

– Media Release –

Paiwan dancer and choreographer and Maningrida visual artist are announced as the 2019 Taiwan – Australia Indigenous Artist in Residents.

First Nations' arts practitioners Aulu Tjibulangan and Janet Marawarr have been selected as the 2019 Taiwan – Australia Indigenous Artist in Residents. Tjibulangan and Marawarr innovatively fuse traditional and contemporary arts and culture in their practice and will participate in this unique cultural exchange opportunity between the Northern Territory and Rinari, Southern Taiwan.

Louise Partos, Artback NT Executive Officer said "The exchange aims to promote Indigenous cultures and histories within Australia and Taiwan and provide audiences with contemporary representations of First Nations perspectives through the arts. This year we received entries from all art forms making the selection process difficult, however, the result has seen two dynamic creatives being chosen."

The rich cultural fabric and layered histories of Taiwan and Australia will provide the framework for Aulu Tjibulangan, a Paiwan dancer and choreographer and Janet Marawarr, a visual artist from Maningrida with a platform to build upon their arts practices. The exchange will also enable the artists to engage in different cultural customs and strengthen connections between their respective arts communities.

Partos said "I feel privileged that Artback NT is able to provide these exceptional artists with opportunities for the exchange of ideas that will lead to the culmination of new work."

Aulu Tjibulangan studied at the Taipei National University of the Arts and has performed for many contemporary dance companies in Taiwan such as Bulareyuang Dance. In 2016, Tjibulangan won the *Rising Star Award* at the Pulima Arts Award for his work *Beyond* and in 2018 was awarded a scholarship from the Jin-Lin Foundation to perform and attend the American Dance Festival.

Tjibulangan said "to be provided with this opportunity to collaborate with Australian Indigenous performing artists will enable me to build upon and expand my current choreographic project, *Qadaw*, meaning Sun."

To further develop his choreographic work, Tjibulangan is interested in learning about the Sun, Earth and birds that are imbedded within Aboriginal Lore. In this, Tjibulangan will unite ideas of tradition and the Modern through dance, movement and environmental theatre.





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Janet Kalidjan Marawarr is a prolific textile design artist, an established bark painter and is a performer of cultural song and dance. Marawarr uses the methods of linocut and screen printing to skilfully weave together narratives of cultural, spiritual and environmental significance. Her textiles have been exhibited extensively throughout Australia as well as internationally.

Marawarr is deeply connected to place and her Country and it is this connection that is reflected through all her designs. She said “I am committed to sharing this with other First Nations women across the world,” through advocacy and the delivery of lectures and workshops.

Since becoming the successful NT applicant, Marawarr said “I now have an interest to learn more about Taiwanese First Nation’s peoples’ cultural dance and performance, as well as their other art forms, in particular weaving and textile production. I am also excited by the possibility of welcoming a Rinari artist back to Maningrida, to show them how the women of Maningrida work.”

For Marawarr this cultural exchange will offer an invaluable insight into Australian First Nation’s art practices of the Northern Territory and, in Rinari, audiences will experience the synergies and integration of exhibited artworks through the dancing of cultural song cycles.

ABOUT THE EXCHANGE

The Taiwan – Australia Indigenous Artist in Residence program offers an emerging or established Indigenous artist from Taiwan and the Northern Territory a 6-week residency in each other’s respective country.

Aulu Tjibulangan will be in Darwin, Northern Territory from August.
Janet Kalidjan Marawarr will be in Rinari, Taiwan from October.
Public Program details will be finalised and released during the residency.

To learn about the 2019 artists and view available images visit:

Aulu Tjibulangan, dancer and choreographer <http://bit.ly/2w7Ab7B>

Janet Kalidjan Marawarr, visual artist <http://bit.ly/2HxY1P6>

Louise Partos, Executive Officer, is available for interview upon request.

The Taiwan – Australia Indigenous Artist in Residence is a collaboration between Artback NT and the Indigenous Peoples Cultural Development Centre, Taiwan and is generously supported by the Northern Territory Government, Taiwan’s Council of Indigenous Peoples and the Australian Office in Taipei.

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