

# PAS International:

## → From Western Sydney to the World

### Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Baramadagal as the Continuing Custodians / Traditional Owners of Baramada Ngurra, since the first sunrise. We pay respect to this land now also known as the City of Parramatta, and the ongoing kinship connections of other Dharug peoples to Baramada Ngurra and Iyora.

### → For Artists

**PAS is proud to launch *PAS International: From Western Sydney to the World*, a commitment to building reciprocal, long-term relationships and partnerships across the Asia Pacific and beyond.**

This is not an aspiration. It is a commitment to making it happen: expanding the conditions in which Western Sydney artists can be seen, supported and challenged, while bringing new perspectives, practices and people into our communities at the City of Parramatta.

### → What is the PAS International plan?

***PAS International: From Western Sydney to the World* is Parramatta Artists Studios' first comprehensive articulation of how we approach international work: the values, priorities and opportunities that guide how PAS supports artists to engage across borders, with a particular focus on the Asia Pacific region.**

It sets out how PAS will actively support studio artists and alumni to access international opportunities, build relationships across borders, and sustain that engagement over time. This is not a one-off program. It is an ongoing commitment to how PAS works: how opportunities are found and shaped, how visiting artists and cultural workers are welcomed into Western Sydney, and how exchange is built and maintained across time and place.

This plan was built with artists at the centre and shaped through genuine collaboration with the Baramadagal Family Network, PAS staff, current PAS studio artists, select PAS alumni, critical friends and peers working in Parramatta, facilitated by curator and cultural strategist Mikala Tai.

### → What does this open up for you?

**The plan creates real pathways for research, exchange, commissions, profile building and long-term collaboration across the Asia Pacific and beyond. It is about building relationships that accumulate over time, finding peers and collaborators who know your work and champion it, and participating in conversations that reshape how Western Sydney's artistic communities are valued internationally. It is about taking your artistry to the world, and bringing the world back to your practice.**

PAS's support is designed to be responsive to where you are in your practice and career. There is no single model. The plan prioritises what artists actually need to build meaningful international engagement over time, including the practical things that often go unsupported: fee advocacy, contract negotiation, contextual framing and translation support.

## → In the short term

### PAS aims to support you with:

- Curatorial introductions and strategic profile building
- Advice for international engagement including scoping opportunities, funding applications and contract negotiation
- Residencies, studio exchanges and artist or curator labs
- Alumni mentoring, talks, workshops and advisory connections

## → In the long term

### PAS aims to support you with:

- Potential pathways that can move from research to development to presentation, publication or longer-term collaboration
- Co-commissions and collaborative developments with organisations across the Asia Pacific
- Peer network building with curators, writers, producers and artists across the region
- Digital exchange as a complement to in-person engagement

## → Grounded in this place, open to the world

### **PAS's international engagement is not a departure from place. It is an extension of it.**

Western Sydney is home to more than 2.7 million people and one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse populations in Australia. More than half of its residents are born overseas or have at least one parent born overseas, and more than 180 languages are spoken across its communities. These are not incidental demographics. They describe a lived condition of plurality, transnational belonging and cultural exchange that already shapes the artists, communities and conversations PAS works with.

This is why international engagement, and a focus on the Asia Pacific in particular, is not a symbolic gesture for PAS. It is a grounded extension of who Western Sydney's communities already are, and of the artistic practices that have grown from this place. Global connection, at its best, deepens local relevance rather than diluting it.

## → PAS artists on the world stage

PAS artists and alumni are already building significant international careers and connections across the Asia Pacific and beyond. Notable examples include Tom Polo, Owen Leong, Serwah Attafuah, Kirtika Kain and Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran, who are building substantial international profiles with strong regional connections. This plan responds to this momentum, creating more intentional and structured pathways for current and future PAS artists to follow, not only supporting artists to go outward, but bringing international artists, curators and cultural workers here to Parramatta, creating a genuine flow of knowledge and practice exchange.

## → How to get involved / Find out more

To find out more or talk to someone about international opportunities, contact Director Sidney McMahon at [smcmahon@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:smcmahon@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au).

For general enquiries, email [studios@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:studios@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au).

**The full version of *PAS International: From Western Sydney to the World* is available to view online on the Parramatta Artists Studios website.**