

RAKINI DEVI KALI SHRINE UBUD BALI AUGUST 2024



Rakini Devi, *Kali Shrine*, Neka Art Museum, Ubud, *Indonesia Bertutur Festival*, 2024 Image by Melati Suryodarmo



Rakini Devi, *Kali Shrine*, Neka Art Museum, Ubud, *Indonesia Bertutur Festival*.

Kali Shrine

Indian born Sydney based multidisciplinary artist Dr. Rakini Devi's Goddess Kali iconography as performance ritual is inspired by the temporary shrines in her birthplace Kolkata (called *pandals*) that traditionally adorn the city during Hindu festivals, and her training in Indian classical dance. The work celebrates the female body as sacred site and as feminist performance activism. In a climate of racial tension, war, and the rise of global misogynist crimes, Rakini Devi's performance of embodied iconography protests these atrocities. Her performance practice is the subject of her 2018 doctorate, titled *Urban Kali, from sacred dance to secular performance*.

Kali Shrine adhered to the theme of *Indonesia Bertutur Festival*, that celebrated cultural heritage, sustainable culture, and art as a source of knowledge. This is the second site-specific work performed by Devi in Indonesia curated by Melati Suryadarmo, the first being in Solo, Indonesia, titled *The Human Shrine*, for PALA live art Festival in 2009.

This durational site -specific work was presented at the beautiful Neka Art Museum, Ubud, Bali. Devi has performed the theme of the Goddess Kali over two decades, in various incarnations and styles, as dance, theatre, and live art installation. Each live art performance is inspired by the architecture, cultural and historical importance of the environment.

Kali Shrine for Indonesia Bertutur was a three-hour durational work that included sound and continuous stylised actions and dance-based movement.

Kali performance repertoire:

2017 *Urban Kali*, Lennox Theatre, Sydney, presented by UOW and Form Dance.
<https://rakinidevi.net/urban-kali/>

2022 *Urban Kali*, 4a Gallery, Sydney, produced by Intimate Spectacle.
<https://rakinidevi.net/urban-kali-4a-gallery/>

2020 *Kali Madonna* 3D film directed by Carlos Gomes filmed by Samuel James.
<https://rakinidevi.net/kali-madonna-vr/>

2019 Kolkata Kali, Site specific performance, India.
<https://rakinidevi.net/kolkata-kali/>

2019 *Kolkata Kali #2* Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, video and live art performance for *Artbar*.
<https://rakinidevi.net/kolkata-kali-2-mca-artbar/>

2014 *Kali Madonna* 2014 Village Bizarre, The Rocks Sydney, seven- week performance installation.
<https://rakinidevi.net/kali-madonna/>



Kali Shrine, images by Melati Suryodarmo



Images by Lisette Ros.