



MEDIA RELEASE

Indonesian Ceramicist Visits Australia

One of Indonesia's top experts in contemporary ceramics is in Darwin to prepare for the *Arafura Craft Exchange* (2008).

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory director Anna Malgorzewicz said Sudjud Dartanto, from the prestigious Indonesia Art Institute, would be a guest curator at what will be the second in the exchange series.

"The *Arafura Craft Exchange* is an initiative of MAGNT with this exhibition introducing to audiences remarkable examples of contemporary art and craft from Indonesia and Australia," Ms Malgorzewicz said.

"The first in the exchange series was held in 2005 with the second and third exchanges to occur in 2008 and 2011 respectively.

"Mr Dartanto, from Yogyakarta, will be engaged as a guest curator for next year's exchange and much of his current visit's purpose is to select works for exhibition through an invitation process from the Northern Territory, interstate and Indonesia.

"The *Arafura Craft Exchange* will be augmented with forums and artists' residencies with selected exhibitors undertaking residencies leading up to and during the exhibition."

Ms Malgorzewicz said the series of triennial exhibitions would follow MAGNT's collection lines, with the first exchange focused on fibre and the second and third exchanges focusing on ceramics and jewellery respectively.

She said Mr Dartanto's stay in Australia would also include stays in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney.

"We are looking forward to working closely with Mr Dartanto who works at the esteemed Indonesia Institute of the Arts in Yogyakarta as its Craft Art Department lecturer," Ms Malgorzewicz said.

"He is a respected writer, lecturer and curator representing Indonesia at international forums concerning contemporary art practice."

Mr Dartanto said he was enjoying his time in Darwin since arriving on Monday and looked forward to his upcoming interstate journeys.

"While the purpose of the project should be to highlight regional specifics as well as working or collaborating with artists from different cultural contexts, a further role that I play is to initiate international craft projects as new avenues for sharing, learning and dynamic discussion in craft as a way of thinking," Mr Dartanto said.

Ends

Media Note – A photo opportunity of Sudjud Dartanto meeting Howard Springs ceramicist Harvey Ottley, and viewing his works, will be available tomorrow, 2pm at Ceramic Studio, Territory Craft, MAGNT grounds. For more information contact Allison Gray on 8999 8174.

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