

Bali, August 27 – 29, 2004



The *umbul-umbul* are flags used as decorations for rituals in Bali as a media for proclaiming the presence of the gods for the occasion. In Balinese terms, the «gods» are Hindu deities and at the same time signify «consciousness at the highest level». Because of that we should not forget this guidance at any moment of our lives. In ritual processions, sugarcanes are carried at the very front, symbolizing an attitude of absolute certainty. Following this, the *umbul-umbul* are raised high towards the sky, often decorated with the drawing of a naga, the mythical snake-dragon. With a distinct curve as it nears the sky, the unique form of the *umbul-umbul* and its motif tells a message of its own significance to the people of Bali, but holds the possibility of becoming an important media for the rest of the world as well.

Umbul Umbul Festival

Uniting the Colors of the World

In August 2004, Arti Foundation in Bali – inviting the Rainbow Project in Switzerland for cooperation – will produce the Umbul Umbul Festival as a forum for the creation and exhibition of *umbul-umbuls*, with performances, discussions and a procession. The festival brings together alert people from different cultures with conscious minds to meet and exchange information, and to create new networks. In 1989, the Rainbow Project – an art and culture network – brought the *umbul-umbul* in the colors of the rainbow to Switzerland. Since then the Rainbow Project has been aiming to inspire people from all over the world to create their own colorful *umbul-umbuls*. Now, in 2004, all the colors will be gathered at the Umbul Umbul Festival in Bali.



Target of the Festival

The creation of *umbul-umbuls* is a way of expressing concerns about the future of life on earth. Apart from the creation and exhibition of *umbul-umbuls* and concerts of music from different cultures of the world, the Umbul Umbul Festival also features performances and discussions, focussing on humanity, art, nature and spirituality. The festival aims at coming to an understanding for everybody, especially the younger generation of Bali, to the significance of the *Tri Hita Karana*, the harmonious relationship between man and the environment, man and man, and man and god. There are additional but important activities such as the rubbish collection in the city and on the beach. The festival will encourage everyone involved to revise their understanding of this philosophy in their daily life in order to protect the eco-system of the earth, and to sustain harmony and peace in the society.

The *umbul-umbuls* of hope, meaning, and strength will nourish our hearts, and will generate an energy that everyone will be able to take back home to their villages, provinces or countries, to build a tomorrow that is different, that is kinder than today, for mankind and the planet!

The Five Major Events of the Festival

Umbul Umbul Exhibition

There will be an exhibition of *umbul-umbuls* at the Puputan Badung Memorial Park from the afternoon of Day One and throughout Day Two. The *umbul-umbuls* will also be exhibited at Sanur Beachside on Day Three. The *umbul-umbuls* exhibited at the park will be allocated around a central mandala of traditional Balinese *umbul-umbuls* creating a form of a lotus, and will consist of the following five categories:

- *Traditional Balinese Umbul Umbul*
- *Rainbow Project with the umbul-umbuls in the colors of the rainbow* as a bridge between tradition and the contemporary world.
- *Messages from the Children of the World: umbul-umbuls* created by school children from Bali, from other provinces of Indonesia, and from various other countries.
- *Now We Move Forward: umbul-umbuls* brought by the invited participants.
- *Umbul Umbuls of the Contest: umbul-umbuls* created at the Umbul Umbul Contest.

Umbul Umbul Contest

The contest will have a Student and an Adults Division. The festival committee will be visiting various schools as candidate participants throughout Bali to introduce the festival and to provide information to help find a theme for their *umbul-umbuls*. *Umbul-umbuls* will be completed on Day Two when material and guidance will be provided. Prize winners will be announced on Day Three. The *umbul-umbuls* will be judged according to their artistic design and concept.



Performances

Day Two at the Puputan Badung Memorial Park will consist of four stages including an opening ceremony, an opening performance, concerts by the invited musicians – representing the sound of the world – and also performances of music, dance, poetry reading... by the festival participants. Settling with the participants, the festival committee will do their best to provide for the requirements of each group. There will be performances and concerts on Day Three as well on the beachside before the closing ceremony.

