

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Tuggeranong Arts Centre announces major exhibition for 2018: *Another Day in Paradise***

On 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015, 34 year-old Australian Myuran Sukumaran was executed by firing squad in Indonesia for drug trafficking offences after 10 years of incarceration and rehabilitation. During his imprisonment, Sukumaran trained and achieved formal qualifications as an artist.

In March and April 2018 Tuggeranong Arts Centre will show works created during Sukumaran's time in Bali's Kerobokan Prison and later on Nusa Kambangan Island, including a prolific series of works created in the last 72 hours of his life. Alongside these will feature the work of five significant contemporary artists responding to Sukumaran's story.

This will be the only opportunity for Canberra audiences to experience this significant collection of works co-curated by Ben Quilty and Michael Dagostino and originally presented by Campbelltown Arts Centre.

Tuggeranong Arts Centre CEO Rauny Worm emphasises, 'the Centre is very much aware of the sensitivities of this exhibition and the ethical and moral complexity surrounding Sukumaran's story.'

For this reason, TAC will present these works along with a suite of public programs that invite the community to explore the many difficult themes and questions emerging from the works and the associated story.

While Sukumaran's art tells a story of resilience, endurance, and profound sadness, it is overall a story of hope and empathy.

Campbelltown Arts Centre director and exhibition co-curator Michael Dagostino says, 'For Myuran, painting was a means of communicating with the world and a redemptive practice. He produced work under unimaginable and extraordinary circumstances, leaving an artistic legacy that speaks to the power of art to heal, and proving that people can change.'

It is a notion reiterated by Sukumaran's friend and mentor Ben Quilty, who writes in the exhibition program, 'his are images made on death's doorstep that speak purely about embracing life.'

Commissioned artists whose work features alongside Sukumaran's include Megan Cope (Melbourne), whose work contrasts Sukumaran's experiences of retribution with Australia's record of Indigenous deaths in custody and Abdul-Rahman Abdullah (Perth) whose work places the focus on hope and resilience.

Worm says, 'the exhibition's themes resonate with contemporary political debates about incarceration and rehabilitation, particularly in relation to youth detention, mandatory sentencing, and Indigenous deaths in custody. It is crucial that we demonstrate to audiences the transformative power of the arts.'

Tuggeranong Arts Centre is honoured to be working with Campbelltown Arts Centre and Ben Quilty to present *Another Day In Paradise*, which has just been awarded the 2017 IMAGinE Award for Best Museum Project. ***Another Day in Paradise* will open at TAC on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018 and continue until Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April.**

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