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Traveling Between Worlds: The Afterlife of Art & Ritual in Indonesia

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Celebrated as "the golden era of the archipelago," the Majapahit empire (1293-1519) has and still continues to inspire many writers and artists in Indonesia. Prapanca's *Nagarakretagama*, written in 1365, depicts a sophisticated court centered in Trowulan, East Java, with refined taste in art and literature and a complex system of religious rituals revolving around deified royal ancestors. The poet describes Majapahit as the center of an expansive mandala extending from New Guinea and Maluku to Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula. Even today, Majapahit is considered a cornerstone of Balinese identity and has its origins in the conquest of Bali in 1343 by Gajah Mada. Indeed, for at least the last 300 years Balinese culture has been defined by its links to the high culture of Java exemplified by Majapahit. A key story referencing these origins is that of the artisan Sangging Lobangkara (or Perbangkara), whose life is depicted in a painting on canvas by Balinese artist I Wayan Karya (1925–1965), gifted to the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco by Karen A. Signell in 1998. This lecture for the Arts of Asia Series will focus on Karya's prophetic painting as it can be seen to travel between worlds –writing the past/inscribing the future—and revealing in the process the ever-renewable afterlife of art & ritual in Indonesia.

THE RULERS OF MAJAPAHIT

1. Raden Wijaya (Kertarajasa Jayawardhana (1293-1309))
2. Kalagamet (Jayanagara (1309-1328))
3. Sri Gitarja (Queen Tribhuwana Wijayatunggadewi (1329-1350))
4. Hayam Wuruk (Sri Rajasanagara (1350-1389))
5. Wikramawardhana (1389-1429)
6. Queen Suhita (1429-1447)
7. Kertawijaya (Brawijaya I (1447-1451))
8. Rajasawardhana (Brawijaya II (1451-1453))
 - Interregnum (1453-1456)
9. Girisawardhana, Prince of Wengker (Brawijaya III (1456-1466))
10. Singhawikramawardhana (Brawijaya IV (1466-1468))
11. Kertabumi (Brawijaya V (1468-1478))
12. Girindrawardhana (Brawijaya VI (1478-1498))

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