

Term of Reference

Festival Kebudayaan Yogyakarta 2025 / CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS
October 11–18, 2025, in Gunungkidul, Special Region of Yogyakarta

A. Premis Festival

The Yogyakarta Cultural Festival (FKY) 2025 is an event that seeks to formulate a reading of the framework of *“adat istiadat”* (customs and traditions) in Gunungkidul, as a cultural statement on how a cultural region offers models and tactics of sustainability that are organic yet porous to intersections and encounters with other values. Gunungkidul demonstrates that *adat istiadat* is neither frozen in the past nor numb to the inevitability of the future. Here, *adat istiadat* operates as an adaptive form of social infrastructure.

Within the contemporary landscape, the richness of *adate* forms a mode that integrates inherited values with dialogical strategies which, in turn, shape the *kaum lajon*. The *kaum lajon*, through their daily mobility bridging the rural and the urban, transcend the dichotomy between center and periphery. Their movement is a mobility tactic that manages dual resources—urban economic access and rural social cohesion. Thus, Gunungkidul cannot be positioned as a passive periphery but as an entity that transforms the “margins” into bargaining positions, practicing cultural resistance rooted in community solidarity.

Meanwhile, the local expression *“Adoh Ratu, Cedhak Watu”* (“far from the ruler, close to the stone”) gains a sharp political resonance in this context. Being distant from the center of power is not a sign of marginalization but a form of strategic distance to maintain autonomy from central domination. Proximity to nature and community affirms the material and social capital that forms the foundation of sustainability. Therefore, FKY is not merely a recurring cultural festival but a cultural movement.

PROGRAM ETHOS

The implementation of FKY 2025 is built upon an equitable collaboration between the organizing committee/programmers, cultural practitioners/artists, and the local communities of Gunungkidul. The three work synergistically in designing and activating the programs so that residents are not merely passive spectators, but active participants who enliven and amplify the knowledge of *adat istiadat* that grows from their own land.

B. Rembug Program

The **Rembug Program** of FKY is a series of seminars, discussions, and thematic podcasts designed to explore the overarching theme of **FKY 2025: ADOH RATU CEDHAK WATU**. The Rembug Program represents the latest formulation and development from previous FKY editions, now presented through three main components:

- (1) **Wicara**: Thematic discussions featuring selected speakers and specific issues;
- (2) **Siniar**: Thematic podcasts hosted by a regular presenter and featuring guests who discuss lighter, curated topics;
- (3) **Rembug FKY**: A deliberative forum that invites selected figures for an in-depth exchange of ideas.

Building upon these three components, *Rembug FKY: ADOH RATU CEDHAK WATU* will address core issues of knowledge within the cultural landscape of Yogyakarta, particularly those interwoven with this year’s focus: **Traditions and Customs** (*Adat Istiadat*). Through this letter, we cordially invite you to take part in the **WICARA PROGRAM**, details of which are as follows:

a. Tittle of the Wicara

COLABS-COLLECTIVE: TRACING RELATIONAL PRACTICE IN GUNUNGKIDUL

b. List of Speakers/Contributors

ENJI SEKAR

(Director/ Performance Artist)

ESTY WIKA SILVA

(Bakudapan Food Study Group, Yogyakarta)

FLORENCE LAM

(Per.Platform, Hong Kong)

JEVI ADHI NUGRAHA

(Sanggar Oyot Ringin, Gunungkidul)

JOYU HSU

(Random Trigger, Taiwan)

Moderator:

B.M. ANGGANA

(Director of FKY 2025)

c. Topic Material

The program “Colabs-Collective: Tracing Relational Practice in Gunungkidul” is conceived as a discursive reflection on the artistic residency experiences of a group of artists working collectively in Gunungkidul. Through direct engagement with local communities, these artists explore the social and cultural landscapes of the region, uncovering layers of meaning embedded in everyday life, relationships, and local practices. This engagement goes beyond mere artistic exploration, it serves as a method of reading, interpreting, and reimagining the cultural space of Gunungkidul.

Gunungkidul, with its diverse ecological and sociocultural terrains, becomes a living field for understanding the interrelations between art, environment, and community. The residency projects conducted there demonstrate how artistic collaboration can function as a dialogical process, one that is rooted in mutual learning, exchange of knowledge, and shared creation. Through the interactions between the artists and local residents, the collective practices evolve into spaces of negotiation and co-authorship, where art becomes a form of relational inquiry rather than a product of individual expression.

This talk aims to delve into the dynamics of collective artistic practice as experienced by the participating artists, exploring how collaboration with local communities reshapes artistic methods and epistemologies. It examines how shared practices, whether in daily labor, rituals, or storytelling, generate new forms of aesthetic and ethical understanding. In doing so, the discussion situates art as a relational process that mediates between contemporary creative practice and vernacular wisdom, between the act of creation and the act of living.

The session features reflections from artists **Enji Sekar**, **Esty Wika Silva**, **Florence Lam**, **Jevi Adhi Nugraha**, and **Joyu Hsu**, who each bring diverse cultural and disciplinary backgrounds to the conversation. Together, they will discuss how their residencies in Gunungkidul have transformed not only their artistic trajectories but also their understanding of collaboration,

locality, and the politics of relation. This program thus seeks to open a broader conversation on how collective art practices can become a bridge between contemporary art, local knowledge systems, and the lived realities of communities.

C. Event Rundown

MONDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2025 13.00-15.00 WIB					
NO	TIME		DURATION	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
1	13.00	13.15	15 minutes	REGISTRATION	Participant registration
2	13.15	14.15	60 minutes	DISCUSSION	The moderator initiates and leads the discussion with speakers and participants
3	14.15	14.55	40 minutes	Q&A SESSION	The moderator opens the floor for participant questions
5	14.55	15.00	5 minutes	CLOSING	The moderator concludes the session

D. Contact Person

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