Discussions

On Day Two at the Puputan Badung Memorial Park, there will be sessions for discussions where topics concerning humanity, arts, nature and spirituality related to Bali and the rest of the world will be highlighted. The festival committee will invite various speakers to be presenters and all participants are encouraged to take part in this session. Journalists from different medias will be invited also to witness the event and spread the word.

Umbul Umbul Procession

In the morning of Day Three, there will be a procession of *umbul-umbuls* created by the participants starting from the Puputan Badung Memorial Park to the Sanur Beachside. The procession will be accompanied by musical entertainment prepared by the festival committee, invited musicians and participant groups. After the procession, the *umbul-umbuls* will be exhibited on the beachside.



Context of the Festival

The people living on the island of Bali, along with people from the other parts of Indonesia, are facing differences on many levels. Ethnicity, religion, politics and economics are major issues of conflict throughout the archipelago and have resulted in many tragedies. However, we see that this is not only an Indonesian problem but has a wider global impact, which is getting out of hand. It seems that mankind has become ignorant of his relation to the Mother Earth and has become blind to the diversity of its content. Whatever race, religion, nationality, or political orientation we are, in order to bring love, peace and humanity back into the world, we must look for the *umbul-umbul* to plant in our hearts again.

Three Central Balinese Concepts Behind the Umbul Umbul Festival

The Nawa Sanga

The nawa sanga is a key concept in Bali where different Hindu deities are positioned at the eight cardinal directions and at the centre, each representing a certain color, letter, sound and weapon. The nawa sanga is a representation of the cosmos in many dimensions, but put simply, the formation of the deities and their manifestations in the many colors seems to remind us that there is place for everyone on the earth.

The concept will come to life at the Puputan Badung Memorial Park, where the setting of the festival will take form of a lotus flower, reflecting the nawa sanga, symbolizing «order» or «completeness».

The Message of the Penjor

The penjor, the origin of the form of *umbul-umbul*, is a tall, beautiful structure made from a bamboo pole and decorated with palm leaves used on holy days in Bali. With its foot rooted to the ground, the body grows high towards the sky, with a gentle curve towards its nodding head. As it gently sways in the wind, the penjor tells us: the wiser we become, the more we should lower our heads in humbleness. To be united in diversity and for reconciliation, should we not be following the message of the penjor? In the festival, the *umbul-umbuls* are used as a media for messages of many colors, but its distinct form itself reminds us that in whatever circumstances, no one is superior to others, and we can all give «meaning» to life.

The Symbol of the Naga

An *umbul-umbul* often bears the picture of the naga – a snake-dragon. Legend tells us that the naga came to Bali from China many years ago when a Balinese king named Jayapangus took a bride from China. This is an example of the many notable adaptations in Balinese culture from outside influences which has come to flourish in their own right on this beautiful island. The Antaboga, as the dragon-snake god is called in Bali, is believed to be the guardian of mother earth, and the *umbul-umbul* became its vehicle supporting the contents of earth, protecting it from destruction, symbolizing great strength.

It is also interesting to note that the mythical figure of the dragon has accompanied mankind for thousands of years, along with the phenomenon of the rainbow. In nearly every one of the indigenous cultures on earth, we find the existence of the dragon and the rainbow. The Rainbow Project has manifested the coming together of the two symbols in their creation of the *umbul-umbuls* in the colors of the rainbow.



Participants

Welcome

The Umbul Umbul Festival is free of charge to everyone who wishes to witness.

Participants by Invitation

The festival committee will select artists working in different medias from Bali, other parts of Indonesia and overseas, who will be invited to participate in the festival. They are invited to bring or send one completed *umbul-umbul* to be exhibited during the festival. Those who participate directly, will be asked to give a performance or lead a discussion with a topic of their choice. In return they will be provided with bamboo for their *umbul-umbuls*, accommodation, local transport, mineral water and meals. The festival committee will also invite musicians from different cultures – playing a typical instrument of their tradition – to be present during the festival for concerts, performances and the Umbul Umbul Procession. To fulfill the category «Messages from the Children of the Earth» in the Umbul Umbul Exhibition, the festival committee will contact and invite various schools throughout the world to send completed *umbul-umbuls* to be exhibited.

