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2012 Asialink Arts Residencies Announced

Asialink is proud to announce the **2012 Arts Residents**.

From China and India to more emerging and remote regions such as East Timor and Mongolia, 30 arts practitioners from across Australia will live and work in Asia for up to three months to further their practice in Writing, Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Arts Management.

Next year's residents include: Arts Manager **Lisa Dempster** will help facilitate the Ubud Writers and Readers Festival; Writer **Toni Jordan** will spend time in China hosted by Peking University to begin a novel focussing on non-verbal communication; Performing artist **Ninian Donald** will travel to Sunrise Children's Village in Cambodia where he will work alongside Khmer performance teachers to share workshops with young artists; Visual artist **Stephen Eastaugh** will participate in Asialink's first reciprocal residency with China at host organisation 24HR Art's International Residency Program, Beijing.

In addition to these 30 Australian artists, 4 Asian artists from Korea, Taiwan, Japan and China will spend time in Australian host organisations next year. Chun-ming Chen from Taipei will be hosted by the Fremantle Arts Centre, Western Australia. Chun-ming is a visual artist and director of interdisciplinary live performing arts in Taipei. During his residency he will propose viewpoints on politics, race and adaptation from the perspective of an 'outsider' and express his views via performance and multimedia installations.

216 applications were received from across Australia for the 2012 Asialink residency round. Asialink offers each successful resident a grant of up to \$12,000.

The residencies offer the opportunity for in-depth research, collaboration and uninterrupted time for creativity. They also act as a way to build cultural exchanges for both the recipients, organisations and the local communities.

For Jasmin Stephens, a 2011 Arts Management resident working on the Singapore Biennale, the residency enabled her to focus on the aspirations of artists working with emerging technologies; as well as learning about the artists' methodologies, 'I was able to consult with them on matters relating to their cultural context and professional practice. This type of extended engagement is not normally possible when you hold a full-time position in an organisation. I am very grateful for this opportunity,' she said.

Her story is just one of many who have had profound personal and creative experiences and been inspired and challenged while working in Asia. Many Asialink residents have forged ongoing creative relationships and have returned to their host country again and again.

'The 2012 Asialink residents will embark on a journey of discovery. For some it will be their first extended visit to their host country and a radical departure of what is familiar, providing them with a unique experience of Asia while immersed in its creative life', says Lesley Alway, Director, Asialink Arts.

Beginning in 1991 the Asialink Residency program has sent more than 650 residents to over 19 countries in Asia. For 21 years Asialink has worked to initiate cultural and artistic exchange between Australia and the countries of Asia. Their mission is to promote cultural understanding, information exchange and artistic endeavour across the region.

A full list of Asialink's 2012 residents follows. All are available for interview.

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