



Later he showed me other projects, following the same idea of archive : a village that is now drown in order to build a huge dam (people at that time refused to go away). Or the before/after airport. He went to the airport which is still under construction and closed to public on a official visit day. With his camera he pretended to be part of the media crew and got in very easily. That is something to know : having a camera opens you a lot of doors, since Indonesian people love to be taken in picture. Lately he has been visiting a glass recycling factory, new in the village. The glass is washed in machine, and factory workers select it by type and colour (bare handed!). The genius idea of the owner was to allow home and custom working for the workers. They take so many kilos of such size, and can work where and when they want. This allow women to work while staying at home. Pandu studied economy. He is also the founder of Apamart, a local market happening once a month in Jaf. People need exchange IDR to local money in order to buy things. For now the local money is limited to Apamart, but the idea is to extend it to daily use in the village. He also wants to research time as currency. But I need to talk more with him in order to get his point.

1-04 City walk Majalengka with Pandu .Pandu is one of the Jaf artist. He is photographer, and tries to make archive about the region, so that we can look back afterwards and see the changes. He not only takes picture but also asks the people about stories, because this region has no clear history or archive. The photos shows about people, clothing, activities, architecture...We went on Sunday to Majalengka city to visit a Chinese temple and learn about its origin. This visit was also sort of political, since religions tend to become a hot topic, especially with the elections coming (in July, the country will elect a new governor -I think this is like prime minister. One can see posters everywhere, there are 4 candidates, and their are designed by numbers. Therefore when taking picture, I should avoir showing my thumb up or making V with 2 fingers, since it may refer to supporting number one or two. And Indonesian people always do something with their arms and fingers on the pictures)



There you can 'check your health' for free. They measure the blood pressure. I went there for fun but mine was actually too low.



Again colorful houses





the chinese temple. I could not take more picture because I needed to ask the god's authorization...and maybe their don't speak english?



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the city hall, from the dutch time. Has incredible plants

4-04

Sick after wedding -What is Jaf?  
(for the wedding please see at my website : [cecilespinasse.eu](http://cecilespinasse.eu) >in indonesia)

I was sick the following 2 days and doubts came in. It is very difficult for me to see Jaf artists actually working. Also when I talk with them concerning project it is hard to get further than abstract concept. For example we talked about a real-lab universities, a project they have in collaboration with European and asian school to teach at in action through workshop. Swiss students came here for 2 months last summer : it was impossible for me to know if they ended with a concrete project! Arief only joked around that they sat and smoked together (but maybe it is not a joke?!)

I talked to Arie concerning this fear : how can I help them in their project (Agency learning By Helping) if I don't see them working? He told me that was also for 2 reasons : the first is that they still did not receive money from the government to finance their project of going to other villages and trying to replicate the community art they do in Jatisura.



They have a car free sunday morning. It turned into a huge market where you can buy anything



The second is that most of their work is invisible : it is about social glue. They mostly talk to as many people as possible, to be kept update of news, ideas or problems and become trustworthy. They give advise/strategy of ways to improves someones business or situation. But mostly they try to push the people gently until they have the feeling the new idea is their. Each member of Jaf has his or her talking strategy and public.

Arie used to be punk : he is famous in this community and convinced them to clean garbage in a neighbourhood in order to better their social image. Now he is into flower and herbal teas, he wants to make them more popular, sell them and encourage people planting at home. He also works with the newly coffee-shop community. His strategy is mainly bullying.

Other work with the gangster. Others with Wates, a village that has land conflict with the military (see more later). There is also a band that plays only with ceramic instrument of their invention (Jatisura is famous for its clay, but people only used to make roof-tile, therefore making instruments widens the possibility and value of their main ressource)

Concerning my own work there, I decided that agency learning by helping could be accompanying people that offer it to me, in order to see what they do and how they work, sometimes only visiting new places, and presenting myself and my background. This strategy is actually incredibly tiring. Since I am a bule (white skin person) people are very excited to see me. They ask for thousands of pictures with me, want me to visit their school, home, village... I ended up signing autograph and giving improvised english lessons to school boys and girls. There is a recent community that tries to teach english to the young generation in preparation for the new airport, so that the young can speak and teach around them how to communicate with foreigners. (I think first step is to stop calling them in the street and considering having a selfie with a white person is the best thing ever...)

But anyways, I discover new places which is good. But at the same time I am very passive, following here and there, and don't have the feeling I am bringing up new interesting things (except my face) nor use my brain so much. I maybe should talk more about what surprises me, be critical sometimes, but I don't feel like being the white person giving lessons. But I need to find a way to share more : and I think this has to be through making, production. Also for the simple reason that making makes me feel happy. Therefore I will have to find a balance between visiting, being with people and finding time to research and make.



