Media Release

Matt Conlan
Minister for Arts and Museums

Botanic art kicks off 2014 Chan Contemporary Art Space Program

4 July 2014

The Chan Contemporary Art Space 2014 exhibition program opens today, kicking off with fine art exploring the Territory’s unique plant life.

Botanica 2, an exhibition from Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts and Culture Centre in Katherine is the first event for the year in the popular Chan exhibition program.

“This is an exciting exhibition to kick off the 2014 Chan exhibition program with some fantastic art works depicting plant forms, native flora and the immediate environment of the 20 female artists exhibiting from across the NT,” said Minister for Arts and Museums Matt Conlan.

“The works are by Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists and include painting, works on paper, photography, weaving, ceramics, sculpture and screen-printed fabrics produced by artists from Merrepen Art Centre.”

Mr Conlan said the 2014 Chan exhibition program is just one of the cultural events on this year’s FestivalsNT calendar that brings Territorians and visitors together to celebrate who we are and what’s unique to the NT.

“The Chan showcases the diversity of Territory art and this year’s program also has a strong focus on our engagement with artists from Asia, which will help our plans to develop Northern Australia and establish the Territory as a major hub for arts, culture and tourism in the region,” he said.

“The Chan Contemporary Art Space in State Square is perfectly positioned close to the Tourism Visitor Information Centre in the Darwin CBD and offers visitors to the Territory a terrific cultural experience which is so important to our tourism product.

“The exhibitions at the Chan include a variety of art forms as well as opportunities for artists and audiences to participate, exchange ideas and learn new skills through artist talks, workshops and performances.”
Four exhibitions will be presented at the Chan Contemporary Art Space from 4 July – 16 November including *Botanica 2* and:

- **Colours of the Country 111**: a national touring exhibition featuring the Alice Springs Beanie Festival, 7 August – 6 September;

- **Elastic Mobile Residency: Darwin < > Dili**: cross cultural exchanges between Australian and Timorese artists in both cities addressing the practice of weaving and architectural forms of Timor-Leste, 17 September – 12 October; and

- **Border**: multi-media exhibition by Indonesian artist, Akiq AW resulting from the Asialink and Artback NT: Arts Development and Touring, Artist in Residence program in Alice Springs combining recent Yogyakarta works with remote Territory themes, 23 October – 16 November 2014.

For more information about the 2014 program visit [www.chancontemporaryartspace.org.au](http://www.chancontemporaryartspace.org.au)

The Northern Territory Government provides $160 000 in funding towards the exhibition program, marketing and promotions and management of the venue in 2014.

*Botanica 2* is on show from today until 27 July.

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