

Wellington Asia Residency Exchange INFORMATION PACK

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INTRODUCTION

Wellington Asia Residency Exchange (WARE) is an artist-in-residence programme initiated in 2007 by Wellington City Council in partnership with the Asia New Zealand Foundation.

There is capacity each year for one Asian artist or arts professional (curator, producer, choreographer etc) to participate in the residency and for one Wellington-based artist or arts professional to participate in the exchange facet of the programme.

Visiting Asian artists/arts professionals will stay at the historic Bolton Street Cottage and work towards developing a project. They will be hosted by a Wellington-based arts organisation to enable project development.

Wellington-based artists participating in the exchange will be accommodated by Asian arts organisations and will work towards developing a project with their Asian contemporaries.

VISION

The Wellington Asia Residency Exchange programme aims to connect Wellington's creative community with artists and arts organisations in Asian countries, increasing cross-cultural collaboration, enhancing artists' international networks, and contributing to Wellington's strategic goal of having an internationally connected creative sector.

To build on Wellington's sister city relationships, the programme will prioritise visiting artists and arts professionals from one of its sister cities: Beijing and Xiamen in China and Sakai in Japan. However, we will consider artists and arts professionals from all over Asia to capture the most relevant contemporary artists to Wellington's arts sector.

OBJECTIVES

The key objectives for the WARE programme are to:

- facilitate an exchange of art practices and ideas between Wellington and Asia
- establish ongoing relationships with Asian cultural centres – developing Wellington's international profile and creative identity in Asia
- raise the profile of Asian arts in Wellington
- work towards creating an Asia-literate society in New Zealand by 2020 (Preparing for a Future with Asia, Asia NZ Foundation, summit report, September 2006).

PROGRAMME

The residency facet of WARE is aimed at contemporary arts practitioners and professionals of all disciplines (visual artists, performers, writers, curators, producers, choreographers) from Asian countries. The exchange facet of WARE is aimed at contemporary arts practitioners (not arts professionals) from Wellington. Participating artists and arts professionals should be committed to extending their practice and networking with their New Zealand/Asian contemporaries.

Each residency will be project based depending on the individual's discipline. Wellington City Council will assist artists and arts professionals to partner with an arts organisation, eg institution, gallery, theatre – to enable project development. Projects could range from an exhibition or installation to a series of workshops or a performance. They are envisaged as a way for the public to engage with the artist and their work.

Residencies will be no longer than three months and no less than six weeks. Bolton Street Cottage will host one resident per year, and one artist exchange will be organised annually.

RESIDENCY ENTITLEMENT INCLUDES:

- flights
- accommodation at Bolton Street Cottage
- artist allowance
- access to internet in the cottage
- mobile handset
- project space
- costs relating to project development
- introduction to Wellington's arts sector.

RESOURCES

The cottage is wired for internet use, and artists are given a mobile and a sim card for use in New Zealand. Artists/arts professionals will be given access to space for project development through their specific arts organisation. This may be studio or workshop space, exhibition/installation space or rehearsal and performance space. The cottage does not have designated studio space; it comprises a bedroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom and laundry, a dining room/study/second bedroom and a small outdoor courtyard. The cottage is fully furnished.

WELLINGTON'S ARTS SECTOR

Artists/arts professionals are introduced to Wellington's arts sector through their arts organisation, meeting their contemporaries, and visiting galleries, museums etc. Events will be organised to enable this, such as a welcoming party, opening for exhibition/performance, and/or a public forum of some description where the artist/arts professional may be invited to speak about their practice.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Artists/arts professionals will be selected to participate in WARE through various means, including the Asia New Zealand Foundation networks, arts organisations, and responses to advertisements from individual artists.

Wellington City Council will work with an advisory group to select artists/arts professionals to participate in the programme. This group may include representatives with cultural and social connections in both New Zealand and Asia, community leaders in Wellington, and representatives from key arts organisations.

The advisory group will be asked to identify and select an artist/arts professional that best demonstrates an understanding of the objectives of the residency and meets the following criteria:

- citizen and permanent resident of Asian countries
- contemporary artist/arts professional with a record of achievement in their preferred genre of arts practice (note that the preference is to have a spread of arts disciplines represented across five years of the programme)
- willingness to create a body of work during the residency (ie an exhibition, performance, workshop or seminar)
- willingness to engage with Wellington's arts sector and general public
- fit with arts organisation
- artist must be able to demonstrate a degree of autonomy and self reliance.