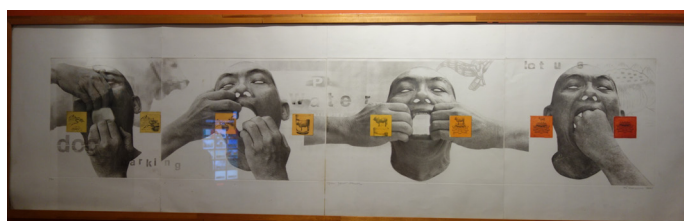
Presenting myself and France. Giving improvized english lessons...I am considered as a native speaker here...



6+7-04

## Jakarta

Arief Yudi, founder of Jaf, were asked to give a lecture in Jakarta on community and participatory art, in a new school program, open to anyone. He suggested I come with him so I did. We took a local bus (stopping whenever asked to do so), then taxi scooter (mine did not have mirror and drove too fast to my taste), then train, suburban train and finally taxi. « Man and mobility! » said Arief laughing. The day at school was very frustrating to me, since nobody translated the discussion to me, though they new english and I asked them to do so. And the last train to go back was full, so we had to find a friend to sleep at, while getting out of battery. Anyways we managed and we spend another day in Jakarta that was very interesting. I visited the national gallery (which is free).

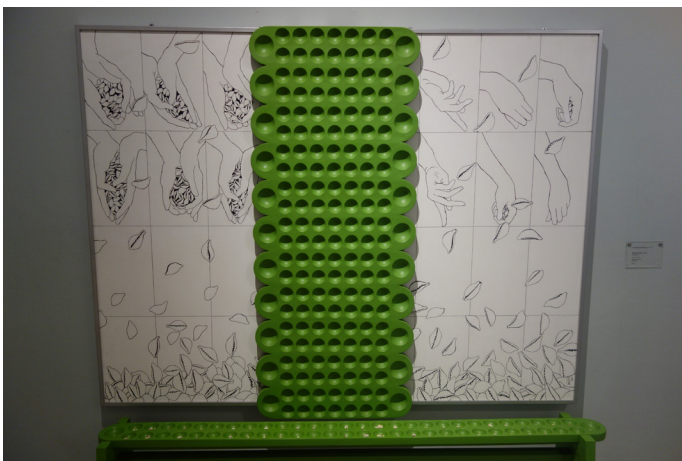






It gave me a sense of Indonesian art. It was actually social-political from the start, with the call for artist to paint Indonesian daily lives (while still under dutch colonialism, so before Indonesia was named as such). Then came the period of new order with Sukarno, and artist that were close to the poor got accused of communism and eliminated. But in the 1970s, a new avant-gard was again born and refused the official art of the regime. They used assemblage and mixed media to talk about social and political issues. They also worked in participatory ways. I found their work very good.

The gallery also held a temporary exhibition : a national comics contest. Once again i was happily surprised : the room was full of incredibly varied techniques and supports.







Gudang Sarinah, the working area of Ruang Rupa.



I think there is a great freedom in Indonesian art. We also visited another famous art collectif named RuangRupa. They have big warehouse working space that resemble Amsterdam NDSM, with a lot of different project, from magazine making to textile printing and...urban farming! I met a guy named Julian who works with urban forest and gave me a speech on farmers being the real artists that would put him straight in Man and Food department :) There is also a gallery space : when I was there woodcut were exhibited : the fun thing was that they showed the wood-cut only, not the print, so everything was reversed!





8+9+10+11-04

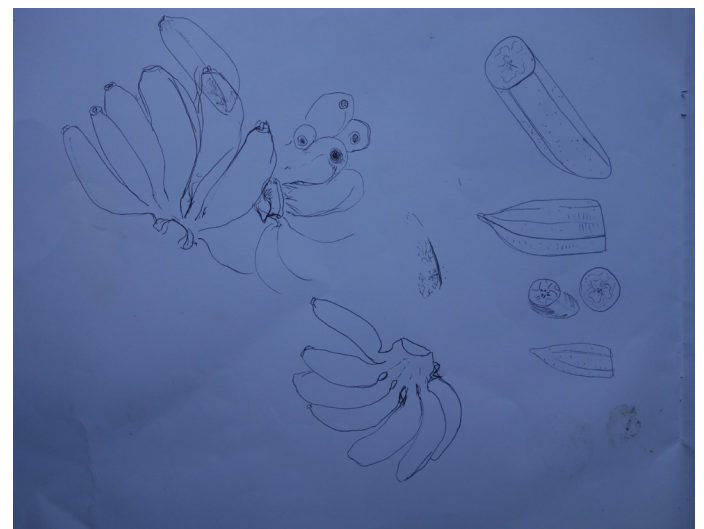
## Batik

Agency learning by helping found a nice place to go : a batik 'factory'. You can find more picture of the place and technique in my website.

