

## WOVEN THREADS

### Picturing tribal women in Mindanao

The project consists of an exhibiton of photographic works about two indigenous communities, the T'boli and Manobo people who live on the island of Mindinao in the Philippines. This body of work investigates specifically the place of women in tribal societies and the various roles they play within its community. The photographs explore these via the traditional and contemporary rituals performed by women in daily life. The images were gathered during a ten day field trip and use both documentary and formal modes to address this subject.

Working within the constructs of an open studio and the photographing of selected events, the photographic material and information gathered was montaged using digital processes and techniques. The manipulated images were output to film and presented as photographic prints. These techniques challenge traditional approaches to the representation of tribal people and raise questions about the nature of recording these groups.

The project was initiated by Community Aid Abroad in order to raise awareness about the problems for, as well as the strengths of indigineous women in the Philippines. The exhibition will travel to a number of venues to promote aspects of the work done by Community Aid Abroad. A full colour catalogue is available which documents this body of work with accompanying essays by anthropologist and art theorist Diane Losche, Ian Collie and an artist statement.

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