Established in 1991, Asialink Arts is one of few Australian arts organisations whose work is primarily outward bound and dedicated to supporting artists in building their networks and knowledge with Asia. Our feature map demonstrates the scope of our programs in the region over the 2015-16 period.

Asialink Arts’ vision is for a deeply Asia engaged and Asia capable Australian cultural sector able to work confidently in and with the region. Our purpose is to provide leadership for best practice policy in cultural exchange. We explore new models and platforms for cultural engagement with Asia, develop the international capability of arts professionals and assist audiences to better understand the arts of our region.

Asialink Arts operates three key programs comprising: Residencies, Touring & Projects, and AAPPP’s (Asialink Arts Partnerships, Public Programs and Publications). We produce and co-ordinate new cultural programs and also play a ‘service’ role through various ‘Asia-capability’ initiatives that are both integral to our programs as well as stand-alone activities such as research, digital resources and forums.

Asia provides many creative, professional and new market opportunities for Australian artists, and cultural engagement has become a key platform of ‘soft-power’ strategies by many countries. This is all in the context of a new volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous global environment. It is now more important than ever to work collaboratively, in partnership with Asia, to develop relationships and networks, and build trust through cultural exchange.

The aim of this document is to give an overview of Asialink Arts’ goals, programs and staff. It provides highlights of recent projects and partnerships, and outlines some of our plans for 2016.

Asialink Arts would not be able to deliver its programs without its many partners that provide funding and other support. In particular I acknowledge the Australia Council for the Arts, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, state and territory arts ministries, the University of Melbourne and various philanthropic funds as well as our many partners in Asia for their ongoing support.

Lesley Alway
Director, Asialink Arts
AAPPP’s

Residencies

Asialink Arts operates Australia’s largest and longest running international touring program. The program partners with Asian cultural institutions and major arts events to deliver exhibitions and collaborative projects. Asialink Arts builds knowledge and networks between Asian and Australian cultural practitioners while exhibiting the richness and diversity of Australian culture to an international audience.

Daniel Boyd: Kochi-Muziris Biennale
12 Dec 2014 – 29 Mar 2015, Durbar Hall, Kochi, India
In 2014 Asialink Arts worked with artist Daniel Boyd to deliver an installation of new works at Durbar Hall, Kochi. Boyd joined 93 artists from 30 countries.

Neverwhere
14 Aug – 12 Sept 2015, Gaia Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey
Touring to Turkey during the DFAT’s ‘Year of Australia in Turkey’, Neverwhere featured the work of eight contemporary Australian artists. The exhibition demonstrated the current state of contemporary art in Australia by questioning Australian society and future directions. The exhibition will tour in regional Victoria in 2016-17.

Jamie North: Concrete
29 Aug – 6 Sept 2015, Tophane-i Amire Culture and Arts Center / Mimar Sinan Fine Art University, Istanbul, Turkey
Asialink Arts partnered with Monash University Museum of Art (MUMA) to support artist Jamie North’s participation in Concrete, an exhibition curated by Geraldine Kirrihi Barlow which was shown in Melbourne in 2014.

Juan Ford: 5th Nakanojo Biennale
12 Sept – 12 Oct 2015, Gunma Prefecture, Japan
The 2015 Nakanojo Biennale included the work of 132 groups of artists and collaborators. Melbourne based-artist Juan Ford joined 19 artists from six countries in the Tomasz Wendland curated project Empty Garden as a key international program of the 2015 edition.

Colourshift: Ross Manning + Kit Webster
29 April – 5 June 2016, LOOP Alternative Space, Seoul, Korea
Colourshift: Ross Manning + Kit Webster is an exhibition by two of Australia’s leading new media artists who create immersive spaces using hypnotic soundscapes and pulsing imagery to explore the invisible data that permeate our environment.

The Golden Monkey
Sept – Nov 2016 (part of Beijing Design Week & The Golden Week), The Opposite House Hotel, Beijing, China
The Golden Monkey by Melbourne-based artist Lisa Roet both celebrates the Chinese Zodiac New Year and highlights the endangered nature of many species of monkey through habitat destruction and deforestation in a major commission project in Beijing. The Golden Monkey will envelope the architecturally awarded hotel in late 2016.

Hitting the Monster: 2016 Kuandu Biennale
30 Sept – 17 Dec 2016, Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, Taipei, Taiwan
The 2016 Kuandu Biennale ‘Hitting the Monster’ invites 10 artist and curator pairs from different countries in the regions of Asia. Focused on curatorial experimentation, the biennale also hosts a symposium drawing on concepts explored within the exhibition.
RESIDENCIES

Since 1991 Asialink’s Arts Residency Program has provided professional development opportunities to over 800 Australian arts professionals. In 2015 and 2016, 69 individual artists were awarded arts residencies across Asia and Australia. Following are highlights of 2015-16 residencies.*
Australian Arts Professionals to Asia

Dan Mackinlay (WA), Common Room Networks Foundation, Bandung, Indonesia, 2015

Dan Mackinlay is a musician specialising in the integration of modern and traditional music into new hybrids. Dan worked with contemporary-classical composer and death-metal bass player, Robi Rusdiana and the death-metal supergroup choir, Ensemble Tikoro, to develop a new operetta that compliments wayang kulit (shadow puppet) performance.