I go there every morning by bike. Work hard, and eat boiled bananas which are delicious. It feels good to be there : it gives me structure, I am producing something, learning a new technic and even chatting half-english half-indonesian with my coworker and the manager. I see normal life going on. I like the materiality of this technic, the wax, the specific tools and gestures. It is an incredibly slow method, all hand made. I am not sure yet what I can do with is, nor do I think that I am helping them so much, since I don't bring new ideas and knowledge, rather learn from their expertise.

The complete story is that the woman owning this small batik factory is the first one to bring it to the village. She did so in order to employ older people of her village. However due to political things (which I did not entirely get) she did not sell for months. She had to buy cow in order for life to continue, but still she produces batik. Arie knew about the situation and therefore suggested I go there, as a 'small intervention'. I really enjoys it, but don't really know how to help their situation. Arie told me I might have to reconsider what helping is, sometimes it is only about bringing fresh excitement to make them continue... Maybe that is indeed a first step.

The process is still not finished, we need more piece before we make a colour bath ... I am invited to do my own design. I am thinking of layering my way on an already colored textile. Or...something with bananas.





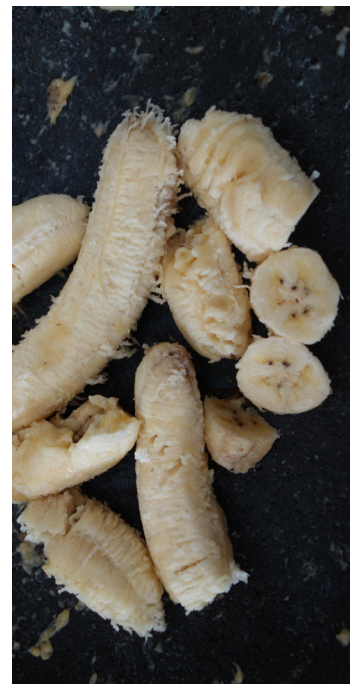
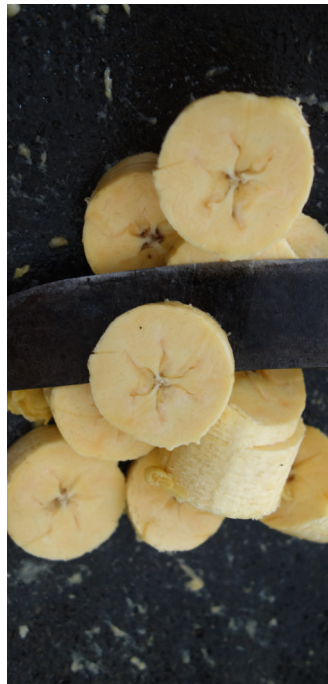
## Banana obsession

I have been asked to do a workshop at the end of the month, since they hold a festival on new art media and farming. From talking with Ismal, the organiser, it is about how art media is not only about image making a digital but can be found in daily lives, and in farming. They invited Yoyoyo, a farmer from another village far in the mountain that still have traditional astronomical knowledge to do agriculture, people from yogyakarta dealing with community art and permaculture, and I. Speaking with Arief who suggested I encourage people to plant their own vegetables at home, I realise I don't feel like talking about local production against mass, industrialised agribusiness and all their downsides for the simple reason that I don't act the things I could say. I mean I could speak about it well, tell the value of self growing food and the different technics to do so, but I do not myself! So I was wondering what knowledge or approach I could offer.

In Indonesia there is an incredible variety of bananas, each having their own shape, texture and taste. I am fascinated by their aesthetic, also the one of the banana tree. I thought about talking on the Less+1 concept, that is : quantity does not necessarily makes us more happy, having less, but focusing on a other values can bring more pleasure. Like the melksalon, which tells about the quality of each milk, or like the carrot experiment that helps focuses on all the characteristics of a carrot to make it taste better, I thought of having a banana appreciation moment. However, in the middle of the process I realised that people here already have knowledge about bananas : they have specific name for each of them, and specific vocabulary to describe their taste. I had a doubting phase. But my fascination for their shape was bigger, and I think this is something I can share still. I love their shape, solo or in group, and I love the way they age. Their extremity makes me think of nipple. Their inside colour is very soft white, yellow.



