wed 8 Oct, 1pm

**With Annie Jael Kwan, curator and
researcher.**

Wed 22 Oct, 1pm

Curators' Walkthrough

**Join Nottingham Contemporary's
curators for a tour of our autumn
exhibitions.**

Wed 10 Dec, 1pm

**With students from the BA Fine
Art**

course, Nottingham Trent
University

12.30 Talks

12.30pm every Tue, Thu and Sat,
starting Tue 7 Oct

Join one of our friendly Gallery
Assistants for a short exploration
of one of our current exhibitions.
For more details visit our website.

Thu 2 Oct, 4.30pm

Teacher CPD Session

An art-making and practice-sharing
session in our galleries. For
educators of all stages.

LISTENING SESSION

Wed 3 Dec, 7pm

Listening Session with Rahel

Stephanie,

weaving together music, personal
storytelling, and cultural context,
exploring themes from Murni's
work between tracks.

FREE FAMILY ACTIVITIES

October Half-Term: 21 Oct - 30

Oct, Tue, Wed & Thu

Explore the themes in the
exhibitions through making and
play.

Mon 6 Oct, 10 Nov, 15 Dec

Early Years Sensory Workshops:

We Are Wonderlings

Explore the world through sensory
free play in a safe and
stimulating environment.

OTHER EVENTS

Thu 2 Oct, 7pm

111

Three live performances rooted in the expression of Louis Carnell's collaborative record. Featuring Louis Carnell, Wu-Lu, Li Yilei, Juliana Day & Tom Harris.

Wed 8 Oct, 6:30pm

Tender Stones by Lucy Suggate
with Cool Company

**Live performance exploring the
transferable properties of stone,
petrification, heaviness and
tenderness, presented as part of
Nottdance 2025. Suitable for all.**

Fri 10 - Sun 12 Oct

Print Fair Contemporary

**Over 35 stalls showcasing a wide
range of printmakers, illustrators
and artists.**

Wed 15 Oct, 7:30pm

Mōnad by Alexandra 'Spicey'

Lande with MC Jai Nitai Lotus

A contemporary dance performance

exploring how we approach

different incarnations of the same

life, presented as part of

Nottdance 2025. Suitable for ages

18 and over.

Sat 25 - Sun 26 Oct

Festival of Resistance

Join us for a special weekend of

community celebration and

solidarity. Meet community groups
and activists, take part in talks
and creative workshops and be
part of the action.

Sat 1 Nov, 10:20am & 1:30pm

**The Show for Young Men by
GuestHouse Projects**

A funny and tender contemporary
dance performance that considers
the complexities of modern-day
masculinity, presented as part of

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**Nottdance 2025. Suitable for ages 8
and over.**

Tue 4 Nov, 6.30 p m

Jarman Award 2025

**Jarman Award Touring Programme
2025, followed by an in-conversation
with Morgan Quaintance.**

Fri 5 - Sun 7 Dec

Craft Fair Contemporary

40 stalls from independent
designers and makers showcasing a
variety of specialisms.

For more information about the
exhibition, related events and
learning programmes, visit
nottinghamcontemporary.org or scan
here:



COLOPHON

We are grateful to all those
whose generosity made this
exhibition possible.

Headline **S**upporter: Gajah Gallery

Publication **S**upporter: Tanoto Art
Foundation

The **M**urni **E**xhibition **C**ircle:

Natasha **S**idarta, Galuh **S**ukardi,

Raja **U**mar Jamalullail (The

MENAEA Collection)

and those who wish to remain
anonymous.

The exhibition is curated by
Salma Tuqan and Katie Simpson,
assisted by Klara Szafrńska.

Exhibition graphics by Waste
Studio.

If you would like a quiet space to
reflect during your visit, please
visit Gallery 0 (room adjacent to
Gallery 1). If you would like to use
any alternative forms of
interpretation, we have a range of
accessible versions on our Access

**Wall beside Reception or alongside
the wall text in the exhibition.**

**Nottingham Contemporary is a
registered charity and dependent
on the generosity of our visitors,
partners and supporters.**

Environmental: Nottingham

**Contemporary is committed to
advancing sustainability within the
organisation and aims to explore
and embed sustainable working**

practices and habits within our
workplace and across the sector.

This includes standardising
environmental considerations at all
stages of decision making.

The framework for all the walls in
Feels Strangely

Good, Ya? has been reused from
the previous exhibition. Where
possible natural materials have
been used and materials have
been borrowed, re-used or re-
purposed. The exhibition graphics
have been produced and installed

by local suppliers Hayman

Creative. Our exhibitions are always built and installed by local fine art technicians. Our exhibition notes are printed on FSC Mix paper (Forest Stewardship Council[®] certified products manufactured with a variety of sources including FSC-certified virgin fibre, controlled wood and/or recycled materials).