

## From the Editor

The study of popular music has focused on the production, aesthetics and content of media texts. Very few studies explore the consumption or everyday use of popular music inside or outside their countries of origin. Suryadi tries to fill this gap in his article entitled 'Transnasionalisasi Muzik Indonesia'. He analyzes the production, circulation and reception of *Pop Minang*, a type of Indonesian regional pop music, in the Chow Kit district of Kuala Lumpur, where many Indonesian immigrants live.

This issue of *Wacana Seni* further emphasizes the research efforts of the staff and students of the School of Arts. Shanthi Balraj, Mohammed Zin Nordin and N.V. Prasad highlight the methodology used to engage secondary school students in media making in a project where students produced a series of videos about promoting peace in the school environment.

Fauzan Omar and Tengku Azhari are both keen proponents of the use of new materials and media as well as the integration of meaning in artworks. Through a series of artworks by students, Fauzan shows how found objects such as used television sets, water bottles or candles, and digital media such as photographs and video images can be mixed to produce creative works. His own creative piece 'Upwards/Embrace and Patterns of the Earth Forms' appeals to audiences to preserve the trees which are vital to man's survival. Tengku Azhari traces the key concepts and historical development of multimedia installation.

Lastly, Mumtaz Begum uses semiotics to analyze the dance choreographies and conventions employed by leading dancers in the country to deal with issues related to gender, hybridity and cross-culturalism.

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