

GANG FESTIVAL 2008 QUICK FACTS



Description:

Gang Festival is an artist-run festival and creative exchange program showcasing the work of autonomous and collaborative arts communities in Australia and Indonesia.

Gang is the Indonesian word for alleyway (pronounced 'Gung'), alluding to the underground art scene and the importance of community. The festival also draws on the English meaning of the word, with cross-cultural collaboration between large groups of art workers on the margins of the commercial art world.

This year Gang has partnered with *Tanam untuk Kehidupan* TUK (Planting for Life), a dynamic environmental arts collective from Salatiga, Central Java. Over October and November last year, four gang artists travelled to Salatiga to participate in their signature event *Festival Mata Air*.

On January 19 Gang will produce its own Festival Day in Peace Park Chippendale and the surrounding laneways. This year it has been named 'Art Day is Today' which is the English translation of *Hari Ini Adalah Hari Seni*, a collaboration between Gang and Padang art collective *Belanak*.

On the festival day, Sydney based artists will perform alongside visiting Gang artists: TwinSista, a female MC from East Java and Kuno Kini, a percussion ensemble from Jakarta. Other performers will be found loitering and roaming throughout the 'gangs' of Chippendale, along with an exhibition of installation art works. Families are encouraged to bring a picnic and take part in children's games, and art workshops. There is also an opportunity to browse the makers market and zine fair for handmade and recycled treasures.

What's unique about *Gang*?

- An Australian/Indonesian artists exchange program run by the artists themselves
- Showcasing the emerging landscape of artist-run spaces in Chippendale/Surry Hills
- Building connections between grass-roots cultural organisations in Australia and Indonesia
- Exhibiting and performing works by a range of independent Indonesian artists and groups for the first time in Australia

Key Events

For the full program please see <http://www.gangfestival.com/program.html>

ARTSLAB RESIDENCY

ArtSLab is a unique space within Bill and George creative studios, a newly opened Artist run space in Redfern. Artslab declares itself a 'collabratory' – a laboratory of collaboration. This space will experiment with the development of new viewing practices and socially engaged creative processes for art workers and their 'public'. The first laboratory will feature participants in Gang Festival.

GANG TULIS WRITER'S RESIDENCY

Short story writer Triyanto Triwikromo (Semarang) will be in Sydney taking part in a collaborative residency with Sydney writer Jan Cornall. Jan and Triyanto are working towards a bilingual collection of short stories - Triyanto's set in Australia and Jan's set in Indonesia.

ART FOR EARTHSAKE

Pine Street Gallery

January 8- 29

An Exhibition of Works for the Environment. Presented by Komunitas TUK (Salatiga, Indonesia). This exhibition celebrates the creativity that has evolved from the collaborations of TUK with the local community and other artists and environmental groups in the region.

VOLCANO EXHIBITION OPENING

Gallery 44

opening January 10, 6pm, open by appointment

A tribute to the 129 active volcanos in Indonesia – a collaborative "Ring of Fire" Art science / home science / eruption / exhibition / arts lab / cake stall. See ongoing volcano blog at www.gangfestival.blogspot.com

ART DAY IS TODAY: KAMPUNG FESTIVAL 08

Peace Park and surrounding laneways, Pine Street, Chippendale

January 19, 2008, 3pm-8pm

Gang hopes to grow from the success of the 2006 Kampung Festival, held in Peace Park in Chippendale, to present collaborative artworks and performances. The Kampung Street Festival is about laneways and marginalised sites; its also about public space and the insertion and creation of art into the everyday - a re-igniting of civic spaces with creative expression. 'Art Day Is Today' will feature a makers' market, zine fair, art in the laneways, games, and a number of site specific performances.

Artists Bios

Triyanto Triwikromo (Writer, Semarang)

Tri is best known for his short stories about "forgotten" people in a unique Indonesian magic realist style. His famous story *Children Sharpening the Knives* has been made into a film and his stories have been published in a number of journals including Kompas. His collection of short stories, *Rezim Seks* (1987) was reprinted along with his second collection *Ragaula* (2002), followed by *Sayap Anjing* (2003), *Children Sharpening the Knives* (2003), and *Malam Sepasang Lampion* (2004). This 'Best Indonesian Poet' according to *Gadis* magazine 1989 has also published a number of poetry collections. He has participated in various theatre and literature events, including Wordstorm Festival, 2005 in Darwin, Australia. He is currently a journalist and literary editor for the daily Suara Merdeka, Semarang.

Nova (TwinSista hip hop outfit)

Nova is one half of *TwinSista* a female hip hop outfit from East Java Indonesia and the daughter of the guitarist from Indonesia's legendary rock band *Suami*. In 2000 as a 19 year old Nova made her first forays into hip hop with her best friend Indry. Influenced by the Fugees, and Lauryn Hill they eventually entered a hip hop competitions to try out their own stuff. And TwinSista was born. They contributed tracks to independent compilation album *Perang Rap* (2001) and then toured through Java. With the support of a music producer, Iqbal (Calludra) and Pasukan Record, Twinsista released their first album, "Mother of Nature" in 2003. In March 2007 Nova returned to Yogya to record her first solo single, "Dikawinkan Alam" which was released in a compilation album called "It's Hiphop Poetry Battle",

Exi Agus Wijaya and Djuadi Suami (anakseribupulau)

Exi and Djuadi are two artists from a collective in Java called anakseribupulau. anakseribupulau is a community of artists/activists spread across Indonesia and emerged from creative collaborations working against the destruction of the environment. It is a growing and changing initiative designed to encourage the crossovers rather than the collisions of cultures. Exi is a writer and musician while Djuadi's work ranges from performance art and spoken word to wood carving.

Sindhu Prasastyo (Ayok) & Rudy Ardianto (Komunitas TUK)

Tanam Untuk Kehidupan ('Planting for Life') is an Indonesian artist collective based in Salatiga, Central Java that raises awareness in the local community via art and creative practice. TUK runs workshops, a reforestation program, an eco-neighbourhood program that encourages waste separation and compost making, and an annual sustainable art and music festival called Festival Mata Air. Both Rudy and Ayok work in the fields of visual art and design.

KunoKini (Jakarta based ensemble Experimental Percussion Afro-beat)

KunoKini is a four piece percussion ensemble from Jakarta. KunoKini use traditional Indonesian instruments as well as traditional instruments from other ancient cultures, including the didgeridoo. The name KunoKini speaks for both their music and philosophy; literally Kuno means traditional and Kini means now. They are guided by a desire to conjure musically the essence of ethnicity, and to deliver a stunning performance which will always be remembered.