

JAIKEM: Portrait of Female Existence in the Socio-cultural Life In the Palace of Mangkunegaran

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Abstrak

This biography of Nyi Tumenggung Mardusari is aimed at discovering her role as an all-round artist within the environment of the Mangkunegaran. It is important to do so as her works and ability as an artists have made her a role model for subsequent generations. Her life spanned numerous events and variety of situation of the era. A multidimensional approach was applied, with concepts borrowed from the social sciences, beginning with Mardusari's background from childhood until she entered the Mangkunegaran, covering her various cultural influences from the palace, methods of study work experience, creative experience, and the award she received. Her success as an artist was closely connected with her hard work in developing her talent, and the encouragements and opportunities given to her by Mangkunegara VII, who gave her guidance. Other direction was provided by her ary teacher, who helped in moulding her into a revered artist. Nyi Tumenggung Mardusari's presence as an artist showed her artistic ability in numerous fields, in each of which she excelled as a dancer, a *pesindhen*, a batik worker, and a makeup specialist for the Surakarta style wedding. Her ability was recognized by many people, both inside and outside the palace, and even abroad. Her work and ability in the above four fields are until now still used as a reference for subsequent generations. With all the abilities, she was able to eliminate the negative connotations held by the community about the image of a *pesindhen*, who was regarded as an unrespectable woman in the eyes of the public.

Keywords : Biography, woman concept, and multi-talented artist