

**Media Release:**

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## **Arafura Craft Exchange Exhibition Opening**

The much anticipated *Arafura Craft Exchange: Trajectory of Memories, Tradition and Modernity in Ceramics* exhibition featuring collections from leading Indonesian and Australian ceramic artists will officially open at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) on Friday 11 July 2008.

MAGNT Curator Australian Visual Arts and Crafts Allison Gray said the exhibition, which opens to the public Saturday 12 July 2008, offers Darwin audiences a rare opportunity to see contemporary craft practices from outside the region.

"The *Arafura Craft Exchange* exhibition is an interpretation of contemporary practices from both Australia and Indonesia, with all works created within the last five years," Ms Gray said.

"The Arafura Craft Exchange is a unique exhibition as it constitutes showing a body of work from each artist rather than one piece."

"All of the artists were selected by Guest Curator, Mr Sudjud Dartanto, Craft Lecturer at the Indonesian Art Institute in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

"The exhibition will showcase a total of seven artists; three Australian artists including local Darwin ceramicist Harvey Ottley, as well as four Indonesian artists, with a bi-lingual catalogue available."

The artists featuring in the exhibition are: Asmudjo Jono Irianto (Bandung), Dona Prawita Arissuta (Yogyakarta), Noor Sudyati (Yogyakarta), Tita Rubi (Yogyakarta), Harvey Ottley (Darwin), Jenny Orchard (Sydney) and Michael Doolan (Melbourne).

"There are a total of 28 works made up of 228 fragile ceramic pieces on display for the exhibition," Ms Gray said.

"The exhibition will also provide significant outreach programs such as artists' talks, seminars, residencies and workshops partnered with local organisations such as Territory Craft, Artists in Schools Program, and the Charles Darwin University."

The exhibition will be officially opened by Mr Harbangan Naptiupulu from the Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia in Darwin and will feature Stephen Bowers, Managing Director of the Jam Factory Contemporary Craft and Design in Adelaide as a guest speaker.

The *Arafura Craft Exchange: Trajectory of Memories, Tradition and Modernity in Ceramics*. will be on display at the MAGNT from 12 July to 18 January 2009.

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Allison Gray on 0400 141 049**

**There is an opportunity for media to preview the exhibition and meet curator Sudjud Dartanto and artist Dona Prawita Arissuta at 3pm Friday 11 July 2008. Please meet Ana Mckay in the MAGNT foyer area at 3pm.**

**Image Credit – 1. Curator Sudjud Dartanto viewing works made by local ceramicist Harvey Ottley that will feature in the exhibition.**

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