

**I Gusti Ayu Kadek
Murniasih**

Feels Strangely Good, Ya?

Large Print Wall Text

I Gusti Ayu Kadek Murniasih

Feels Strangely Good, Ya?

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.**

I Gusti Ayu Kadek Murniasih Large Print Wall Text

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

Tue 4 Nov, 6.30pm

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 Supporter: Gajah Gallery

**Publication Supporter: Tanoto Art
Foundation**

**The Murni Exhibition Circle: Natasha
Sidartha, Galuh Sukardi, Raja Umar
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).