Cottage

Bolton Street Cottage is located on the fringe of Wellington's central business district. It is set in a tree-covered park close to the Wellington Botanic Garden, New Zealand's Parliament and Victoria University of



Map

Wellington. The cottage backs on to the Bolton Street Memorial Park and Cemetery. Built in 1857, it is one of Wellington's oldest homes, protected by the Historic Places Trust.

THE ARTISTS:

Lee Kit – inaugural artist

"During my residency in Wellington, I was hosted by Enjoy Public Art Gallery and participated in a group exhibition, entitled *Enjoy Buy 100 Fundraiser Show* and a solo exhibition *Ready-made Everyday* at Enjoy Public Art Gallery, for which I made 20 new artworks." (Lee Kit, 2007).



Ready-made Everyday at Enjoy Public Art Gallery

I Wayan Gde Yudane

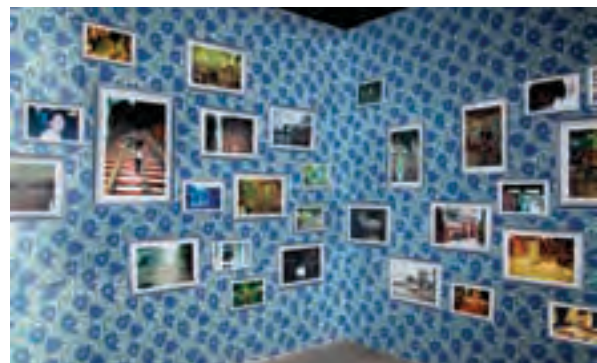
In July 2010 the New Zealand School of Music proposed that I Wayan Gde Yudane, a musician and composer from Indonesia, participate in the programme. He was hosted by the New Zealand School of Music, and undertook a series of workshops and performances with the school.



I Wayan Gde Yudane

Pak Sheung-Chuen

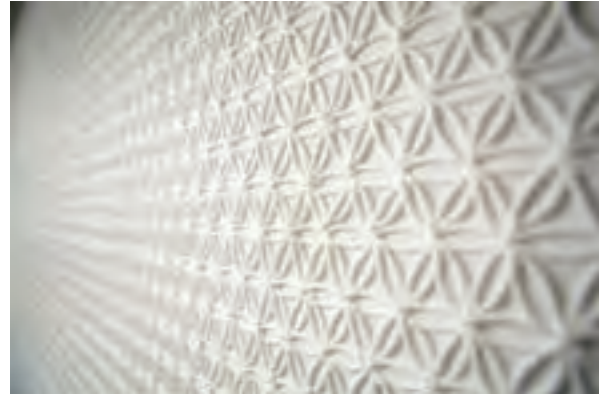
In June this year the Dowse Art Museum hosted Hong Kong-based Chinese visual artist Pak Sheung-Chuen. He exhibited at the Dowse alongside seven other contemporary Asian artists in a show entitled *Crystal City* in July 2011.



Pak Sheung Chuen, *Travel Without Visual Experience*, Installation shot by John Lake, 2011

Ai Sasaki

In September 2008, visual artist Ai Sasaki, from Sakai, Japan, was hosted by Toi Pōneke Arts Centre. She was selected for the WARE programme on the advice of leading Japanese critic, academic and curator, Hisako Hara. Ai undertook a series of workshops with primary school children and exhibited at Toi Pōneke Gallery. The exhibition, entitled *Invisible Scapes*, consisted of intricate landscapes drawn across the gallery walls in an icing sugar, egg white mix, and included imagery by the school children she worked with.



Ai Sasaki, The Lost Flowers, 2008

BENEFITS

The benefits for participating residents and for hosting arts organisations are broad and varied and include:

- forming relationships and partnerships between arts organisations locally and internationally by:
 - establishing an exchange of art practices and ideas between Wellington arts organisations and Asian artists, their home towns and affiliated organisations. This will increase the likelihood of future collaboration
 - putting Wellington on the map as an internationally connected creative sector
- raising the profile of Asian arts practices in Wellington
- enhancing visiting artists' careers
- audience development through enriched programmes of activity
- support, including funding and promotion, for project activity from Council and Asia NZ Foundation
- enabling contemporary, cutting edge, experimental and culturally diverse arts practice to flourish.

CONCLUSION

It is hoped that each WARE artist will be introduced to Wellington's arts sector, gain an insight into how it operates, contribute to its dynamics and return home influenced and inspired in their careers. For more information about the WARE programme, please contact the Wellington City Council City Arts team.

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Wellington

NEW ZEALAND