



Asia Australia Arts Centre

Media release

To have and to hold

The event

Fashion and art collide in a **one-night only collaboration** between designer Belinda Lai and photographer Alice Wesley-Smith, to be held at the Asia Australia Arts Centre (Gallery 4a) in Chinatown on Wednesday 24th May at 7pm.

The unique fashion pieces on display are originally sourced from clothing from the 1900s through to the 1970s - *'The concept is to reinstate the gentle tradition of keeping clothing as heirlooms, similar to other forms of jewellery and adornment. Clothes are no longer just "rags of the ragtrade", but keepsakes that can be treasured from generation to generation.'* - Belinda explains.

Belinda Martin was winner of the Mercedes Benz Startup Young Fashion Designer of 2004

The photography draws upon the extensive experiences of Wesley-Smith throughout Europe and, in particular, Asia where she constantly draws inspiration. The interaction of these displaced communities within the social context of Australia is of particular interest in her photographic work.

Alice Wesley-Smith is currently working on a solo exhibition of her recent experiences in East Timor

Designer - Belinda Lai / Label - Belinda Martin

'Pursuing my passion for vintage fabrics, jewellery and one off outfits.'

Belinda studied at Central St Martins and London College of Fashion, and on returning to Sydney in 2002, studied full-time fashion at East Sydney TAFE. After a successful stint designing and selling streetwear at Glebe and Bondi Markets, her clothes were picked up by stores in Bondi, the city and Paddington.

Belinda Martin was launched with a focus on Sexy Evening Wear/Cocktail Dresses with Vintage mixed through. Before long she gained a following within certain circles of the Sydney Bar/Cocktail scene, and was the winner of the Mercedes Benz StartUp Competition in 2004

Her work has also been photographed on local Sydney identities within the social pages of major newspapers.

ASIA-AUSTRALIA ARTS CENTRE

Ground Floor and Level 1

181-187 Hay Street

Sydney NSW 2000

Tel: + 61 2 9212 0380

Fax: + 61 2 9281 0873

info@4a.com.au | www.4a.com.au



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The Asia Australia Arts Centre proudly invites you to an exhibition event of fashion for one night only

Wednesday 24th of May 2006 at 7pm
Gallery 4A 181 - 187 Hay Street Sydney 2000

A collaboration between the fashion of Belinda Martin and the photography of Alice Wesley-Smith

RSVP to belindawlai@optusnet.com.au or 0421 569 813
by Friday 19th May 2006
All pieces will be available for purchase on the night

BELINDA MARTIN

arts'nsw SYDNEY OSCAR OSCAR melissa