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The Abandoned Boudoir

Image: Robyn Lea (Coco Productions) (2010). Dress and veil by Gwendolynne Burkin (www.gwendolynne.com.au). Hair and make-up by Belinda Zollo (KLM Management). Model: Elke (Chadwick Models). Stylist: Bec Cole (Coco Productions)

A woman inhabits a hotel room. It is unclear who she is or why she is there. Is she travelling? Holidaying? Doing business? Visiting a lover...or all of these things? She changes the room around daily, trying to instill familiarity into a new environment. She has brought treasures from home; jewellery, textiles, objects to give the space a sense of place and familiarity...things that hide and distract from her own displacement…

The Abandoned Boudoir is an Australian art and design exhibition devised as a 'pop up' display for selected international art or design festivals to be installed in a hotel, anywhere in the world. The exhibition was launched in November 2010 at the Metropolitan Hotel in Bangkok, coinciding with the annual Bangkok Design Festival. The exhibition has also toured Beijing in August and builds on the success of Asialink's ongoing touring program that aims to promote intercultural understanding between Australia and the countries of Asia.

True to the name of the exhibition, ***The Abandoned Boudoir*** uses the hotel bedroom as an intimate exhibition space. Existing hotel artwork, bed linen, objects, furniture and lighting in the room are removed and replaced by Australian crafted objects. During the display period, the installation will undergo subtle changes to reflect the moods of its 'inhabitant', functioning as a 'living' exhibition for visitors to inspect.

Curator Marisia Lukaszewski of Aesthetic Alliance says; *"The exhibition references themes such as sex, glamour, mystique, displacement and surveillance. The objects themselves have all been created by Australian designers but are global in their approach and show no signs of their origin*." Viewers are forced to think about these objects –Why are they significant to the inhabitant? What do they say about the inhabitant?

This exhibition has been developed by Asialink and is supported the Australian Government through the Australian Visual Arts Touring Program of the Australia International Cultural Council, an initiative of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Australia Council, the Australian Government's arts funding and advisory body and The Visual Arts and crafts strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments.

For more information about *The Abandoned Boudoir* please contact Sarah Bond: s.bond@asialink.unimelb.edu.au or tel +61 3 8344 3580

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