

**Nottingham
Contemporary**

**I Gusti Ayu Kadek
Murniasih**

***Feels Strangely Good,
Ya?***

Easy Read Guide



How to use this Guide



In this guide, hard to understand words are underlined. We explain what these words mean after they have been used.

The guide starts with an introduction about the exhibition.

After the introduction, there is a section of the guide telling you about different themes in the exhibition.

You can use the contents page to find out which page of the guide information on each theme is found at.

The contents page is on the next page and tells you what page number to turn to for each section.

The page numbers are written at the bottom of each page.

Contents

Page

Introduction	4
Murni's Early Life	5
Murni's Return to Bali	7
Murni, Mondo, Mokoh and Totol	9
Murni's Paintings	12
For More Information	16
Image Credits	17

Introduction



This exhibition is a display of artworks by an artist called I Gusti Ayu Kadek Murniasih. Most people call her Murni instead of using her full name.



We are showing works by Murni at Nottingham Contemporary from 27 September 2025 to 11 January 2026.



Murni is an artist from Bali.



Murni was born in 1966. She died in 2006 when she was 40 years old.

Murni's early life



When she was young, Murni and her family moved from Bali to a place called South Sulawesi. Murni wasn't happy about this.



The family moved because the government wanted people to move from places that had lots of people living in them to places which didn't have many people living in them. The government are the people in charge of making the rules of a country.



The government offered people money to move.



Murni missed Bali and the land her family knew.



Murni worked in lots of different jobs when she was young. She worked doing things like cleaning houses and sewing clothes.



These jobs taught Murni things that she used when she made art later in her life.

Murni's return to Bali



When she was older Murni moved back to Bali.



When Murni moved back to Bali she worked at a silversmiths. A silversmiths is where jewellery is made out of a metal called silver.



Murni married a man she worked with at the silversmiths.



Murni and her husband wanted to have a baby.



Murni was unwell while she was married. Because she was ill, Murni couldn't have a baby.



This caused problems in Murni's marriage and meant that Murni decided to divorce her husband. A divorce is when two people who were married stop being married.



Divorce was very unusual in Bali at the time and it took a very long time for Murni to be allowed to get divorced.

Murni, Mondo, Mokoh and Totol



After her divorce Murni started working for a painter called Edmondo Zanolini. He was called Mondo by most people.



Mondo was from Italy.



Murni and Mondo became life partners. A life partner is someone you spend your life with and love very much.



Mondo worked for another painter called I Dewa Putu Mokoh. He was called Mokoh by most people.



Later on Murni also got a job working for Mokoh. Mokoh and Mondo both taught Murni things about painting.



At first Murni learned to paint like Mondo and Mokoh. Later she found her own ways of painting that were very different.



Some of Mondo and Mokoh's paintings are on display in Gallery One. There are also paintings by another artist Murni was close to called Dewa Raram. He was called Total by most people.



Murni looked after Totol and she taught him how to paint to share his feelings.



Murni, Mondo, Mokoh and Totol were like a creative family. They spent lots of time painting together at Murni's house.

Murni's Paintings



Murni's paintings were very personal. They showed things that she was thinking and dreaming about.



Murni didn't see her life and her art as two different things. She saw her art and her life as being connected.



Murni spent a lot of time painting. She would often wake up in the middle of the night and draw or paint her dreams.



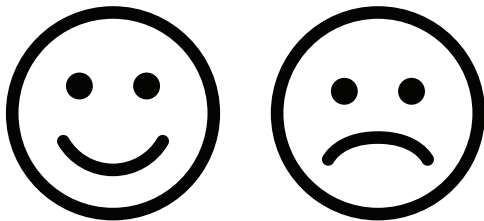
Murni's paintings were very bold and colourful. They were often very strange and sometimes funny. Sometimes they shocked people who saw them.



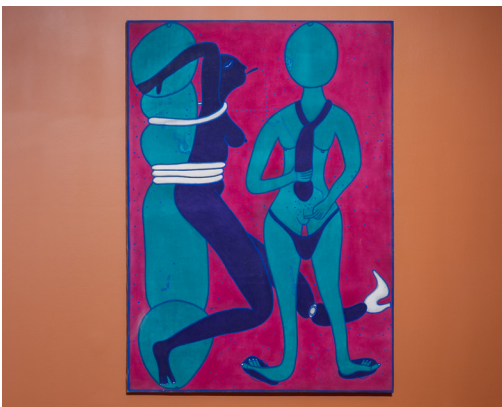
Murni also made sculptures and masks out of wood. These show some of the same things we can see in her paintings.



Lots of Murni's artworks show figures that look like they are half human and half animal.



Murni's artworks showed good things that made her happy as well as bad things that made her sad.



Lots of Murni's artworks show naked bodies. Murni was interested in how people show their feelings about sex and desire. Desire is when you want something.



At the time Murni was making paintings, it was unusual for women in Bali to talk about sex openly. Murni found it very freeing to paint what she wanted and to show things like naked bodies.