Participants for the Contest

The contest is open to groups of adults and students over junior high school level from Bali, but those who wish to participate in the contest from other parts of Indonesia and overseas are welcome. Groups are encouraged to prepare a simple musical entertainment for the Umbul Umbul Procession on Day Three. They are also welcomed to perform on stage. Material for the creation of the *umbul-umbul*, mineral water and meals will be provided. After the festival, these participants will take back their painted *umbul-umbuls* to their home: spreading the news of the festival.

Individual/Group Participants for the Umbul Umbul Exhibition

Individual or groups who own or wish to create an *umbul-umbul* of their own are welcome to participate in the festival as well. Their *umbul-umbuls* will be exhibited during the festival, and arrangements for performing on stage or participation in discussions and the procession can be coordinated.

Documentation

There will be visual and audio documentation of all activities of the Umbul Umbul Festival, which will be followed by a printed publication with photographs and text.



Umbul Umbul Festival Program, August 27 – 29, 2004

Uniting the Colors of the World

Puputan Badung Memorial Park (Central Denpasar) and Sanur Beachside

Day One at Puputan Badung Memorial Park

City Cleaning • Allocation of the *umbul-umbuls* by invited participants to be exhibited
• Audio-visual presentation by the Rainbow Project: The Journey of the Umbul Umbul into the World • Shadow Puppet Theater • a.o.

Day Two at Puputan Badung Memorial Park

Umbul Umbul Contest: Participants paint their own *umbul-umbuls*, which will be added to the exhibition • Opening of the festival by the mayor of Denpasar • Performances of Music, Dance, Poetry Reading • Discussions • a.o.

Day Three at Sanur Beachside

Umbul Umbul Procession from Puputan Badung Memorial Park to Sanur Beachside • Exhibition of the *umbul-umbuls* on the Beachside • Beachside Cleaning • Performances of Music, Dance, a.o. • Announcement of Umbul Umbul Contest prize winners • Closing of the festival by the mayor of Denpasar

About the Festival Conceptor

The Umbul Umbul Festival was conceptualized by Arti Foundation, Bali and Rainbow Project, Switzerland.

Arti Foundation, founded 1998, is an organization committed to the conservation and development of Balinese performing arts and culture in general, highlighting the challenge to stay true to cultural heritage while remaining creative in an increasingly globalized age. Under the direction of Kadek Suardana, the foundation has been producing innovative stage works based on tradition, being performed in Indonesia and abroad. It is also deeply involved in the creation of many local events, intending to work with friends throughout Bali and beyond, so that its activities continue to have impact and meaning for everyone involved.

Kadek Suardana, 1956. Stage director and composer, co-founder of the Arti Foundation. Created music for Australian and Swedish dance companies, winner of VIDIA Award in 1998 for best illustration music for television movie. With a deep understanding of Balinese traditional arts and experience in modern theater, his music reflects ethnic identity but with new means of expression.

www.artifoundation.org

Rainbow Project is an art and culture initiative in 3433 Schwanden, Switzerland, founded in 1989. Since then the project has developed a network to exchange ideas, experiences and knowledge – locally, regionally and worldwide. *Umbul-umbuls*, printed in the colors of the rainbow or painted by children, artists and interested people, are one of its important tools for focusing and signaling intercultural communication – providing a framework for people to interact with each other's visions and projects.

Thomas Bertschi Lobsang, 1944. Artist and visual designer. Has traveled and worked in many countries and cultures, since 1987 mainly in Bali. In 1974 established his own independent workshop within a LifeArt-Community in the Swiss Emmental region. Awards received for literary, photographic and film works. Founder of the Rainbow Project. Crucial aspects of his work are the initiation, choreography and design of process oriented cultural events.

www.rainbow-project.ch

Organizing Committee

Arti Foundation, Art Centre, Jl. Nusa Indah, Denpasar, Bali

Phone +62 361 236619 Fax +62 361 264089

email <umbul-umbul@artifoundation.org>

www.artifoundation.org/umbul.htm

