# GARUDA

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Garuda Indonesia

## VOX POPULI, VOX JAZZ

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### Batak Icons, Chinese Images and Balinese Impressions

Singapore-based publishing company Editions Didier Millet has an exemplary literary repertoire few of its peers can match.

Here are but some of its best-selling books that have earned critical acclaim.



### **Batak Sculpture**

Achim Sibeth and Bruce W. Carpenter 368 pages with photos

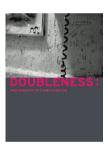
THIS is a remarkable as it covers a subject rarely discussed outside its natural domain.

For serious students of North Sumatra, this is a must-have, definitive book on Batak sculptures other scholars will have a hard time to emulate.

The writers leave no proverbial stone unturned as they rummaged through the history of the Bataks and dissect it to help readers to conclude why the Bataks – as well as the Javanese and the Minangs of West Sumatra – are unquestionably one of Indonesia's highly cultured ethnic groups.

Many Indonesians often complain about the onslaught of modern Western culture in ways they claim tend to corrupt their identity.

Well, to the extent that there is some validity to that assertion, this book is its antidote. For here are two Western scholars celebrating – and perpetuating – the very topic Indonesians cherish so much, in an admirable manner



### **Doubleness: Photography of Chang Chien-chi**

Vicki Goldberg and Xiang Biao 80 pages with photos

**CHINESE** painters and film directors today continue to make their way into the international arts scene, leaving their indelible aesthetic imprints that never fail to impress critics.

Photographer Chiang Chien-chi has yet to reach the world stature of the likes of his compatriots such as painters Wang Guangyi and Liu Haisu or film directors Zhang Yimou and Chen Kaige, but judging by his work in *Doubleness* he is getting there.

No smiling happy faces here, only portraits depicting the gloom and doom that pervades the human condition of displaced Chinese and Vietnamese in a world spa-visiting hedonists are hardly familiar with

Would someone spend US\$30 on this book? Not sure, but to collectors of books on photography, it stands as a stark and interesting contrast to works covering, for examples, upbeat contemporary art and New Age architecture.



### **Bali Sketchbook**

Illustrations: Graham Byfield Text: Diana Darling 96 pages

**A FINE** book of colorful sketches that complements earlier laudable efforts covering diverse places, from Amsterdam and Athens to Singapore and Sarawak with cosmopolitans such as London, New York and Paris squeezed in between.

If sketches have often been downplayed as less serious attempts by less serious artists to make it in the art world, *Bali Sketchbook* readily dispels that notion,

This is one of those books that is a joy to own; you can go through it at any time of the day and never tire of admiring the artist's skill in combining drawings and colors into delightful visual entities.

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