

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: TUESDAY 9 JULY 2013

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Indonesian textiles from Tasmanian collections take starring role

The Plimsoll Gallery, UTAS Centre for the Arts, is displaying a special exhibition of Indonesian textiles this July.

Curator Cas Charles said the exhibition was a rare opportunity to view selected pieces from six private Tasmanian collections.

“To coincide with the 2013 Indonesian Council Open Conference we have been lucky to secure 45 Indonesian textiles drawn from local collections.

“The textiles represent an important part of Indonesia’s rich cultural heritage and have been selected to showcase examples of traditional ikat weaving, batik and songket.”

Visitors to the exhibition will view a selection of ceremonial textiles created for use as funeral shrouds, bridal dowry and other rites of passage.

“Textiles from many of the islands within the Indonesian archipelago such as Sumba, Flores and Sawu, feature motifs reserved for royalty as well as those that indicate status and clan allegiances.

“As the exhibition title suggests, the traditional natural dye colours indigo, sogu and morinda feature in the selected works,” Ms Charles said.

“The colours used in certain pieces may indicate ancestral origins, and in the case of Indigo, a certain mystical potency and protective powers.”

Ms Charles said that while each of the textiles on display often told stories of marriage, death, gender, wealth and status unable to be verbally spoken by their traditional owners, the stories did not end in Indonesia.

“The textiles chosen for this exhibition hold personal significance for each of the collectors.

“They are more than just mementos from travel – they represent a connection between Tasmania and Indonesia literally ‘woven’ by many journeys and a common love of textiles.”

Exhibition opening hours: *Kainan – indigo, sogu and morinda: Indonesian textiles from Tasmanian collections* continues 12 noon to 5pm each day until 21 July at the Plimsoll Gallery, Hunter Street.

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