

# WORLD *IKAT* TEXTILES...ties that bind

A voyage of the World's most celebrated Textile, *IKAT*

15<sup>th</sup> April – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016

The World Crafts Council and the World Crafts Council Asia Pacific present: 'WORLD *IKAT* TEXTILES...ties that bind', an unprecedented cross cultural exhibition at The Brunei Gallery, SOAS, curated by **Edric Ong & Manjari Nirula**.



SOAS University of London



The exhibition celebrates the rich legacy of *ikat*, an age old textile technique stretching across the continents of the world. This unique collection brings together an array of some of the priceless pieces of "IKAT" with live demonstrations by master weavers, a Symposium, film screenings and a book display. This program reflects the World Crafts Council's global commitment to nurture, promote and revive precious indigenous craft skills. It also serves to connect the skilled practitioners from across these diverse regions to contemporary society and promote greater awareness of the hand-woven tradition and its innovation.



The exhibition includes over 200 items of unique *ikat* textile from regions such as; Asia-Pacific (Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Philippines, India, China, Japan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan), Latin America, the Middle East (Turkey, Syria, Egypt, Iran and Yemen), West Africa and Europe (Spain, Italy).

*ikat* is a specialized dyeing technique applied to pattern textiles that employs a resist dyeing process similar to tie-dye on either the warp or weft fibres before dyeing. It is distinctly labour intensive and known the world over for its supreme precision and masterly craftsmanship. *ikat* textiles are rich with interminable, inherent possibilities of tie dyed patterned wraps and wefts that may be split and rearranged on the loom by hand. These painstakingly hand woven fabrics are free of the repetitive quality of power loom textiles and are superbly exclusive in appearance and value.

*ikat* textiles have often been recognised as the symbol of status, wealth and prestige. Perhaps because of the time and skills required to make *ikat*, some traditions believed the cloth to be imbued with magical characteristics. Through wide usage, the word *ikat* has become the generic term of reference for these textiles in the West, regardless of their geographic origin.



## Events Schedule:

Thurs 14 April: Opening of Exhibition with Focal Lobby display on "mud-mee" *ikat* Textiles of Thailand

Fri 13 May: Focal Lobby Display changes to Indian *ikat* textiles.

Sat 14 & Sun 15 May: Symposium on "*ikat* Textiles-Ties That Bind (Past, Present and Future)"

Thurs 9 June: Focal Lobby Display changes to Central Asian *ikat* Textiles with supporting event.

For more information on the content of the exhibition please contact the gallery.

BRUNEI GALLERY, SOAS  
THORNHAUGH STREET  
RUSSELL SQUARE  
LONDON, WC1H 0XG

For more information visit:  
Or follow us on Facebook

OPEN: Tuesday – Saturday 10.30 – 17.00 (Thurs late night opening until 20.00)

CLOSED: Sunday, Monday, and Bank Holidays

ADMISSION FREE

T. 020 7898 4046 (recorded information)

E. [gallery@soas.ac.uk](mailto:gallery@soas.ac.uk)

[www.soas.ac.uk/gallery](http://www.soas.ac.uk/gallery)

<https://www.facebook.com/Soas.Brunei.Gallery>

museum  
mile