



people

carrying

things





People

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Things



“Like photographs, a diary doesn’t explain, it just react.” – Ursula K. Le Guin.

People Carrying Things

Sita Magfira

Amarawati took most pictures in this zine while riding her motorbike in Yogyakarta. Just like in other cities in Indonesia, public transportation is a problem. People must solve it by themselves, of course, how they need to move. Bikes, motorbikes, cars, and so on. Walking is barely an option. Visuals on the street are always exciting; they could give you mixed feelings—some are funny, some look dangerous, or all together. Mara caught some of those visually intriguing moments in her snaps. The photographs here are about people going from one place to another AND how they carry things.

When the streets are very much chaotic, you need to have an eye to catch things that are both intriguing and telling about people’s life-hacking abilities. You can spot various things in Amarawati’s works: from Buddha statues to piles of garbage. She

captured them with her phone camera. Mostly while trying to balance her driving-a-motorbike body. If only she had managed to get her phone, let’s say, 10 seconds later, she might not be able to catch some of these visuals (although she took some pictures while waiting for the traffic lights and walking). Aside skill to balance one’s body (and risk her safety), she definitely has her way of looking at things.

For we have been friends for years and know each other’s deepest secrets, I asked Mara whether I could make a link between her pictures and her mental load. We, for sure, had a good laugh about it. “Well, it could be,” She said while giggling. But, anyhow, in this economy, and as Indonesians, who does not carry heavy emotional luggage? At the end of the day, her works might mirror those loads we all keep and HAVE to carry along the way.



















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Acknowledgements

Of the many visuals I've collected, this is the first time I've made a zine. So far, it's just been piled up in computer folders until, finally, this zine could go live. And no one to be someone to thank **Elly Clarke** more for giving me the idea for this zine and for coming up with the idea for the title person who brings the goods. People Carrying Things helped me reopen this vehicle's visual documentation archives, which I have collected from 2019 until now. Of all my doubts about whether this can be considered photography, I only use a cellphone camera without qualified

photography techniques, capitalizing on acrobatic skills when taking it using the motorbike I'm driving or while walking. While driving, besides thinking that life is difficult, daydreams, counting license plate numbers hoping to get a good number for the lottery, without realizing the visuals in front of me interpret every visual photo I shoot. This zine is finally out. Thank you to **Sita Magfira**, who always supports me to help with everything from writing to interpreting the visuals I shot with laughter with some of the photos I collected.





Amarawati Ayuningtyas is based in Yogyakarta, Indonesia; she is a freelancer designer and flâneuse.

Mara initiated various self-projects, including co-founding Jalan Gembira, (@jalan.gembira), a walking practitioners collective in Yogyakarta.

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