Paintings of naked women were mostly made by men in the past. Murni felt that making paintings which showed naked bodies was a way for her to reclaim the female body. Reclaiming the female body means saying that women's bodies belongs to women and not to men or to society.



Murni saw women's bodies as powerful. She felt they deserved respect.



Murni wanted to reclaim the female body to say that she wasn't interested in how other people thought she should look or act.

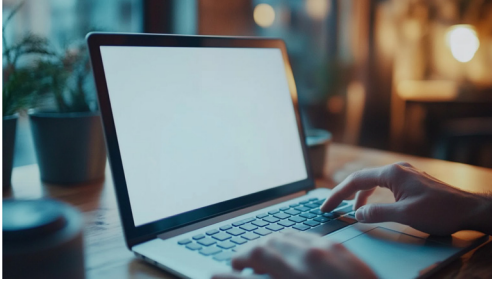


Murni also acted in other ways that surprised people in her life. She didn't listen to rules about what men and women should do.



People remember Murni doing things that women didn't usually do. This included dancing special dances which were usually only performed by boys. Murni thought women and girls should be allowed to do the same things as boys and men.

For More Information



You can find out more about what we do by looking at our website here:

nottinghamcontemporary.org



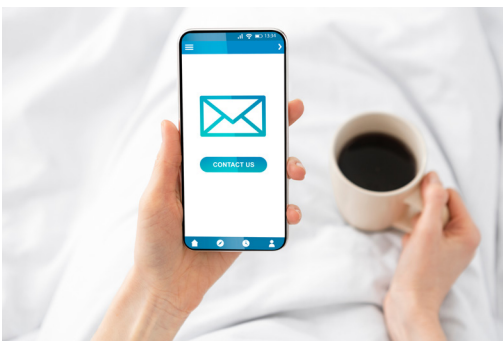
If you would like to help us show more artworks in the future, please think about giving us some money.

We suggest £5 as a good amount.



If you need more information please contact us by:

**Post : Nottingham Contemporary
Weekday Cross Nottingham
NG1 2GB**



Phone: 0115 948 9750

**Email:
info@nottinghamcontemporary.org**

Image Credits

Image credits tell us who took a photograph. The image credits for the photographs you have seen in this easy read guide are shown below.

We have to write these in the way they are written below because of special rules. You don't need to read this part of the guide unless you want to. This part of the guide doesn't tell you anything more about the artworks in the exhibition.

Page 1

1. I Gusti Ayu Kadek Murniasih, *Feels Strangely Good, Ya?* Installation
View Photo: Jules Lister

Page 2

1. 679576960 shutterstock.com

Page 4

1. I Gusti Ayu Kadek Murniasih, *Feels Strangely Good, Ya?* Installation
View Photo: Jules Lister

2. 2157413597& 2162263567shutterstock.com

3. 2404167551 shutterstock.com

4. 2623679271 shutterstock.com

Page 5

1. 629048642 shutterstock.com

2. 2229208445 shutterstock.com

3. 2254761985 shutterstock.com

4. 200003417shutterstock.com

Page 6

1. 1312293143 shutterstock.com

2. 2503679051 shutterstock.com

Page 7

1. 2404167551 shutterstock.com

2. 239506579 shutterstock.com

3. 2307126169 shutterstock.com

4. 1289722432 shutterstock.com

Page 8

1. 2276372313 shutterstock.com

2. 2191879567 shutterstock.com

3. 282021995 shutterstock.com

Page 9

1. 2390491861 shutterstock.com

2. 2227253589 shutterstock.com

3. 2320270349 shutterstock.com

Page 10

1. 2390491861 shutterstock.com

2. 2466623023 shutterstock.com

3. I Gusti Ayu Kadek Murniasih, *Feels Strangely Good, Ya?* Installation

View Photo: Jules Lister

4. I Gusti Ayu Kadek Murniasih, *Feels Strangely Good, Ya?* Installation

View Photo: Jules Lister

Page 11

1. 2588808821 shutterstock.com

2. 2392488931 shutterstock.com

Page 12

1. 2269762995 shutterstock.com

2. 2029233803 shutterstock.com

3. 2644845843 shutterstock.com

4. I Gusti Ayu Kadek Murniasih, *Feels Strangely Good, Ya?* Installation

View Photo: Jules Lister

Page 13

1. I Gusti Ayu Kadek Murniasih, *Feels Strangely Good, Ya?* Installation

View Photo: Jules Lister

2. I Gusti Ayu Kadek Murniasih, *Feels Strangely Good, Ya?* Installation

View Photo: Jules Lister

3. 706298302 shutterstock.com

4. I Gusti Ayu Kadek Murniasih, *Feels Strangely Good, Ya?* Installation

View Photo: Jules Lister

Page 14

1. 2473263217 shutterstock.com

2. 1085622290 shutterstock.com

3. 2310881927 shutterstock.com

4. 2453306307 shutterstock.com

Page 15

1. 203013697 shutterstock.com

2. 1596694237 shutterstock.com

Page 16

1. 2500892997 shutterstock.com

3. 1424495612 shutterstock.com

4. 1913129872 shutterstock.com