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**PRESS RELEASE:
GANG FESTIVAL DECLARES “ART DAY IS TODAY”**

Chippendale’s laneways surrounding Peace Park will be transformed into a cacophony of underground culture and creative exchange when Gang Festival kicks off on January 19.

Now in its second biennial, Gang Festival is a unique creative exchange between artist collectives in Indonesia and Sydney. ‘Gang’ is the Indonesian word for lane way or backstreet (pronounced ‘Gung’), and also draws on the English meaning of the word, with cross-cultural collaboration between art workers on the margins of the commercial art world.

“This year we have partnered with *Tanam Untuk Kehidupan, TUK* (Planting for Life) a dynamic environmental arts collective from Salatiga, Indonesia. Our Festival Day is called ‘Art Day is Today’ which is the English translation of another festival event Gang participated in December last year. It was organised by *Belanak* an artist collective based in the city of Padang, West Sumatra which is one of many groups Gang has formed a strong relationship with”. Says Festival Director Rebecca Conroy

‘Art Day is Today’ features an impressive line up of Indonesian performers and Sydney artists including Gypsy Dub Sound System, CuzCo (WireMC + Choo Choo), and the Uberlingua djays. Along with visiting artists from TUK, Ayok and Rudy Ardinato, the festival is bringing out Nova, who is one half of the rap duo TwinSista from East Java, accomplished author and poet Triyanto Triwikromo, two artists from the environment arts collective anakseribupulau, Djuadi Suami and Exi Wijaya, along with breathtaking four-piece percussion ensemble Kuno Kini from Jakarta. That’s a total of 10 fresh Indonesian artists.

And of course, the trade mark lane way antics of Gang will be back, with kooky performances, art installations, and strange roving performers. A Zine Fair and Makers Market will feature Sydney’s finest DIY creators and unique artisans and designers. And plenty of children’s games and activities to keep people engaged.

Says Festival Co-Director Alexandra Crosby, “We are encouraging people to bring a picnic and rug. And if you want to try some printing, bring a blank Tshirt from home as well!”

For media images or to arrange interviews please contact Festival Co-Director Rebecca Conroy on 0413 763 814 or email thegang@gangfestival.com

For more information visit www.gangfestival.com

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