Nicholas Verso (VIC), Three Shadows Photography Art Centre, Beijing, China, 2015

Nicholas Verso is a writer, filmmaker, director and editor for film and television. In Beijing Nicholas wrote a first draft of his fantasy feature film, ARE FRIENDS ELECTRIC. He researched robotics towards creating design prototypes for the film, and explored the abandoned city of Ordos and Zhangye desert as potential locations for key sequences.

Michael Candy (NSW), Robotics Association of Nepal, Kathmandu, 2016

Michael Candy uses physical technologies to impart systems theory on ecology and sociology. In 2016 Michael will journey to Kathmandu to work with the Robotics Association of Nepal, in a structured series of cybernetic experiments and workshops exploring humanity’s spiritual synergy with technology.

Reciprocal Residency Program

Sally Richardson (WA) and Hsu Yenting (Taipei), Taipei Artist Village, Taiwan and Fremantle Arts Centre, Western Australia, 2015

Through this annual exchange, Perth writer, choreographer and arts manager Sally Richardson traded places with Taiwanese sound artist Hsu Yenting. Sally developed The Ghost Project with Taiwanese artists working across the mediums of dance, theatre, film and photography. Yenting exhibited Waterland, which explored how culture affects the perception of sound.

Arts Residency Laboratory

Kerjasama: Reciprocal Residency between Australia and Indonesia. Karla Dickens (NSW) and Doni Maulistya (Yogyakarta) Artback NT, Alice Springs and Cemeti Art House, Yogyakarta, 2015

Kerjasama has increased awareness of Asialink’s Arts Residency Program to Indigenous applicants. Australian Indigenous artist Karla Dickens and Indonesian artist Doni Maulistya undertook a six week residency in Alice Springs, followed by a further six weeks in Yogyakarta. Karla is developing a new body of work based on stories of the Seven Sisters Sky People (Southern Cross). Doni created the exhibition How to draw waterhole & other works at Watch this Space in Alice Springs.

Regional Revitalisation in Japan: Australia House, Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale, Japan 2015

Snuff Puppets: Andy Freer, Stephane Hisler, Rosalind Hall, Nick Wilson (VIC)

Snuff Puppets stayed at Australia House where they collaborated with the Urada community to build giant puppets based on local folk tales. The community learnt to operate the puppets, and performed in the Niigata prefecture and on Honjima Island, before a major performance as part of the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale. Snuff Puppets have been invited to return to Japan to participate in the 2016 Setouchi Triennale, which Asialink will again be involved in through the Fukutake House Asia Art Platform.

SymbioticA: The Science of Arts Residencies

Yiyun Chen (China), SymbioticA, the University of Western Australia, 2016

Yiyun Chen is an artist/designer who lives and works in Shanghai. She is interested in the realms where design, psychology and medicine connect. Her current work is concerned with disease and the medical psychology of the human body. At SymbioticA Yiyun will research the biological level of her speculative design project that transforms illness into forms of productivity.

Round tables for visiting cultural delegations from China
Melbourne, March & May, 2015

In 2015 Asialink Arts hosted two round table discussions on opportunities for collaboration with China, particularly in performing arts. The delegations included representatives from the Chinese Ministry of Culture and various provincial arts centres, as well as performing arts managers from major Chinese arts organisations and venues including Beijing and Shanghai.

Raqs Media Collective Keynote Lecture & Curatorial Seminar
Melbourne, July 2015

During Raqs Media Collective’s visit to Australia in 2015 Asialink Arts partnered with Monash University Art Design and Architecture (MADA), Melbourne, Curatorial Practice to co-host a post-graduate seminar with Collective Members Monica Narula and Shuddhabrata Sengupta. The Collective also delivered a keynote lecture at the State Library of Victoria, co-presented by Asialink Arts in partnership with Monash University Museum of Art (MUMA) and Institute of Modern Art (IMA), Brisbane.

Asia-Capability for VIC Multi-Arts professionals: Tokyo and Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale
Japan, August 2015

In 2015 Asialink facilitated a delegation for Victorian arts professionals to Tokyo and Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale to research and develop professional networks and partnerships for the future.

Singapore Youth Arts Overseas Attachment Program (YAOAP)
Melbourne, February – May 2016

Asialink Arts in partnership with the National Arts Council Singapore will co-ordinate and manage the Singapore Youth Arts Overseas Attachment Program in 2016. The program will place two Singaporean interns with Melbourne’s Next Wave and The Push for three months each.

Image Captions

Front Cover: TextaQueen, Blessing (detail), fibre-tips and watercolour on cotton paper, 2015, 112 x 77 cm. Image courtesy of the artist and THIS IS NO FANTASY & Dianne Tanzer Gallery.


