

MEDIA RELEASE

Territory Artists Expand Careers in Asia

The Territory's ties to South-East Asia are set to strengthen this year through the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Arts NT and Melbourne's prestigious Asialink.

These organisations have provided funding and in-kind support for MAGNT curator of South-East Asian Art and Material Culture, Joanna Barrkman, as well as Territory artists Winsome Jobling and Leon Stainer, to work in South-East Asia this year as part of the Northern Territory & Eastern Indonesia Partnership Pilot Project.

Ms Barrkman will travel to the West Timor village of Baun, Amarassi, on Saturday to play a vital role in stage one of a six-week cultural exchange program between the Northern Territory and eastern Indonesia.

She will facilitate introductions between the Indonesian craftspeople and Ms Jobling, an accomplished Territory artist and Mr Stainer, an established print maker.

They will undertake initial workshops introducing fine art print-making and paper-making techniques to the Baun community.

Following this initial stage of the project they will return in June to work more intensively with the craftspeople of Baun village.

It is intended that the creative outcomes of this collaborative project will be displayed in Indonesia and in the Northern Territory.

"Cultural exchange programs such as this one are mutually beneficial because they allow us to engage with this particular region, to help us develop and promote our art and culture and theirs," Ms Barrkman said.

"A critical focus of the exchange will be to create links between Indonesian and Territory artists in a way that not only promotes the art works of the artists involved, but also identifies new ways of creating contemporary art based on Timorese cultural traditions, in a sustainable and economically beneficial way.

"MAGNT has an extensive collection of Indonesian textile art through its strong links to Baun and West Timor and it is a testament to past and present MAGNT staff who have established MAGNT's important role in the region during the past twenty years.

"Various curators have visited Baun in the past and collected textiles from there because the artists have a strong reputation for weaving top quality textiles with hand spun cotton and natural dyes.

"I hope that the artworks created through this exciting and innovative collaborative exchange will be displayed at various galleries and events in Kupang, Jakarta and Darwin.

"I'm sure the project will generate exposure for both Winsome and Leon's work as well as for the craftspeople of West Timor."

While in West Timor, Ms Barrkman and textile conservator Ms Carolyn McLennan will also be conducting a textile conservation training workshop with staff from the Kupang Museum.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Joanna Barrkman on 8999 8249

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