



Art Cargo

"Art is a magical cargo, a means of diplomacy and a survival skill." – John Mateer

Saturday 5 November 2016



IMAGE: Maggie Baxter, documentation from *Unfolding: Contemporary Indian Textiles* exhibition. Hand woven cotton Telia sari by Bappadiya and Rumi Biswas. Photographed on location in Kolkatta by Leena Kejriwal.

Art Cargo is an innovative forum examining the relationships forged by travel and the trading of ideas through locally produced visual art.

Held on Saturday 5 November 2016, *Art Cargo* is co-presented by Artsource and the University of Western Australia Cultural Precinct. It continues the conversation about trends in Western Australian visual art building on *The Undiscovered: A National Focus on Western Australian Art* in 2014.

This one-off event at the University of Western Australia will look at how travelling and trading have affected art in WA; observe what local practice has in common with art in other cultures or communities; and investigate whether these less obvious links are potentially stronger than those with the eastern states.

Art Cargo will feature a keynote address from writer and curator John Mateer, whose latest curatorial work is an exhibition bringing together Australian, South African and Balinese artists with an emphasis on locating WA artists in relation to artists of the region.

"If Australia is appreciated as a network of islands, metaphors for the actuality of current experience in this region would be those of travel: art as magical and commercial cargo, culture as the trading of information and values, galleries as airports or trade-fairs, the practice of the artist as a means of diplomacy and as a technique of survival after marooning or shipwreck." - John Mateer (from *"Australia is not an island"* originally published in *Meanjin*, Vol 6 No 1, 2006)



Other speakers include:

- Maggie Baxter is a textile artist, writer, independent curator, and public art coordinator. She first visited India in 1990 and maintains a textile arts practice in Kutch, Gujarat state. Her book *Unfolding: Contemporary Indian Textiles*, was the first book written on the subject.
- Dr. Marco Marcon is the Artistic Director and co-founder of the International Art Space. In 2009 he created Spaced, an international event of socially engaged art involving the participation of regional and rural communities throughout Western Australia.
- Abdul-Rahman Abdullah is a West Australian artist working primarily in sculpture and installation. Using his experiences as a Muslim Australian of mixed cultural heritage as a starting point, Abdullah seeks to negotiate shared understandings of individual identity and social outlooks in a multicultural Australian context.

More speakers will be announced in the coming weeks.

- > **When:** 1pm to 6pm, Saturday 5 November 2016
- > **Where:** Woolnough Theatre and Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, University of Western Australia
- > **Cost:** \$25 general
\$12.50 for students, Artsource members and Friends of the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery

– ENDS –

CONTACT

For all enquiries, artist interviews and high-resolution images please contact:

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USEFUL LINKS

<https://artcargo.eventbrite.com.au>

<http://www.artsource.net.au/whatson/artcargo>

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Cultural Precinct

The Cultural Precinct is the University of Western Australia's cultural hub, supporting music, theatre, exhibition programs and broader arts and cultural events throughout the year.

Conceived as a 'park with buildings', UWA is arguably one of the most beautiful campuses in Australia. Sited throughout its heritage-listed gardens are many sculptures, murals and notable buildings, including the Octagon & Dolphin theatres, the Sunken Garden, Somerville Auditorium and the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery. This fusion of culture, nature and learning provides visitors with an experience unique in Western Australia.

Artsource is the peak membership body for visual artists in Western Australia

We have over 950 members sharing our vision of a world in which culture and the arts are valued as vital and where visual arts flourish. We support artists and help to build their practice and careers with practical, affordable and relevant services, opportunities and represent their interests. Artsource champions the value of the visual arts to a growing audience around Western Australia, our nation and internationally.