The effect of oral performances in audiences’ minds and behaviour

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ABSTRACT
As a means of communicating thoughts, gamelan performances affect the way audiences construct their worldview. More than that, listeners in villages believe that performances can affect people’s behaviour. Performances may be deeply influential in the creation of fundamental social values such as in-group integrity, feelings of unity and peace in the community. All this demonstrates that in villages, arts are not autonomous entities; people value the arts as an integral domain with other social activities.

KEY WORDS
Gamelan performance, aesthetics, musical communication, audiences, integrity.

INTRODUCTION
Musical communication does not attract scholars from many fields. Scientists in communication studies probably believe that the topic does not contribute to the development of major theories because musical communication differs from what they consider as the major means of communication: oral and written communication. People in artistic communities, on the other hand, may think that communication is taken for granted because the people involved – musicians, audiences, patrons, hosts, guest of ceremonies – in performances

1 This paper is a revised version of parts of my dissertation Constructing images in Javanese gamelan performances: communicative aspects among musicians and audiences in village communities, PhD thesis, University of California Berkeley (2001). The original version of this article was presented at the “International Oral Tradition Seminar”, Oral Traditions Association (OTA), Jakarta, 1–4 December 2006.

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