

Report from Dr. Kevin Murray

2013

Australia India Design Platform

Partnerships with artisans in the Asia Pacific region have been very important to the development of craft skills in Australia. The three-year initiative to develop a Code of Practice for Partnership in Craft and Design had its final event in Bangalore in December 2013. This followed a number of roundtables and forums in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. In 2014, the results of these will be gathered into a draft code, which will be used to underpin partnerships in product development, leading to long-term benefits for artisans.

www.sangamproject.net.

Amity Exhibition

A highlight of 2013 was the World Crafts Council South Pacific region exhibition curated by Lindy Joubert. This included not only craft masters from Australia but also craft objects from West Timor, Papua New Guinea and Samoa.

(to be added by Lindy Joubert)

National Craft Initiative

In the wake of de-funding of Craft Australia, the National Association of the Visual Arts has been charged with the development of a national craft strategy. There was a survey conducted in 2013. It was expected that there would be a conference in 2014, though this has not been deferred to 2015.

<http://www.nationalcraftinitiative.com.au/>

Semarang International Batik Festival

The World Crafts Council network provides an important link for Australia to its neighbours in the Asia Pacific. Indonesia is recognised as one of the most significant. Two masters of Australian textile craft were invited to participate in the inaugural Semarang International Batik Festival. Liz Williamson talked about their work and gave demonstrations. This event was also attended by the Vice-President Dr Ghada and the President Wang Shen. Overall, it was a great success and bodes well for the future encouragement of this traditional craft.

<http://www.craftunbound.net/report/batik-dreaming-in-central-java>

3D printing at Object

Object Centre for Design in Sydney presented an exhibition exploring the phenomenon of 3D printing. [Ctrl][P] Objects on Demand was a 3D printing lab, an exhibition, and a pop-up shop that explores the What, Why and How of 3D printing.

<http://ctrlp.com.au/>

Melbourne Now

The National Gallery of Victoria hosted its most ambitious ever program of exhibitions and events that profiled the artistic life of the city of Melbourne. Refreshingly, it included many of the

craftspersons in Melbourne. This includes many ceramicists, weavers, furniture makers and a separate section for jewellery.

<http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/melbournenow>

Craft Cubed at Craft Victoria

Craft Victoria hosted its annual festival of craft. This included its normal exhibition program, as well as satellite events through the state of Victoria. Titled A Better Blueprint, the 2013 festival explored the materials, tools, design and skills in contemporary craft and design practice. It included over 100 workshops, events, talks, markets and open studios

<http://www.craft.org.au/see/craft-cubed/>