

For Immediate Release

**Writers, performers, artists: make art in Asia in 2011**

Applications close 10 September for Asialink's Arts Residencies 2011.

Whether they're tracking a 1930s circus performer through the archives in Japan, writing about being gay in China, or collaborating with Indonesian bus drivers, Australian artists make their mark on the region each year through the Asialink Arts Residency Program.

Applications for Asialink's 2011 Arts Residency Program close 10 September. Each year, Asialink helps 40 writers, performing and visual artists and arts managers set themselves up in Asia to make art, write, perform, seek inspiration and find kindred spirits.

It's all part of the grand plan for Asialink in the 'Asian century', according to new Director of Arts, Lesley Alway. "Over the past two decades, Asialink arts residencies have built a considerable alumni, nurtured numerous projects and initiated many ongoing relationships," says Ms Alway.

Asialink connects each artist with a host organisation, giving them direct access to the local scene: they could find themselves attached to the Shanghai Writers' Program, at university in northern India, roving with an Indonesian biennale or seeking their own host organisation in any Asian country they choose.

The experience was life changing for composer Leah Barclay, who worked alongside percussionists in South Korea. "This profoundly affected the way I think about music and will influence my creative work forever," says Ms Barclay.

Then there are the moments of illumination that come only when the mind is roaming, like the plot for a novel that unfurls on a train journey.

"While you may be actively searching for certain things, there are others which take hold of you unasked," says author Meg McKinlay, whose 2010 residency was spent chasing the protagonist for her new novel, a 1930s circus performer.

The Program is the largest international residency initiative in the country. More than 550 visual artists, writers, performers and arts managers have undertaken residencies in 19 Asian countries.

Applications for the 2011 Asialink Arts Residency Program close on 10 September. There are four streams: performing arts, writing, visual arts and arts management. Visit [www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/artsresidencies](http://www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/artsresidencies), email [arts@asialink.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:arts@asialink.unimelb.edu.au) or call +613 8344 4800.

**To interview a writer, performer, visual artist or arts manager, to request artist profiles, high resolution images or for any other media enquiries, contact Kelly Chandler on 0412 825 023 or email [kelchandler@gmail.com](mailto:kelchandler@gmail.com).**

MEDIA RELEASE