

Profesionalism in Balinese Traditional Performing Art its Challenge and Opportunity

I GEDE ARYA SUGIARTHA

Department of Gamelan Music Art, Faculty of Performing Art, Indonesia Institute of the Arts Denpasar, Indonesia
E-mail: de_arya_66@yahoo.com

Perubahan paradigma dalam memandang dan memahami aktualitas seni telah memunculkan berbagai wacana baru, salah satunya adalah profesionalisme. Seniman sebagai pelaku utama seni kini tidak hanya dihadapkan pada persoalan ekspresi untuk melahirkan karya seni, melainkan juga persoalan kualitas hidup melalui berkesenian. Khususnya bagi seniman seni pertunjukan tradisional Bali persoalan profesionalisme yang menyangkut penghasilan seniman kini masih mengalami kendala. Kendatipun ada, seniman tradisional Bali yang mampu menyandarkan hidupnya dari berkesenian masih dapat dihitung dengan jari. Peluang yang ada cukup besar, karena seni pertunjukan telah menjadi bagian integral dari masyarakat Bali dan sebagai salah satu bentuk kebudayaan Bali yang memiliki daya saing dalam konstelasi global. Untuk mewujudkan peluang menjadi kenyataan, yaitu mampu menjadi profesional secara holistik, seniman seni pertunjukan tradisional Bali harus menghadapi tantangan dan mendapat dukungan dari masyarakat dan pemerintah. Seniman harus terus menerus memacu prestasi dan mampu membaca situasi, masyarakat diharapkan memberi kesempatan dan dukungan bagi seniman, dan pemerintah dengan kekuatan politik dan ekonomi diharapkan dapat memberikan perlindungan terhadap hak-hak seniman.

The change in paradigm of how to view and define the actuality of arts such as professionalism has caused a new discourse to appear. Currently, an artist, as the main doer of an art, does not only face the matter pertaining to how to create new creations but also the matter pertaining to the quality of life through arts. As far as the Balinese traditional performing art is concerned, professionalism which contributes to the income of an artist still matters. It is true that some artists of the Balinese traditional performing art have earned a living from the performing art they perform; however, their number is too limited. The opportunity is wide enough as the performing art has been an integrated part of the Balinese community and one form of the Balinese culture which is highly compatible. To make the opportunity come true, that is, being highly holistic professional, the Balinese traditional performing art artists should be able to face challenges and acquire support from the community and government. They should continuously make achievements and be able to read situation. The community is expected to give opportunity and support to them. In addition, the government with its political and economic strengths is expected to be able to give protection to what the artists are entitled to.

Keywords: Professionalism, Maecenas, and performing art.

The continuity of and the change taking place to the Indonesian Performing Art have caused various discourses to appear, resulting from the new paradigm of how to view arts. An artist, as the main doer of an art, is currently faced with various matters. The reason is that nowadays arts are not regarded as spiritual expressions any more. Arts have been developing into the matters pertaining to reality and meaning as part of the logic intelligence and life attitude in responding to the surrounding world.

With reference to science which keeps developing and the appearance of the philosophy of modern knowledge, as the greatest current intellectual work, many artists start questioning “what arts mean”, “why arts are created”, “for whom arts are created”, and “what is the significance of arts to artists”.

Previously, being able to express aesthetic and artistic feelings through what could be created made the artists highly satisfied and happy. Those, especially