

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 26 October 2018



Global craftivist community stitches together human rights issues

At a time when the patchwork of liberties is fraying, the **#UDHRquiltproject**, a new craftivism exhibition at MoAD (Museum of Australian Democracy), combines craft and activism into quietly powerful protest to call for social and political change.

The new exhibition features four never before seen quilts from a global craftivism project. Stitching in local and global stories of human rights injustices, visitors can see the intricate detail of these quilts that represent the world's conscience.

The **#UDHRquiltproject** also tells the story of the extraordinary role that Australia played in the formation of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

MoAD Director, Daryl Karp, said *"We are particularly proud to be launching our new exhibition, the #UDHRquiltproject during the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."*

December 10, 2018 marks 70 years since the momentous document was signed. With the current pressure on democracy around the globe, there are concerns that it would be difficult to create a similar document with as many nations partaking in it.

"At a time where trust in our core institutions around the world is falling and where satisfaction in democracy is dropping, the role of an organization like the Museum of Australian Democracy cannot be understated" noted Ms. Karp.

"This exhibition aims to engage visitors in a discussion about democracy and the importance of active citizenship. It also aims to empower and motivate visitors to recognise that there are many ways to ignite change and show the power of your voice in a democracy." Ms. Karp continued.

Through the creation of the four quilts, each embroidered with the articles of the UDHR, the project offers the artist's representation of human rights issues around the world today.

Though an unconventional method of activism, the four quilts showcased in the exhibition urge visitors to read the UDHR and understand the rights that they have.

Inspirational messages sewn into the quilts will encourage visitors actively engage in democracy, contribute to social change, and transform the world one stitch at a time.

Australian craftivist and project coordinator, Tal Fitzpatrick notes *"Creative projects such as the #UDHRquiltproject demonstrate how art can be deployed to encourage people to proactively and critically engage with the values and ideals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."*

Aided by the power of social media, Ms. Fitzpatrick and fellow USA based craftivist Stephanie Dunlap put the call out for project collaborators.

"In recent years, thanks to social media and new technologies, craftivism has become a powerful force for positive social and political change. This exhibition is a product of that." said Ms Fitzpatrick

131 craftivists from across the globe, united by their passion for craft and human rights, came together to showcase the power of their voices through the work of their hands.

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The **#UDHRquiltproject** moves beyond a traditional museum experience by inviting visitors to get involved. Visitors can immerse themselves in craftivism by participating in a range of hands-on craft activities, workshops and community-based events.

The first facilitated event will be held on Saturday 27 October at 2pm. Textile artist, Tal Fitzpatrick will be on hand to facilitate a crafting workshop with visitors to the exhibition.

Ms Fitzpatrick will return for several more facilitated workshops and to discuss the everyday practice of democracy through craftivism over the course of the exhibition.

About MoAD

The Museum of Australian Democracy celebrates Australia's proud history as a democratic nation and actively promotes the participation of its citizens in determining its future.

MoAD is a museum not just of objects but of ideas. In our iconic heritage building, we tell the story of Australia's journey to becoming one of the world's most vibrant and multicultural democratic nations.

MoAD is a place where stories, conversations and narratives from myriad perspectives can be heard and discussed.

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For further information, please contact Annika Scott, annika.scott@moadoph.gov.au, (02) 6270 8120 or 0400 946 608

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:

- Tal Fitzpatrick – Project Coordinator, #UDHRquiltproject
- Nanette Louchart-Fletcher – Creative Producer, Museum of Australian Democracy
- Daryl Karp – Director, Museum of Australian Democracy

IMAGES: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8feo6ax5waykbey/AACqkROx5sGvCtSctUsU2lO8a?dl=0>