

# Media release

October 24, 2011

## FRENCH ARTIST ANAÏS PITALIER TO BE VISITING ARTIST AT TASMANIAN CRAFT FAIR



Anaïs Pitalier, an artist from France who specialises in authentic reproductions of historically important artworks by masters such as Leonardo Da Vinci, will be visiting artist at the Tasmanian Craft Fair to be held from November 4 until November 7 at Deloraine.

During the Fair, Ms Pitalier, who restores wood sculptures and frames as well as paintings, will conduct a four-day tutorial for two students from the University of Tasmania's School of Visual and Performing Arts at Inveresk in Launceston.

Anaïs studied painting restoration at Florence in Italy, specialising in works from the Italian and French Middle Ages. During the Fair, Anaïs will demonstrate her Illumination and icon painting techniques at the Deloraine studio of internationally known Tasmanian artist Tony Smibert, which will be Venue 6 during the event. Tony is also a visiting artist researcher at Tate Gallery in London specializing in the techniques of English landscape artist JMW Turner.

"My objective as an artist is to give back to artworks their original purpose, whether it be religious or historic," says Anaïs. "I'm looking forward to sharing my expertise during the Tasmanian Craft Fair."

Anaïs will also conduct a four-day tutorial for Josie Birchall and Kerry Lamb. Josie, who has completed her first year of a Bachelor of Contemporary Arts at the School of Visual and Performing Arts, is a future painting major. Kerry has been an art teacher for the past 33 years and is currently completing a Master of Contemporary Arts. She teaches at the Tasmanian eSchool and hopes to pass on some of Anaïs' techniques to her own students. Penny Mason, the head of the painting studio at the School of Visual and Performing Arts, said any opportunity to discover and work with new techniques and approaches is always of great benefit to an artist.

Anaïs and Tony Smibert will both demonstrate their techniques during the Fair, and examples of their work will be exhibited and available for sale.

The Tasmanian Craft Fair is the largest working demonstration of arts and crafts in Australia. A not-for-profit event run by the Rotary Club of Deloraine, the Fair hosts more than 240 arts and craftspeople, involves more than 1000 community volunteers and attracts more than 25,000 people from throughout Tasmania, interstate and internationally. This year the event will feature 16 venues, with a free shuttle bus providing easy access between venues.

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All funds raised through the Fair are put back into the community, with a variety of local, national and international development projects, projects to aid the disadvantaged and community improvement projects completed in the past 30 years.

For further details, visit [www.tascraftfair.com.au](http://www.tascraftfair.com.au)

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