

Media Release:

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Installation of Arafura Craft Exchange Exhibition at MAGNT

The second triennial *Arafura Craft Exchange* exhibition is gearing up for full swing with installation of the delicate ceramic artworks commencing this week at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT).

MAGNT Curator Australian Visual Arts and Crafts Allison Gray said the exhibition titled *Arafura Craft Exchange: Trajectory of Memories, Tradition and Modernity in Ceramics* has been three years in the making.

“We’re very excited that after all this time in the planning and creating stages we’re reaching the culmination of it all, and the quality of the work is outstanding,” Ms Gray said.

“There are a total of 28 works, comprising of some 228 fragile ceramic pieces from the four Indonesian and three Australian artists.

“One of the pieces by Tita Rubi titled *‘I Wish I had a River’* is made up hundreds of small flying human pieces and will take three people about five days to install that one alone.

“Installation will be completed by next Thursday, in time for the official opening on Friday and the subsequent public display commencing Saturday.”

Indonesian Guest Curator Sudjud Dartanto said that the *Arafura Craft Exchange* opens up the opportunity to simply enjoy the artistic achievements of Indonesian and Australian ceramicists

“Ceramics function not only as vessels and utensils but, when artists shape them, they become means of expression,” Mr Dartanto said.

“This exhibition is about the dialogue between the self and life, the context of memories in an artist’s work is inseparable from his or her social life and the distance between the past and the present can be bridged by these memories

“We hope that the exhibition initiates a desire to share and learn about the differing cultural loci of the two countries.”

The *Arafura Craft Exchange* will be officially opened by the Indonesian consul on Friday 11 July and on display at the MAGNT from 12 July to 18 January 2008.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Allison Gray or Sudjud Dartanto on 8999 8174

Image – Tita Rubi *‘I Wish I had a River’* 2005 dimensions variable Handmodelled stoneware clay; stoneware firing.

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