

## Dr Robyn Sloggett's testimony

### For outstanding individual achievement

Dr Sloggett is recognised for her significant contribution in fostering museum and conservation practice and professional development between Southeast Asia and Australia.

Dr Sloggett is Director of the Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation at the University of Melbourne. Her research interests include programs in cultural materials conservation that focus on the materials and techniques of artists (particularly in Australia and South East Asia), ethical and philosophical issues in cultural materials conservation, and the development of scientific techniques for conservation.

Guided by her belief in the critical importance of strong culture in our region, Robyn's contribution has been sustained, wide-reaching and effective. Robyn has used advocacy, policy and strategy development, mentoring, training and skills development, research, and exhibition management, to build strengths in conservation, museum management and art practice in countries across the Asia-Pacific. She has supported and mentored colleagues, and brought together professionals, academics and the public, presenting opportunities and developing forums that demonstrate the value of professional and academic dialogue between countries in our region. In doing so she has raised awareness of the value of professionalism in museums.

### Advocacy and committee membership

In 1995 Robyn was a member of the Steering Committee for the development of AusHeritage. She became a Foundation Director of this very successful industry organization, undertaking much development work, including drafting the *Code of Ethics* (<http://www.ausheritage.org.au>). She was a member of the ASEAN COCI/AusHeritage Steering Committee. From 2009 she has been a member of the Advisory and Reference Group for UNESCO's Observatory for Multi-Disciplinary Research in the Arts. In 1997 she developed AICCM's Directory of Conservation Professionals in the Asia/Pacific Region. She was State and National President of AICCM Inc. and is a member of a number of government committees.

### Conferences, workshops and exhibitions

Since 1996 Robyn has developed training opportunities for museum and conservation practitioners in Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Timor Leste and the Philippines. The value of this work is recognized in the support from governments and organisations in Australia and partner countries overseas including Arts Victoria; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; the National Gallery of Malaysia and Muzium Negara; Australian Embassies in Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand; the Australia-Malaysia Institute, the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) and others. She was a member of the organising committee for IIC's 50<sup>th</sup> Congress in Melbourne in 2000, the first IIC Congress held in the southern hemisphere. In 2004 in collaboration with the GCI she organised the Directors'

Retreat for the Advancement of Conservation Education, which brought together twenty-five participants from 13 Asian-Pacific countries

([http://www.getty.edu/conservation/our\\_projects/education/drsretreat/drsretreat\\_2004.html](http://www.getty.edu/conservation/our_projects/education/drsretreat/drsretreat_2004.html)).

She is co-chair of ICOM-CC Melbourne 2014 which was the successful bid for the ICOM—CC 17<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference with the theme *Strong Culture*. Robyn managed the exhibition *Trepang* (<http://www.trepangexhibition.com/>) which opened in Beijing in April 2011.

## Research

Robyn's research is grounded in the belief that strengthening research capacity in conservation, and mentoring the next generation of researchers, are essential to the conservation of culture across Asia-Pacific. Her research tackles a broad range of questions of regional relevance and is both cross-cultural and interdisciplinary. She manages research programs that shift an understanding of conservation and museology in our region. In 2002, with partners across Southeast Asia, she was awarded an ARC Linkage Grant to investigate *The Behaviour of Western Materials in Tropical Environments*. The success of this research resulted in the current ARC Grant *The Twentieth Century in Paint* (<http://www.20thcpaint.org>).

Partners involved in these projects include Tate Britain, Getty Conservation Institute, National Gallery of Malaysia, Silpakorn University Thailand, National Gallery of Thailand, SEAMEO-SPAFA, the National Heritage Board Singapore, The University of the Philippines, Queensland Art Gallery, the National Gallery of Victoria, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Art Gallery of New South Wales, and Artlab Australia. Robyn has also received grants for visiting scholars including Victoria Herrera (2005) and Ana Labrador from the Philippines (2008) and Prof. Supanee Chayabata from Thailand (2010). She has encouraged research students to explore issues relating to cultural conservation and presentation in Southeast Asia, examples of which include examinations of artists' materials and techniques, Buddhist mural painting conservation, and treatment of Indonesian kris. She publishes regularly on topics relating to conservation, museum policy and practice relating to the region. She is currently engaged in research relating to community cultural capacity strengthening in Timor Leste.

## Training and mentoring

Robyn has built a range of training and mentoring opportunities for emerging professionals across the region. The *Twentieth Century in Paint* project included four PhD scholarships and one post-doctoral fellowship. Under her leaderships the Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation has been actively involved in both the AYAD and VIDA programs, with long-term relationships in place in the Philippines and Vietnam. She is working with Silpakorn University, Thailand, on development of a Thai conservation curriculum. Since 2001 she has been involved with Timor Leste's Secretariat for Culture, in the conservation of the remnant National Collection, in conjunction with regular partnership training programs. Robyn managed the UNESCO Museum to Museum Partnership program for Timor-Leste which saw six institutions in Australia host staff from the Secretariat for Culture for training under AusAid's Leadership program.