



A Season of Craft is coming to WA

MEDIA RELEASE: 31 March 2021

The inaugural 'IOTA21: Indian Ocean Craft Triennial' is expanding to a state-wide festival thanks to the support of Lotterywest. In celebration of contemporary craft and our place on the coast of the Indian Ocean, a program of exhibitions and events in Perth and across Western Australia will generate a spring season of craft.

The grant from Lotterywest will assist the coordination and promotion of the festival so members of the community can engage in the many stories associated with craft-making that infuse our everyday rituals, and that connect us across the ocean.

Jude van der Merwe, one of the six volunteer curators who founded the Craft Triennial, explains that,

'The original plan was to stage just one major exhibition to showcase examples of contemporary craft from around the Indian Ocean Rim. But once word escaped to the wider art and craft community in WA, we were inundated with requests from galleries and craft groups who wanted to join in. The result is that we now have a festival of over 35 venues organising their own activities to complement and support two major exhibitions at John Curtin Gallery and Fremantle Arts Centre.'

Hand making and crafting of objects – for utility, adornment, daily rituals, worship and special occasions – have been part of our lives for millennia. These objects are the receptacles of culture, familial histories and integral to our everyday lives. The practices associated with crafting materials – such as clay, glass, fibre, wood and metal – are shared across cultures and offer avenues for communities to sit down and share in a common language.

Accelerating an already renewed global interest in the handmade, the lockdowns induced by the COVID-19 pandemic saw a surge in the uptake of home craft, providing comfort and connection for many.

'The IOTA21: Indian Ocean Craft Triennial aims to honour the talents of skilled craftspeople who, fuelled by curiosity, constantly improve techniques to earn a living or find new ways of expressing our stories and culture. In celebrating the ingenuity of our hands and minds, this in turn aims to inspire us all, to create a relevant, viable and better future through craft.'

Lotterywest CEO Susan Hunt PSM said, *'Our purpose is to build a better Western Australia together and thanks to our players we are able to raise the much-needed funds to support wonderful initiatives that bring communities together in positive activities, just like this state-wide festival – IOTA21: Indian Ocean Craft Triennial.'*

Jenny Haynes, Director of Mundaring Arts Centre, the IOTA21 auspice partner and also a participating venue, adds, *'Many arts centres like ours had to cancel events in 2020 which would have provided important income-earning for artists and craft makers. The prospect of the Triennial is a wonderfully positive program to look forward to.'*

The IOTA21 program will be launched in May with exhibitions and activities taking place at various locations in Perth and across Western Australia from September – November 2021.

Visit www.indianoceancrafttriennial.com and follow @crafttriennial for more information.

Media enquiries: festival@indianoceancrafttriennial.com



KEY DATES

Thursday 20 May 2021: Program Launch of the IOTA21 Key Artists and Festival events; City of Perth SLSC, City Beach, 9.30am for 10am start.

OPENING EVENTS

Thursday 9 September: VIP preview, IOTA21 exhibition at John Curtin Gallery.

Friday 17 September: IOTA21 Opening Celebration, Fremantle Arts Centre.

16-18 September: Futuring Craft Conference, Curtin University

Saturday 18 September (TBC): IOTA21 Fashion Event, Curtin University

REGIONS & VENUES (as of 1 March 2021)

Perth Metro (*key exhibitions)

Art Gallery of Western Australia

Art Collective WA, Perth

Artitja Fine Art, EarlyWorks Fremantle

City of Melville/Wireless Hill

City of Melville/ Goolugatup Heathcote

City of Wanneroo

Ellenbrook Arts

*Fremantle Arts Centre

Gallery Central / North Metro TAFE

Gallery East, EarlyWorks Fremantle

Holmes à Court Gallery @no.10, West Perth

*John Curtin Gallery

Kidogo Arthouse, Fremantle

Midland Junction Arts Centre

Mossenson Galleries, Subiaco

Mundaring Arts Centre

Nyisztor Studio, Melville

Perth Studio Potters, Cottesloe

PICA

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Fremantle

Stala Contemporary/Jewellers & Metalsmiths Group of WA, West Perth

WA Museum – Boola Bardip

Regional

Bunbury Regional Art Gallery

CASM: Contemporary Art Space Mandurah

Gallery 152, York

Geraldton Project / Geraldton Regional Gallery

Gwoonwardu Mia - Gascoyne Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre

Holmes à Court Gallery @ Cowaramup

Lost Eden Gallery, Dwellingup

Mandurah Performing Arts Centre

Southern Forest Arts, Northcliffe

Stirling St Arts Centre, Bunbury

The Junction Co / Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland

WA Museum – Geraldton

WA Museum – Great Southern

York Festival

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Project partners include Brikmakers, Garland magazine, World Crafts Council - Australia, Museum of Freedom & Tolerance.