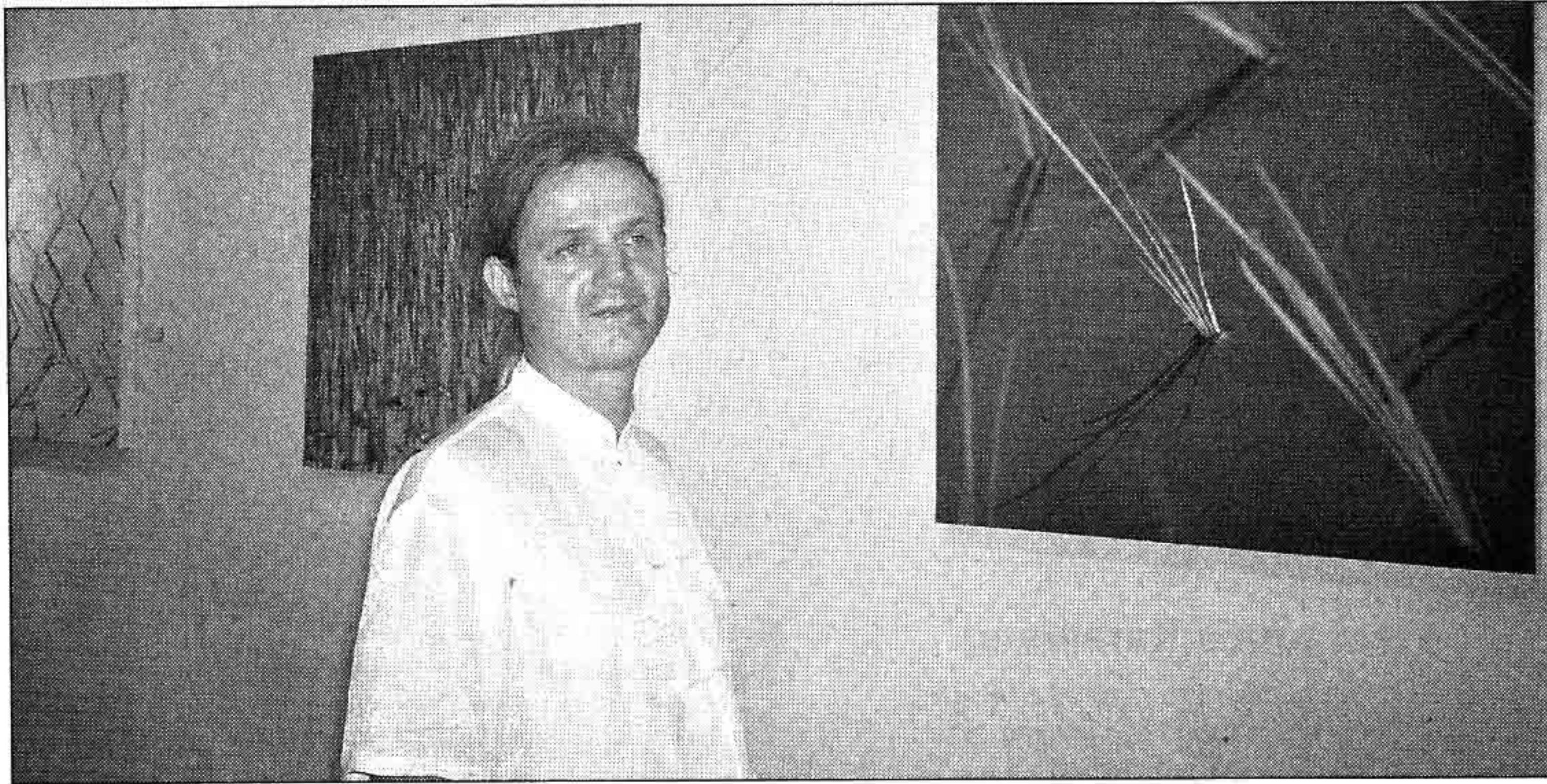


Capturing the simple beauty of rice plants



Dominik poses before some of his paintings.

Kurniawan Hari

The Jakarta Post/Jakarta

Beauty is often identified with complexity. Sometimes, however, beauty lies in sheer simplicity.

In photography, simplicity means that you don't have to go far to find the right object. You may come across a beautiful object right next door.

At least, that is what comes to mind after looking at nearly 30 photographs by Austrian-born professional photographer Dominik at Cemara 6 Gallery, Menteng, Central Jakarta.

Titled *RICE by D!*, the photo exhibition features magnificent photos of rice taken at different angles and times to create a variety of effects.

"I realize that you can produce many different photos from a plant as simple as rice," Dominik told *The Jakarta*

Post shortly before the opening of the exhibition, due to run through March 10.

Dominik, nicknamed "D!", said he planned to organize a second photo exhibition on the same object after realizing how many photographs he had produced.

Although the objects are simple, using his skill and sensitivity, Dominik has been able to produce wonderful photos of rice that touch his audience.

Some photos feature rice plants at an early age. Others show the plants still green, or more mature and golden.

Unlike many other artists who may add pretentious titles to their works, Dominik has identified his photos simply with a number.

Despite the beautiful photos he had produced, Dominik said there was no special message he was trying to convey at the exhibition.

"I'm simply trying to capture the beauty in rice and how it grows," said Dominik, adding he took the photos in rice fields within a radius of two kilometers from his home in Seminyak, Bali, near Kuta.

RICE by D! is his third photo exhibition. The previous two featured photos of industrial subjects — places where he had been working.

"Basically, this is my third exhibition but the first with a fine-art theme," he added.

Dominik is planning to organize another in May. The exhibition on China and its culture will take place in Surabaya, East Java.

"I like to be in China; I like its culture," he said.

The subject, he said, could be the statue of Buddha from different angles and backgrounds.

Again, this emphasizes how Dominik is a photographer who likes simple things as his photographic subject. For him, the most important thing is the search for something suitable.

His work as a professional photographer has taught him how to create attractive photos for clients.

"I'm a commercial photographer. I work with the textile, chemical and mining industries. I have to present good pictures to clients. Those fields have become a training ground for me," he said.

His fondness of simple objects is also supported by his awareness of what a photographer is. He regards himself as a chef who mixes ingredients to produce mouthwatering food.

"On this basis, I combine things to produce good photos," he added.

Curator Rifky Effendy said that Dominik had given aesthetic value to rice. "With his unique style, Dominik has shown the detail of his simple subject. That is something beautiful," he said.

RICE by D!
Cemara 6 Gallery,
Jl HOS Cokroaminoto 9-11,
Central Jakarta
tel: 3911823

through March 10



Rice-39.

JP/Kurniawan Hari

JP/Kurniawan Hari