

**DR MATHEW TRINCA**

**STATEMENT TO ACCOMPANY NOMINATION FOR ICOM BOARD 2019**

After commencing my career as a curator at the Western Australian Museum, I joined the National Museum as a senior curator in 2003 and became Assistant Director, Collections, Content and Exhibitions in 2006 before being appointed Director in 2014. I joined the ICOM Board in 2016.

Australia's international connections have always been one of my key interests – my doctorate focussed on the social and cultural relationships between Britain and Australia. During my time as Director, international engagement has been a priority in the Museum's strategic plan with international programming significantly strengthened. This has been done through sharing Australian stories around the world, and bringing world history to the Museum through a range of substantial program partnerships with international organisations.

We have developed exhibitions and partnerships with leading cultural organisations in a wide range of countries such as Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, Germany, Canada, the South Pacific, the Vatican, China, Britain, France, the United States of America, Korea, Singapore and Japan. Key partnerships include the National Museum of China, the Muséum d'histoire naturelle du Havre and the British Museum.

Exhibitions toured internationally include: *Old Masters: Australia's Great Bark Artists* to multiple venues in China; *One Road: Aboriginal Art from Australia's Deserts* to four venues in Japan; *Capturing Asia: Willie Phua, News Cameraman* exhibition to the National Museum of Singapore. In partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Museum toured two graphic-panel displays, *Yiwarra Kuju: The Canning Stock Route*, based on the successful exhibition of the same name, and *Old Masters: Australia's Great Bark Artists*, which draws on the Museum's significant collection of Indigenous bark paintings. A special 62-panel version of *Yiwarra Kuju* was developed for display in Mexico City in 2016, as part of the celebrations marking 50 years of diplomatic relations between Australia and Mexico. In addition, *One Road: Aboriginal Art from Australia's Deserts*, was displayed at the National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan.

As Co-chair of the Australia–Singapore Arts Group, established in 2015, I have been instrumental in strengthening Australian links with arts and culture in Singapore. The Group meets regularly to provide advice and recommendations to drive an ongoing program of cultural activities in both countries to enhance our cultural relations, develop professional skills and cultivate audiences.

As a senior leader in the Australia museum community with a demonstrated commitment to enhancing Australia's international connections I believe I am well positioned to contribute to ICOM Australia in the role of Chair.