

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Another Day in Paradise: Embracing the power of art to change lives

*Another Day in Paradise*, a major exhibition by artist Myuran Sukumaran, will be officially opened by Deputy Leader of the Opposition Tanya Plibersek MP on Thursday 1 March at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre.

Speakers will include ACT Minister for the Arts, Gordon Ramsay MLA, artist and co-curator Ben Quilty as well as Chinthu Sukumaran, brother of Myuran. Award winning journalist Mark Davis will be the event MC.

The official ceremony will feature performances by the Woden Valley Youth Choir and classical cellist David Pereira.

*Another Day in Paradise* features paintings created by Myuran Sukumaran during his incarceration in Bali's Kerobokan prison and includes a prolific and powerful series of portraits completed during the last 72 hours of his life on Nusa Kambangan Island. The artworks prove the profound power of art to change lives, and bring to light the importance of forgiveness and compassion for humanity.

During his 3,665 days of incarceration, Sukumaran underwent a significant personal metamorphosis.

Myuran said of himself: *"I can't remember exactly when it was that I actually changed, but I know it was when I started wanting to change. ...Taking stock of my life at that moment, it dawned on me how far off course my life had come, I was the villain in my own story... I was the guy I always despised in my own fantasies and dreams."*

He initiated, supported and advocated for a number of education programs within the prison and succeeded in advocating for female inmates to be permitted to participate in these activities, previously only available to males. He fundraised to support prison programs including art, first aid, permaculture and drug rehabilitation through meditation, and also raised funds to support fellow inmates' medical procedures, crucial infrastructure such as bathrooms and kitchens, and the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. He began painting his signature self-portraits in 2012.

Curated by Ben Quilty and Michael Dagostino, the exhibition also features a series of artworks by five leading Australian artists, Abdul-Rahman Abdullah, Megan Cope, Jagath Dheeraseskara, Khaled Sabsabi and Matthew Sleeth, whose works respond to the death penalty and profile human rights.

This will be the first time that the exhibition has travelled away from its home at the Campbelltown Arts Centre, where it was commissioned as part of the Sydney Festival in 2017.

Tuggeranong Arts Centre CEO Rauny Worm says, *"We are very excited about hosting an exhibition of this calibre. We look forward to introducing this remarkable collection of artwork to the public."*

The exhibition will be open to the public from Friday 2 March to Sunday 29 April.