MEDIA RELEASE 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art

48HR Incident

Frances Barrett, Dadang Christanto, BLAK DOUGLAS, Tony Schwensen, Latai Taumoepeau, Salote Tawale, Samson Young, Wok The Rock & Lara Thoms + MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED

FRIDAY 29 MAY 2015, 6PM - SUNDAY 31 MAY 2015, 6PM

4A to stage 48 hours of performance art, live actions and interventions in Sydney's Chinatown with Australian and international artists



Wok The Rock and Lara Thoms, Jakarta Whiplash '93 Re-Revisited (development documentation) (2015). Courtesy the artists.

Running over 48 hours at 4A in Sydney's Chinatown, <u>48HR Incident</u> is a program of performance art and live actions by Australian and international artists.

Unpacking notions of the position of the individual in relation to the group, 48HR Incident presents short incidents, gestures and interventions, through to longer durational performances that will excite and challenge both artists and audiences.

Curator Toby Chapman says: "The first event of its kind in Sydney, 48HR Incident is a call to action, a test of audiences' will and commitment to meet the challenges that artists present them."

The event will open by pitting artist against curator, in a new performance work titled *The Wrestle* (2015), by Australian artist Frances Barrett. The high-octane performance will see the artist challenge 4A curator, Toby Chapman, to a live freestyle wrestling match adjudicated by Commonwealth Wrestling athlete, Carissa Holland. Both artist and curator have been in training with Holland and fellow Commonwealth Games athlete, Jayden Lawrence for the past 3 months.



Grappling with notions of real and symbolic power, Barrett will compete to double her artist fee as part of the wrestle.

48HR Incident also features early performance work by prominent Indonesian artist **Dadang Christanto**, including *Teeth Brushing* (1979/2015) which has never been seen outside of Indonesia, and a specially commissioned 12 hour durational performance by Boston-based **Tony Schwensen** exploring the 20th Century shift from working class identities to leisure class ideals.

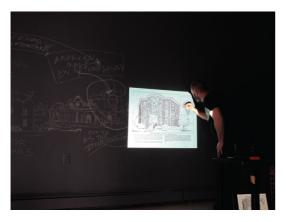
4A's Acting Director, Pedro de Almeida says "48HR Incident is an admission, that at the irreducible core of any collective actions or movement is the latent power of the individual."

48HR Incident concludes with the first collaboration between Indonesian artist **Wok The Rock** and Australian artist **Lara Thoms** investigating heavy metal culture in Indonesia. The artists have collaborated with Metallica tribute band, **Damage**, **Inc** to present a live performance that draws from Metallica's first concert in Jakarta in 1993, the riots that ensued, and the band's eventual return to Indonesia 20 years later.

48HR Incident is co-curated by Pedro de Almeida, Toby Chapman, and Aaron Seeto and is the final instalment of MASS GROUP INCIDENT a major five-month project curated and produced by 4A.

Artists: Frances Barrett (Australia), Dadang Christanto (Indonesia), BLAK DOUGLAS (Australia), Tony Schwensen (USA), Latai Taumoepeau (Australia/Tonga), Salote Tawale (Australia/Fiji), Samson Young (Hong Kong), Wok The Rock & Lara Thoms (Indonesia & Australia) and more to be announced.

48HR Incident artists and curators are available for interview and photo opportunities. Please direct media enquiries to: Joanna Bayndrian, <u>ioanna@creative-asia.net</u> (+61) 405 933 896 or Hannah Skrzynski, <u>hannah@creative-asia.net</u> (+61) 412 825 586





Left: Tony Schwensen, *An Alien's History of the United States* (2014), performance. Photo: Marilyn Arsem. Right: Frances Barrett, *The Wrestle* (development documentation), 2015. Courtesy the artist.



#48HRIncident

FRIDAY 29 MAY 2015, 6PM - SUNDAY 31 MAY 2015, 6PM 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, 181 – 187 Hay St, Sydney NSW 2000

FULL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: www.4a.com.au

FREE ADMISSION



48HR Incident is produced by 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art; assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body; supported by the City of Sydney Cultural Grants Program; and supported by Museums & Galleries NSW and Gordon Darling Foundation. Lara Thoms and Wok The Rock's project 'Jakarta Whiplash '93 Re-Revisited' was developed during a residency in Jogjakarta as part of Gertrude Contemporary's Indonesia/Australia exchange project #banyakbanyak.

ABOUT 4A

From early beginnings as an independent space on Sussex St incorporated in 1996 to its present location on Hay St in Sydney's Chinatown, 4A has come a long way to being recognised as one of Australia's foremost contemporary art organisations. 4A is committed to creating opportunities for artists, developing platforms to exhibit and encouraging critical discussion along the way. 4A is known both within Australia and internationally as an authority on the contemporary art from the Asia Pacific Region.

ABOUT MASS GROUP INCIDENT

MASS GROUP INCIDENT is an ambitious five-month multi-stage project which brings together artists from Asia, Australia and Europe to present new and existing works over a range of platforms and venues including exhibitions, performances, film screenings and site-specific interventions. Between 17 January and 31 May 2015, MASS GROUP INCIDENT will explore ideas of social engagement, collective action and the ever-shifting and complex position of the individual in relation to the group.