Things I do with banana  
 banana breads : I thought the processing of the bananas into banana breads can help tasting their taste difference. I made 3 banana bread from 3 types. I cooked them in the skin or in banana leaves. The result is indeed different, although there is maybe to much sugar and adds on such as cinnamon to really taste the banana.







banana pictures and drawing.  
banana skin : I try to make leather from banana skin, since I love their pigmentation. However they tend to darken. The thinner stay translucent against a light, but are very fragile.



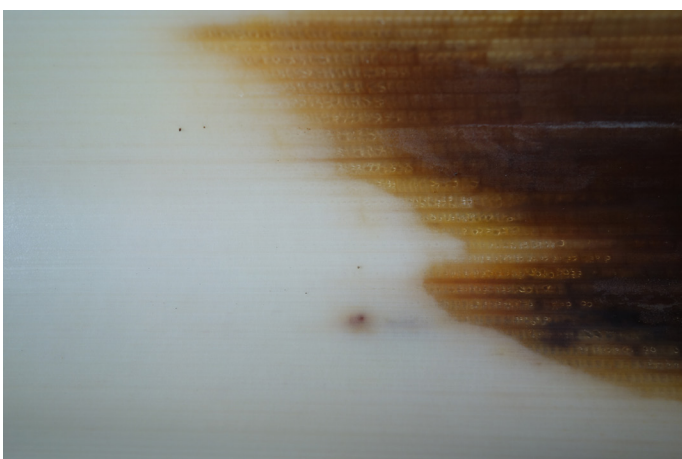


banana fiber : I just tried getting fibre from the banana tree. It looks very much like my hair, if I can I would like to make a wig and so that indonesia friend can play the bule role with me.



in the near futur : I would like to try and make banana bioplastic. there is so much plastic consumption and pollution here!

I will also do a workshop with a guy who makes pipe from banana tree. He said the innercore of the banana tree is edible, one need to chopp and boil it, then give a shape a fry it (of course). So let's try!







14-04

## Music

It is time I talk about my musical evenings : Jaf has a band name Haynaterra (means 'our soil'). They make instrument from clay, and are quite good at this. So they have not only electrical guitar made from a roof-tile but also a lot of diverse percussions they managed to tune. They make diverse style music, using I think traditional lyrics that they arrange in a contemporary fashion (even metal, sometimes). But generally speaking, music is really part of the Indonesian culture. A lot of people are able to play an instrument, and dare to sing quite easily. People always ask me what band i listen to, and also to sing or make music with them. In the end I did translate the lyrics of a short song in french (also because they are going to have a concert in the French culture house of Bandung). It was hilarious to have them phonetically translate my lyrics into indonesia spelling and sing with me!

Some student from technical university of Bandung came to visit Jaf. Hanyaterra showed them how to make clay flutes and I participated in the workshop. They nice thing is that one can make more or less any shape, as long as it can be hollowed. I made first and hear and then had the idea of making some sort of mask featuring a indonesian man mouth and chin. My way to become someone else, and probably a reaction to learning about the strict conservatism of the society there (unmarried couple found making love can be molested or end to jail/ paying fine).



Ceramic workshop. On the right you can see the clay coming from the rooftile factories.



It is filtered twice in those buckets .



Then they add sand (1 to 1) and mix until good to work with.



In the night a car came with karaoke material. We went into the night market and I had to sing of course. French and english songs to the people. It ended up late, I worried a bit for the neighbours but I must admit it was fun experience.



### In the coming days :

I am going to the Philippines with Arie to attend a meeting on south east Asia artist in residency programs. It lasts two days and is followed by a tour of artists community in Manilla.

When I come back I will participate to the new media farming festival in Jaf.

Followed by a fitness festival in another village (i am looking forward to doing sport!)

After that I have many projects (suddenly) :

-I need to follow up the Batik

-I want to continue researching banana peels and tree potency, also doing the workshop I talked about

-I will visit a tempeh factory. Since tempeh is made of mycelium, i will try to grow it in order to replace plastic. The aim is to create a small tea selling point (that is a project of Arie). I also want to try the rice mushroom. And see if I can use coffee ground from the coffee shops to fasten the growth.

-I said I will visit a english class.

-I might go harvest coffee

-Also there is a lot of touristic places around Jaf, but according to my friends they lack of community and self caring, because of the opportunity to make money, people hurry and don't think so much. So it would be good to do a project there.

-And also, they are thinking of making a book/ archive/report of Jaf's activity because they tend to forget documenting their work. I think helping them in this one is a very good opportunity to learn about their practice !

So a lot of idea, probably too many : lets see what I will be able to do!