

The Timor Leste Project



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Culture and the Arts**

*This is an Asialink Arts Residency Project supported by the
Department of Culture and The Arts, WA.*

Dear Reader,

Artist Ange Leech and filmmaker Giovanni C. Lorusso are currently seeking to build a relationship with a number of Australian organisations in order to support a reciprocal residency program between Australia and Timor Leste artists group Arte Moris.

The program has been initiated by us in collaboration with Arte Moris director Iliwatu Danabere and supported by Mount Eliza Rotary Club and Asialink with a \$12,000 grant.

It is our primary aim to establish an ongoing exchange program between Australian and Timor Este artists creating new works to be showcased internationally with the involvement of established artists as well as younger generations, addressing the subjects that are relevant to the community and promoting the artwork and activity of Arte Moris to an Australian and international audience.

Our secondary aim is to gain a greater insight into the healing properties of community art.

We are interested in partnering with local community groups including health organisations, art centres and schools, as well as individual businesses keen to support the reciprocal residency program. We would graciously accept in-kind or financial support for the project acknowledging it throughout the media network.

Below you will find informations about our work, the program and the supporting companies involved in the project.

Please feel free to visit our dedicated website for updates on the project.

We would love to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards,

Ange Leech and Giovanni C. Lorusso



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“Driving in East Timor is optimistically termed an adventure. Except for streets in Dili and the main road running along the north coast, most roads are deeply potholed and rutted. You’ll be lucky to average 30km/h, and even then you’ll need to be on the lookout for children, goats, dogs etc. Bridges and entire segments of road flood or wash away during the rainy season”.

Source © 2015 Lonely Planet

The project is currently structured to create a collaboration between 3 remote districts and Dili. It is our first priority to raise **AUD\$ 3000** to contribute towards the cost of repairing Arte Moris’ Toyota 4WD vehicles.



The project is artist in residence cultural biannual exchange program. Where artists from Australia will travel to Timor Leste, then the following year Timorese artists will come and create art and work with community in Australia. The longterm goal is to establish an ongoing exchange program for artists from Australia and Arte Moris.

The project will exist in two stages

Stage 1: July, August 2015

Three Australian artists will travel to Timor Leste to collaborate with Arte Moris artists to carry out an 8 week project. Artists will collaborate combining artistic skills including drawing, painting, music, puppetry and photography to deliver a series of stop motion film making workshops.

PROGRAM DETAILS

The film will be generated through a series of workshops held by Australian and Timorese and edited with experimental stop motion processes using locally resourced and recycled materials. The artwork, props, story boards and scenes will created by artists and local community groups invited to participate in art workshops held throughout three districts. The film will embrace local stories, traditional and contemporary art practices.

The film will be screened at the annual new Arte Moris Festival in August 2015.

Stage 2: TBA 2016

Timor Leste artists will travel to Australia to work with Australian artists and local community to undertake a similar collaborative project in Australia, that will publically presented in Australia. The program will be open to community groups to participate in creation and artwork and will also aim to invite and engage with people from the Australian Timor Leste community.

This two year program aims to support artistic development and allows artists to create exciting new works that will be showcased to an international audience, strengthening and building new relationships between Australia and Timorese artists. Simultaneously the project will have a strong community focus creating opportunities for young people to be inspired and creative and promote the artwork and activity of Arte Moris to an Australian audience.

The program is open to partnering with local community groups including health organisations, art centres and schools as well as addressing subjects that are relevant to the local communities social needs. A major aspect of the project is to be able to gain a greater insight into the healing properties of community arts.

MISSION



Arte Moris
[artemoris.org]

Established in Timor-leste's capital Dili in February 2003, ARTE MORIS has become the first Fine Arts School, Cultural Center and Artists' Association in the one of the world's youngest democracy. ARTE MORIS was born in the aftermath of 25 years of Indonesian military occupation and the extremely violent events following the August 1999 referendum leading to the country's independence restoration on May 20th 2002. Its primary aim was to use art as a building block in the psychological and social reconstruction of a country devastated by violence, with special emphasis on helping its young citizens.

The vision and day-to-day practice of ARTE MORIS is one of creativity, cooperation, and commitment to artistic endeavor. These priorities combine with an open door policy, to create an environment in which young Timorese people from all backgrounds can feel comfortable to participate in art making and express themselves freely through fine art. Part of the school's vision is to encourage students' personal growth, individual and communal self-esteem, and other life skills. While classroom settings primarily develop artistic skills and talents, just as important is the actual process of learning – with its associated successes and failures – in an atmosphere of guidance and encouragement which allows students to experiment, build self-confidence and expand upon their own vision of themselves and their new nation.

Asialink

[asialink.unimelb.edu.au]

This project has received funding and support from Asialink. Asialink works with business, government, philanthropic and cultural partners to initiate and strengthen Australia-Asia engagement on all levels and across all sectors. Asialink was founded in 1990 with the support of The Myer Foundation and The University of Melbourne .

Since 1991 Asialink's Arts Residency Program has provided professional development opportunities for arts professionals working in and across artforms, in exchange for the sharing of skills, knowledge and networks with local host communities. Asialink Arts Residencies are innovative, flexible and supportive, and are grounded in personal and enduring relationships.





Ange Leech
[angeleech.com]

Ange Leech is a visual artist who creates sculptures, animations, performance and installations. Her work has been exhibited widely throughout Australia and has received numerous accolades. Most recent projects include creating a short animation for a performance by international award winning author Neil Gaiman as part of the Mona MOFO Festival in Hobart Australia 2015.

Leech believes art is a valuable process within community development and currently facilitates projects in remote indigenous communities and at Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison in Western Australia, using artistic processes to address social concerns and support individuals to generate new skills and creative ways of thinking.



Giovanni C. Lorusso
[gclorusso.com]

Giovanni C. Lorusso is an awarded film maker and cinematographer that has been working in the past years on several experimental, commercial, long and short form drama projects around Asia, Africa, Europe and Australia aiming at combining his research in philosophy of language with new forms of cinematographic expressions and collaborating with renown artists such as Mike Parr, Steve Kilbey and Amiel Courtin-Wilson with which he has recently worked as a 2nd unit director and cinematographer for the Australian and Cambodian feature film RUIN, winner of the Orizzonti Special Jury Price at the 70 Venice International Film Festival.

Giovanni C. Lorusso is currently shooting a feature film in New Zealand.



Kiki Ando - Guest Supporter
[kikiando.com]

Born in Shizuoka, Japan, Kiki moved to Australia in 2003 where she graduated at the Melbourne School of Fashion while working at the The Foundry Gallery and Studios and directing shows for the Melbourne Fringe Festival and several other fashion events. In 2006 Kiki moved to Berlin working as a musician, performer and designer. She has worked on collaborative projects as a costume designer for film / theatre and her own performance art projects.

From 2007 she has permanently moved to Australia initially operating for the RearView Gallery in Collingwood and collaborating within theatre, visual art and music, developing her unique hybrid practise.



