



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Dreams Come True on Design Island**

Turning dreams into reality during time spent recently in Tasmania could result in the creation of a uniquely-styled sofa for Alice Springs designer Elliat Rich.

Arts NT provided Ms Rich with \$1225 to attend an initiative of Arts Tasmania called Design Island, held in Tasmania earlier this month.

This strategic initiative connected Tasmanian designers with national and international networks to support best practice and promote Tasmania's innovative designs in furniture, architecture, ceramics, jewellery, textiles and graphics.

Ms Rich, who works at the Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT) in Alice Springs as well as having recently started her own design business, was chosen to attend Design Island based on the diversity and conceptual nature of her work.

She said a workshop led by Paris-based practitioners Tal Lancman and Maurizio Galante was one of many highlights.

"Tal and Maurizio had a wonderful ability to listen and allow the designers to become more personal with their ideas and creations," Ms Rich said.

"A key component was to come up with a dream project and mine was to be able to get my work out there.

"Part of the strategy to do this was designing a two-seater sofa that reacted to the user's presence based on the idea that when a person uses a sofa they give it life and vice versa.

"Another element to the design is that the longer a person is on the sofa, or if there is more than one person on the sofa, the stronger the reaction.

"Ultimately it will be a piece that design magazines and journals will love to publish.

"I am still experimenting with the materials and technology but, from the reactions I've gotten so far, I know it's a good concept."

Ms Rich not only thanked Arts NT for supporting her but also praised Arts Tasmania and others who contributed to the success of Design Island.

"The overall experience of travelling to Tasmania for the first time was great and I have come back to Alice Springs feeling more inspired than I ever thought possible," Ms Rich said.

Arts NT has allocated more than \$100,000 for the growth of professional skills across the NT during the current financial year, with 67 arts grants invested for skills development through the Quick Response Scheme and the Regional Arts Fund categories of the 2006 Project Rounds.

Ends

**Media Note – For more information contact Elliat Rich on 0437 311 321**

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